Case study







Lloyd Morris ready for electric opportunities

Control panel specialist Lloyd Morris Electrical is targeting new nuclear opportunities after driving business improvements through Fit For Nuclear.

Lloyd Morris provides specialist electrical services from design and production of a single control panel, to manufacture and installation of complete plant control systems. Established in Wrexham in 1974, the firm was acquired by the CEMA Group in 2009. It currently generates over half its business in the water industry.

Lloyd Morris has been active in the Welsh nuclear market for decades, and has close links with Wylfa through a branch on Anglesey. The company has provided control panels to the Magnox reactors at Wylfa and Trawsfynedd, both now in decommissioning, and is targeting new opportunities at the proposed Wylfa Newydd power station on Anglesey.

The company's managers were introduced to Fit For Nuclear (F4N) at a meet-the-buyer event run by the Welsh assembly government with Horizon Nuclear Power and Hitachi, the groups planning to build new reactors at Wylfa.

"We're concentrating on Wylfa, because it's on our doorstep," says operations manager Ian Faulkner. "It was suggested at one of the workshops that anyone wanting to work in nuclear should go for F4N status."

The F4N programme's funding at the time meant that full support was focused on companies based in England, but the

team were able to get the firm into a pilot scheme backed by the Welsh government.

Although the F4N assessment was primarily designed for mechanical engineering companies which could meet the nuclear industry's requirements for precision metal components, the Lloyd Morris team found that it also fitted their electrical engineering business.

"As a business, it's the same principles – there's little difference because it's very much about quality, health and safety, leadership and management," says Faulkner. "Regardless of what industry you're in, I think F4N still fits the bill."

Lloyd Morris started its F4N journey in September 2015. "We were really honest," says Faulkner. "The assessment came back very good in quality and safety and environmental, but the business side was open to improvements. We're all very good engineers and electricians, but when it comes to strategy and leadership and management, certain training was required."

Following a site visit by an F4N assessor, the team drew up a full action plan focusing on strategy and leadership issues.



"F4N has benefited the business not just in nuclear, but for everything else we do as well. It's an overall improvement."

"It covered everything – people, process and strategy," Faulkner says. "It made us step up a gear and look at the strategy of what we're doing. If we hadn't done F4N, we probably wouldn't have put a strategy together and wouldn't have attended the leadership courses. F4N has really given us something to aim at."

Lloyd Morris formed a F4N steering group and appointed Oliver Jones, commissioning manager in the firm's test department, as F4N champion with responsibility for driving shopfloor improvements and embedding nuclear culture.

Jones has led the introduction of 5S training into production, introduced regular discussion sessions, and headed projects such as working with electricians to make workshop forms easier to complete.

"It's about working with the team to see the journey we're on — if you get them engaged and they feel they're making a difference to the company, that's how you get them involved," Jones says.

F4N has made a dramatic improvement to the shopfloor, agrees Faulkner. "It is an ongoing process now that hopefully will never stop. We've been given the tools to use by F4N and we can just carry on now on continual improvement."

Lloyd Morris opened a new factory in 2014, and continues to develop new capabilities. The firm is planning additional production space and new offices, and will use lessons learned from F4N in the design of both.

The additional capacity and new projects for the nuclear sector will help Lloyd Morris increase turnover from around £12 million to a targeted £15-16 million in five years.

"We think we could be looking at 20 per cent nuclear quite comfortably," says managing director Barry Lewis. "If we can do £3 million in nuclear, that would be an achievement. If it goes to £5 million, that would enable us to reach our growth target.

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



F4N was developed by the Nuclear AMRC with leading industrial partners. More than 350 companies have completed the online F4N assessment, with most receiving ongoing support and development to help them close any gaps.

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