



Fit For Nuclear Q&A: Arrowsmith Engineering

Jason Aldridge, managing director at Arrowsmith Engineering (Coventry), explains how the aerospace firm is diversifying into nuclear with help from F4N.

Could you introduce your company?

Arrowsmith is a precision engineering company in Coventry, which has specialised in the aerospace sector since 1970. We work for companies such as Rolls-Royce, Meggitt and GKN, producing parts for aerospace engines and braking systems.

Arrowsmith has AS9100, ISO9000, ISO14001 and NADCAP accreditation.

Why did you enter the F4N programme?

We have worked in the aerospace sector with Rolls-Royce engines since 1970, and believed our skill sets would suit the nuclear industry.

We have tried over the previous five years to diversify into the nuclear industry, but have found this a very difficult journey with limited advice.

We have been on the SC21 programme since 2008 and have found this a really useful way to improve and further our company in the aerospace industry. Arrowsmith is presently at the SC21 Silver level, with only 30 other companies in the UK. We hope F4N will assist us in a similar way in the nuclear industry.

What areas did the assessment identify for development?

The extra requirements in health & safety and culture were unexpected. Arrowsmith has ISO 14001 and a very good safety record, but the added requirements of the nuclear industry takes it to another level.

We liked the emphasis on people and process excellence, and utilised the funding to improve in these areas.

How did you close the gaps that were identified?

We undertook a management training course for our management team, and the benefits of this have been long lasting. It was not only a good bonding experience, but the much-improved management techniques are noticeable.

The introduction of more rigid employee and visitor checks was much needed, and was simple to introduce.

Regular safety bulletins and courses have created a better health and safety culture. We have many more initiatives to implement, including screens in all areas showing safety messages.

ENGINEERING OFFICE

ARROWSMITH



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What benefits have you seen from F4N?

It has sparked some interest amongst our existing customer base. Just getting companies to give you an opportunity will be a success.

Where do you see the opportunities for your company in nuclear?

Initially, the easier route is through our existing customer base where we have existing approvals. Once we have a track record, this should make it easier to work with new companies within the nuclear sector

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

We would like to be in the submarine and civil market.

www.arrowsmitheng.co.uk
May 2017

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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