



Fit For Nuclear Q&A: Lionweld Kennedy Flooring

Ian Kirkup, business development director at Lionweld Kennedy Flooring, explains why F4N was a must for the company.

Could you introduce your company?

With over 100 years' experience, Lionweld Kennedy Flooring Ltd is a global supplier of gratings, handrail systems, platforms, stair treads and ladders, all available in steel or GRP/FRP.

Based in Middlesbrough, our manufacturing is complemented by a designing, drawing and installation service, giving the benefit of a one-stop shop for all access requirements.

Why did you enter the F4N programme?

Lionweld Kennedy has several years' experience of operating in the nuclear industry. While the company completed several projects in nuclear, there was no strategy or any firm ambitions to enter the marketplace.

However, the current drive to replace existing power stations with nuclear alternatives is of major interest to the company, as our products and services would be a requirement in many areas.

We were introduced to the Fit For Nuclear programme through the Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS), who set up a meeting with a F4N advisor. From that meeting, we knew the F4N programme was a must for Lionweld Kennedy.

What areas did the assessment identify for development?

While Lionweld Kennedy receives many audits throughout the year, they are generally centred on operations, QA, and health & safety. The F4N programme was quite unique in that it concentrated on the business holistically.

The assessment was instrumental in identifying process and people excellence as key areas for improvement. It helped recognise the power of employee engagement and the benefits it can bring to the business.

How did you close the gaps in these areas?

Following on from the pre-granting visit and having identified our key areas of improvement, we have introduced a product development group and a joint employee/management consultation committee, both of which have been embraced by our 200-plus workforce.

Moreover, we have adopted better visual management around the business and key performance indicators that measure each area of our processes and operations. We now monitor these regularly and cascade them down through team briefs and toolbox talks. This has had an encouraging response from the workforce.



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What benefits have you seen from F4N?

It is still early days for us, but we would be more confident in approaching potential nuclear customers. We have a greater understanding of the expectations of the industry and the standards that are required to compete in this sector.

Where do you see the opportunities for Lionweld Kennedy in nuclear?

We see opportunities in existing capital schemes of live plants, but targeting designers at specification stage is critical in securing contracts from Tier 2 & 3 steelwork and civils contractors.

We are now engaging with companies such as EDF and Atkins on a variety of sectors at design stage.

How do you see your business in the nuclear sector in five years’ time?

We firmly believe that we can become a supplier of choice for gratings and access products, and evolve into a competent design, manufacturer and installation company – as we are in many other sectors.

Our manufacturing strategy will enable Lionweld Kennedy to exploit our new state-of-the-art flooring machine by offering a product range which is flexible and competitive. Our links with various universities and long-standing relationships with

the supply chain, coupled with the F4N granting, give us confidence that we will have far greater exposure and credibility in the nuclear supply chain, and will allow Lionweld Kennedy to become a successful, sustainable and valued member of the industry.

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Fit For Nuclear (F4N) helps UK manufacturers get ready to bid for work in the civil nuclear supply chain.



F4N is exclusively delivered by the Nuclear AMRC, and has been extensively developed and expanded to meet industry demand. The service lets UK manufacturers measure their operations against the standards required to supply the nuclear industry, and take the necessary steps to close any gaps.

Hundreds of companies have completed the online F4N assessment, with most receiving ongoing support and development from the F4N team of nuclear specialists and experienced industrial advisors.

Begin your F4N journey: namrc.co.uk/services/f4n



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