



Fit For Nuclear Q&A: Devoran Metals

Specialist supplier Devoran Metals is now winning work at Hinkley Point C. Sales negotiator Sarah Hickling explains how Fit For Nuclear helped the firm prepare.

Could you introduce your company?

Devoran Metals is a leading specialist supplier of CARES-approved cut and bent reinforcing bar and mesh for concrete reinforcement, providing bespoke rebar solutions, prefabricated reinforcement, construction accessories and the Lenton threaded rebar coupler system.

Why did you enter the F4N programme?

With Hinkley Point C on our radar, we wanted to be a part of one of the biggest civil engineering projects in the UK. Having previous experience of supplying reinforced steel to the energy sector for wind farm and solar projects, we wanted to broaden our skills and knowledge to better understand the requirements of supplying the nuclear sector. We understood that we would have to re-assess the way we operate, and would need to work hard to bring our processes and business systems in line with the strict requirements for nuclear.

What areas did the assessment identify for development?

We needed to develop in areas of strategic planning, policy deployment, lean manufacturing and people excellence. We had scored ourselves higher in some of these areas, so it was surprising to see that we had been scored lower, but it quickly

became apparent just how high the standards needed to be to achieve F4N.

How did you address these gaps?

We were certainly up for the challenge and, without wanting to jump in head-first without any solid plan, we spent the next two months as a team learning about the areas of improvement required carefully developing our action plan before submitting.

To ensure that the people driving the improvements were properly trained in strategic planning and lean manufacturing techniques, we enrolled the staff onto a six-week bespoke training programme. All the staff were very keen to adopt the 5S workplace organisation improvements, as working in a busy factory meant that any improvements in terms of health and safety, housekeeping and efficiency would prove very beneficial.

What benefits have you seen from F4N?

Having F4N status means we have benchmarked our performance against the standards demanded by the civil nuclear industry's top tiers. When we achieved recognition we were one of only two companies in the whole of Cornwall to receive F4N status, which is a fantastic

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achievement for us as we are committed to driving continuous improvement in all areas.

Since achieving F4N, we have been involved in the bidding process for the heads reinforcement supply and concrete accessories package at Hinkley Point C, and supplied sub-contractors at Hinkley Point for the park and ride scheme.

Where do you see the opportunities in nuclear?

We keep an eye on the Hinkley Point C supply chain portal for any work packages that meet our capabilities, and continually update our F4N Connect profile to ensure that potential clients can see what services and products we can offer.

Just because the F4N programme has now been completed, in no way has the hard work stopped. Safety and quality are extremely important to us, which is why we are so committed to achieving the highest standards and the latest qualifications and certifications. The team’s hard work has seen vast improvements in areas of quality management, lean techniques and health and safety. We hope to continue these improvements as the company progresses into the nuclear supply chain.

www.devoran-metals.co.uk
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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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