

Q&A:		Meeting the Commitments in the North of England	
Questions	Likes	State	Answers and Comments
How do you measure UK content? Eg, if a £500m contract is awarded to a tier 1 in UK is that £500m UK content? Or do you measure where the tier 1 spends the money?	4	Answered Live	This is still to be formally clarified, as per the answer from Steve in the room, but the firm commitment is there and will have to be in place to conform to government, investors and local council requirements of reporting.
Outside of construction stages - how do Tier2/3 suppliers get approved when design and change control for equipment and spares is through French business of Framatome and GE for the reactors and turbines?	3	Published	Equipment suppliers are naturally tougher to work alongside due to design restrictions, but as mentioned in the event itself, we are looking at ways to support this through construction. However, as Steve outlined on the day, the opportunity post-construction through operation will be where real opportunity should be focused.
The presentation showed the regional spend targets across East Anglia, the north and Wales. Total added up to £8m which is only 40% of £20m total. This seems a low ambition?	1	Published	The £20bn project is circa £16bn of capital expenditure and once you take away all the equipment costs and large scale items that are very specific, it equates to around £10-£11bn of opportunity, so therefore showcases a much larger proportion of realistic opportunity available to those 3 regions

<p>We are a UK manufacturer of stainless steel cable ties and have been specified / approved for various nuclear projects including power stations and submarines. For Hinkley Point we were told that our type of products would be considered part of a “COTS” (Commercially Off The Shelf) package which means the holders of the COTS package can supply any brand (including lower quality Far East manufactured products). How can we ensure that UK manufacturers of “commodity” (but still critical) products are considered... or even preferred for Sizewell?</p>	2	Published	<p>Hard to say at this stage. It is highly likely that Items that are classed as COTS at HPC will remain that way at SZC, so therefore engagement with those key tier 1's early about your products will be critical to show why those should be specified over other "off the shelf" variants, especially where you have practical experience to showcase the advantages</p>
<p>is value for money just the cheapest when you're trying to save money compared to Hinkley? what is in place to ensure this is adhered to?</p>	3	Answered Live	<p>Definitely not - in the case of people, supply chain readiness, capability, resilience and ability to make a contribution to our people commitments are all features of a best value decision (not just price). In the case of people, getting the workforce 'wrong' can cost far more to the project than a discounted price.</p>
<p>What measures or initiatives are in place to ensure fair and equal opportunities for SMEs to participate in the project? From Jobert</p>	2	Published	<p>events like today, additional support through groups like the chamber and BECBC, and a contractual focus on supporting SME's will ensure that there is more opportunity on Sizewell C than normal expected</p>

<p>Are there any support programs or resources available to help SMEs overcome potential barriers, such as financial or technical challenges, in getting involved?</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Published</p>	<p>One of the areas we are keen to offer in people/workforce is access to EDF Energy's Apprenticeship Levy Surplus. 29 apprenticeships have been funded so far by SZC in firms who are not directly in our supply chain. If anyone at the workshop is interested in this please feel free to get in touch. There will also be a number of funds that groups such as the chamber and BECBC to support businesses in gaining access to whether it be for equipment, processes or people.</p>
<p>How does the project team plan to foster collaboration and partnerships between larger companies and SMEs in order to maximize the benefits for both? From Jobert</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Published</p>	<p>There are many ways we are encouraging this in the skills area, including supply chain skills networks, Inclusion and Diversity forums/networks and engagement of the whole supply chain in drafting Inclusion, Diversity, Employment and Skills Plans (IDESPs). There will also be a number of events to help create those introductions between businesses and some of our work underway in Suffolk has been help educate businesses on what partnership and joint ventures look like, which we will ensure is shared as best practice for all regions.</p>

How will the project team ensure transparency and accessibility of information about procurement processes and opportunities for SMEs?	7	Answered Live	
we hear this morning that there is a commitment to increase UK content. is there any guidance what areas / scope this potentially could be?	3	Published	<p>There is no set area that SZC is focused on. As mentioned at the event, it is about small incremental gains across the whole construction which then can be looked to continue to improve upon for the next build. in the area of Skills this is essential, as a result of skills shortage and pressures created through changes to the migration rules (following Brexit). UK content is no longer a 'nice to have' in this area but a necessity as contractors cannot rely on European or International Markets to resource their workforce - particularly at peak. The only rational response is 'grow your own'.</p>

Why have we not invited young people to join us today.?	1	Published	<p>The focus on these events is on the supply chain and those companies that exist. This is not to preclude your people, but we need to give the business community the encouragement that the opportunity is there, so that then you as business leaders can engage with different groups such as young people to bring them into your industry. Sizewell C runs a lot of outreach, and would suggest that working with groups in the region will help open up awareness amongst young people as to the opportunities in their area. If you're interested in the contribution young people can make to the conversation our Britain's Energy Coast Business Cluster Shadow Board are running our member event in September &amp; asking senior business leaders to bring someone from early careers who doesn't look like them into the room. Guests welcome &amp; there's a free BBQ planned too! (as well as the chance to see me walk on hot coals)</p> <p><a href="https://www.becbusinesscluster.co.uk/events/becbc-member-meeting-13th-september-2023">https://www.becbusinesscluster.co.uk/events/becbc-member-meeting-13th-september-2023</a> Dianne</p>
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<p>Where can we access an updated mobilisation programme. Graham Engineering prove complex fabricated and welded stainless steel projects for the Nuclear Industry and need to plan for the future in terms of resources. A realistic programme of works would be extremely helpful</p>	1	Published	<p>Once this is available, it will be posted on Compete For and will also be available via the Supply chain engagement team in Suffolk, who will then share relevant info across the key regions of the UK</p>
<p>Are there any initiatives in place to simplify the procurement and contracting processes for SMEs, considering their size and resources?</p>	3	Published	<p>There will be an active need for tier 1 suppliers to support their supply chain and the issue of contracting standards and supporting activities will be high on the agenda through these early stages of bringing the relevant tier 1's into the project. However, any business performing a role in the supply chain for Sizewell C will have to be able to adhere to the needs of the project including a key focus on time, budget and safety</p>
<p>will the module offload facility remain post Sizewell C build to help future decommissioning of A station and future maintenance of B &amp; C stations.</p>	0	Published	<p>There are 2 marine based facilities being built for Sizewell C. The MBIF (Marine bulk import facility) is temporary, but the jetty will be a semi-permanent structure that once construction is finished, will be taken down and stored, so that it can be re built in the future if required during outage, maintenance etc</p>

<p>Are there any plans to establish dedicated funding or financing options to support SMEs in their involvement with Sizewell C? Kind regards Ms Mystery</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Published</p>	<p>Nothing directly from Sizewell C, but at the Suffolk Chamber we are already engaged with a number of local organisations who can support businesses gain access to finance to support them in gearing up for Sizewell C. As previously mentioned, there is and will be more funding options open to businesses wanting to get ready for the nuclear industry, or to adapt to suit</p>
<p>What measures and criteria does Sizewell C have in place to ensure that suppliers and contractors align with sustainable practices, such as reducing carbon emissions</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Published</p>	<p>the ESG commitments and structure will ensure that all parts of the supply chain understand what is required to adhere to the aims of the project. This will be contracted and will need to be reported on and again, support will be offered to businesses to help them understand how they act in each relevant area</p>
<p>Can you provide specific details of how we submit our innovations</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Published</p>	<p>This will become apparent once the project is more developed, so watch this space and the Suffolk Chamber will share this route through the Cumbria cluster</p>

<p>How do we prevent 'robbing Peter to pay Penny' across the supply chain and prevent unsustainable wage spiral growth. What can be learned from PPP?</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Answered Live</p>	<p>This was answered on the day, but to reiterate there is industrial agreements in place at HPC and SZC and the lessons learned between the 2 is taking place in August. These agreements do aim to prevent poaching and the close working relationship with Unite will also support the work in this area</p>
<p>Will there be any support or resources provided to SMEs to help them establish local partnerships or engage with the business community in Suffolk?</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Published</p>	<p>The Suffolk Chamber and Cumbria clusters can and will help with this to create relevant and suitable partnerships across to the 2 regions</p>
<p>Are there any guidelines or best practices that SMEs should follow to ensure a smooth transition and integration of their operations in the new location?</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Published</p>	<p>No direct guidelines will be issued from Sizewell C. As a business, you will need to act in a sustainable and responsible manner to ensure security of supply for Sizewell C. The support offered to businesses will help you in understanding what opportunities are available locally for you to take advantage of. In the case of People both HPC and SZC run an employment affairs unit (led by Chris Young). The EAU will help SME's and businesses from outside of Suffolk with recruitment, links with local colleges, pre-employment training programmes etc.</p>

How will the project team support SMEs in mobilising their resources and personnel from Cumbria to Suffolk? Are there any logistical or transportation assistance programs in place? From Jobert	0	Published	As above
Are there any initiatives or strategies in place to streamline the procurement process and make it more accessible for SMEs seeking to engage with tier 1/2/3 contractors? From Ms Mystery	2	Answered Live	This is the exact role that the Chamber and Cumbria cluster will perform for you, helping you to gain intros into the relevant major contractors. This will be through events, meetings, roundtables, webinars and all other means suitable to help you meet the right people
During one of the presentations, it showed that the requirements for SZC will draw on Cumbria resource/skills, this will lead to an increasingly shortage locally or the required skills, what discussions have taken place with Sellafield Limited , where the key construction jobs will be drawn from?	1	Published	Regular discussions are held on these subjects with Sellafield Ltd (roughly every 6 months). HPC, SZC and Sellafield as also key contributors to the NSSG (Nuclear Skills Strategy Group) which is in place to ensure that all nuclear site licence holders have a common view of resource and people requirements as far ahead as practicably possible (currently around 20 years).
Will Tier 1 be looking to engage with all delegates here today in order to give the opportunity to access their supply chain.	6	Answered Live	When the time is right, Tier 1 suppliers will be attending our events too. Most of them are not currently in contract themselves, but once the time becomes correct, they will be attending these events

<p>What certifications and preparations should SMEs consider in advance of mobilization for Sizewell C to ensure preparedness? Specifically, what relevant certifications should they aim to obtain for their company and resources, and what steps can they take to enhance technical competencies, establish a safety culture, and implement quality control measures, in alignment with the requirements and expectations of the Sizewell C project?</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Published</p>	<p>Great question - short answer is to engage with the SZC EAU who will be able to advise them in all the areas picked up in this question. We will look at setting up a suitable email for these types of enquiries to be directed through and also the Chamber supply chain team will also be able to support on this</p>
<p>What are the typical payment terms to help SMEs cash flow?</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Published</p>	<p>Whilst there will be payment terms in place, it will be an open engagement between you and the client to ensure that decisions such as this are realistic for both parties</p>
<p>What are the potential economic impacts and risks associated with Sizewell C? How does the project team address concerns about the financial burden on taxpayers and potential cost overruns?</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Published</p>	<p>This is not something directly associated with our work on building the supply chain, but the RAB model (used for financing SZC) is designed to limit any impacts on the tax payer and give confidence to investors. in terms of skills this is primarily in Backfill and Displacement of key roles and jobs in the region. This is what our 24 million of investments in regional skills is primarily in place to do - whilst maximising opportunity to new entrants, hard to reach groups and those from a low social mobility background.</p>

<p>When will the meet the buyer events be taking place?</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Published</p>	<p>to be confirmed once the project plan is more formalised and available. Keep an eye on compete for, for these opportunities to become public (will also be shared through the Cumbria cluster)</p>
<p>If you want to increase the UK share of the delivery requirements for SZC then the flowdown of onerous T&amp;C's needs to be addressed. At HPC the larger Tier 1s pass down T&amp;C's to Tier 2s who pass them down etc. This has been a blocker for many companies to get over the line with contracts and actually be involved. Are the SZC team aware of this as an issue and are they addressing it?</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Published</p>	<p>Yes we are. It is something taken very seriously from the supply chain side of things and is being actively discussed and addressed currently. The aim is to ensure there is as little barrier to an SME as practically possible</p>
<p>Housing and Infrastructure Pressure: The increased demand for housing and infrastructure in the Sizewell C area may put pressure on the existing resources and facilities. This could lead to issues such as housing shortages, rising rental prices, increased strain on transportation networks, and additional demands on local services like schools and healthcare. What are your view on this matter?</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Published</p>	<p>This is likely to be the case, but through the Section 106, there is large funds set aside for various aspects of impact on Suffolk form Sizewell C. Whether this be skills shortages caused by Sizewell C, damage to local infrastructure, or impact on things like tourism, there is governance and funding in place, managed by Suffolk County Council, to ensure that where negative impacts of Sizewell C are felt, that they can be acted upon and addressed</p>