



Hinkley Point C hits its biggest milestone yet

- On schedule completion of Unit 1 nuclear platform
- Nuclear station's low carbon electricity vital for transition to "Net Zero"
- Contracts signed for innovative joint venture for next phase, boosting UK skills
- Unit 2 expected to hit same milestone in June 2020

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Hinkley Point C has hit its biggest milestone yet on schedule. The completion of the base for the first reactor, known as "J-zero", means that the construction of the nuclear buildings above ground can now begin in earnest.

The final 9,000m³ of concrete was the largest concrete pour in the UK, beating a record set by the Shard in London. Reinforced with 5,000 tonnes of Welsh steel, the base has been under construction by the UK-French joint venture of Bouygues-Laing O'Rourke for six months.

The event was due to be marked by a visit from the minister responsible for nuclear energy, Andrew Stephenson MP, who saw the construction site today (Friday June 28) and met apprentices at the National College for Nuclear.

Good progress and efficiency improvements means that the second Hinkley Point C reactor will hit its own J-zero moment in June 2020.

Next phase boosts UK skills

Final contracts have now been signed for an innovative joint venture to install the pipes and cables at the power station. The MEH¹ Joint Venture brings UK contractors Balfour Beatty, Cavendish, Altrad and Doosan together to share expertise and incentivise collaboration and efficiency. The JV was influenced by the success of a single organisation carrying out this complex work during construction at Taishan, the EPR operating in China.

Pipework will be made by Bilfinger in Immingham at a modernised facility which will boost UK industrial capacity in this highly specialised area.

Hinkley Point C is working to tackle the UK skills shortage in welding by working with the MEH Joint Venture, ECITB^[1], the Weldability Foundation, South West Institute of Technology and Bridgwater & Taunton College, to develop a new welding centre of excellence in Bridgwater. Making use of EDF Energy's £4.5 million investment at the college, the centre will train and qualify the UK's next generation of welders, benefitting people and industries across the South-West. With the ambition

¹ MEH stands for Mechanical, Electrical and HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning)

^[1] ECITB stands for Engineering Construction Industry Training Board



to provide 350-500 welding NVQ qualifications per year, the initiative shows nuclear's ability to create a positive impact for UK skills.

Hinkley Point C's reliable low carbon electricity will play a vital role in helping the UK tackle the climate change crisis. With a large expansion of renewables, it will make "Net Zero" emissions possible and help the UK have an affordable and secure electricity supply. Innovation and the transfer of design, skills and experience from Hinkley Point C means the proposed near-identical project at Sizewell C can be significantly cheaper to build and finance, and that subsequent projects at Bradwell B and elsewhere will also benefit.

Project update

The construction of the second of Hinkley Point C's two units is well underway and is already showing the improved efficiency possible when an identical design is repeated. The 12 month separation offers maximum efficiency for the transfer of teams between units.

- Almost **4,000 people are now working at Hinkley Point C**. Half of them are from the local area.
- Forgings for the **pressure vessel and steam generators** are underway at Framatome in France and the world's largest turbine is under construction at GE.
- The **world's largest crane** – the Sarens SGC 250 – is taking shape on site to allow prefabrication of large parts of the nuclear buildings, which improves quality and saves time. This is an innovation informed by experience from previous EPR projects.
- **£1.5bn of contracts have been awarded in the South-West** and 64% of the project value is being spent with UK firms.
- **430 of 1,000 apprentices** have been hired and **8,500 people have been trained** and assessed at the specially built Construction Skills and Innovation Centre near the site

Minister for Nuclear at the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, Andrew Stephenson said: *"This is a huge achievement for Hinkley Point C and a major milestone for the UK's nuclear new-build industry, which - as a low-carbon electricity source - is key to meeting our ambitious target of net zero emissions by 2050."*

"The project will not only power nearly six million homes, it will add an enormous boost to the local and national economy, delivering over 25,000 new jobs and securing long-term, well-paid employment - a key step in delivering clean growth as part of our modern Industrial Strategy."

Hinkley Point C Managing Director, Stuart Crooks said: *"I am proud of the talent and achievement of our diverse UK workforce, our unions, our international supply chain and the design team in France. We are benefitting from direct experience from other EPR projects and a partner in CGN which understands the technology and the project."*



EDF Energy CEO Simone Rossi said: *“Hinkley Point C’s progress is good news for anyone concerned about the climate change crisis. Its reliable low carbon power will be essential for a future with no unabated coal and gas and a large expansion of renewable power. The innovation at Hinkley Point C sets up the opportunity to reduce costs for consumers for a near identical power station at Sizewell C in Suffolk.”*

CGN UK CEO Zheng Dongshan said: *“CGN is proud to play an integral part in the Hinkley Point C project as an industrial partner to EDF, bringing our experience from successfully developing the EPR at Taishan, in China. The project paves the way for a full new nuclear programme that will include our proposal to build our HPR1000 reactor in the UK.”*

Ends

NOTES

Full construction at Hinkley Point C got underway after EDF, its Chinese partner, CGN, and the UK Government, signed final contracts in September 2016. The power station will supply the UK with reliable low carbon electricity to meet 7% of the country’s needs. The project is mobilised for an objective of initial delivery for unit 1 at the end of 2025.

EDF Energy

EDF Energy is the UK's biggest producer of low carbon electricity and supplies gas and electricity to millions of residential and business customers. Our eight nuclear power stations and more than 30 windfarms avoid millions of tonnes of carbon emissions each year. We are making big investments to help the UK meet the huge expected increase in demand for low carbon electricity while reaching 'net zero' greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

We are expanding our renewables business and are developing the 450MW Neart na Gaoithe offshore wind project in Scotland. Our battery storage unit at West Burton is one of the UK's biggest and helps to keep the electricity grid stable.

EDF Energy provides gas and electricity to 3 million residential customers and is the largest energy supplier to British businesses. Our Smart Home Store is helping customers take advantage of new energy-saving and low carbon technologies; the Powershift platform gives business customers better control over energy usage; we are working with Nissan and Nuvve to develop new electric vehicle solutions.

EDF Energy owns Imtech, one of the largest technical service providers in the UK and Ireland. EDF



Energy is part of EDF Group, the world's biggest electricity generator. In the UK, the company employs around 12,000 people at locations across England and Scotland.

To find out more about the UK's energy challenges visit: www.edfenergy.com/energyfuture/

CGN

CGN is a leading global clean energy company, the biggest nuclear enterprise in China and the largest developer of new nuclear power in the world.

The company has more than 30 years' experience of safely and effectively developing, constructing and operating nuclear plants. It has 22 units in operation in China, with a total installed generating capacity of 24.3GW, and a further 6 units (7.43GW) under construction. CGN is also a major investor in renewable energy, and has 30GW of installed capacity in 15 countries around the world.

In the UK the company is investing alongside EDF in Hinkley Point C, Sizewell C and Bradwell B, as well as in the project to secure regulatory approval for its UK HPR1000 reactor design. CGN also has 340MW of wind power in operation or under construction in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Ireland.