



Fit For Nuclear Q&A: Forsyths

Shaun Pitcher, sales manager at Forsyths, explains how F4N helped the fabrication company get to grips with the nuclear industry.

Could you introduce your company?

Forsyths is the fabrication arm of the Forsyths Group, based in the North East of Scotland. We're a longstanding family-owned fabrication company specialising in pressure vessels, tanks, piping and structural steelwork, through to preassembled skid packaged systems.

The business was established in 1890 and, up until the 1980s, generated the majority of its revenue from the Scotch whisky industry, producing copper pot stills and condensers. A slump in whisky production led to diversification into the paper industry, where Forsyths developed its experience in carbon and stainless steels. A natural progression from this led us into the oil and gas and pharmaceutical industries. As the company has grown, it has broadened its experience into exotic metals like titanium and super duplex whilst maintaining the highest quality of workmanship.

Why did you enter the F4N programme?

Forsyths is constantly looking for new markets and opportunities and, with the publicity surrounding nuclear new build in the UK, we needed to take the appropriate steps to understand market entry, industry requirements and expectations, and how to become nuclear-ready. There has always been a

constant drive for diversity and reinvestment in the business, so nuclear is considered the next step in our progression.

Forsyths has very limited nuclear experience, having supplied equipment to Dounreay some 20 years ago, but a lot has changed since then so we lacked some understanding of the industry. We needed the expertise and guidance that the F4N team bring to identify any gaps in our systems and processes.

What areas did the assessment identify for development?

There were no big surprises with the outcome of the assessment – we knew that there would be some gaps in our systems, but needed external verification of where to focus our attention to meet nuclear expectations. People and process excellence were identified as areas we needed to develop.

How did you close the gaps in these areas?

There were several initiatives, most notably the creation of a new HR department which continues to be developed and bring benefits to the business. Senior engineers have undertaken FMEA training, with the wider nuclear team undertaking Triple Bar training which provided a detailed understanding of nuclear expectations and requirements.



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Another area identified by F4N was visual management, in particular the internal communication of the company vision and strategy throughout the business which was not something we had considered before. A series of workshops were rolled out to address this which, once deployed, received some very positive feedback. Along with visible KPI information and the development of a new safety observation card system, this has resulted in a positive cultural change within the organisation, so this has been a very worthwhile initiative.

What benefits have you seen from F4N?

Forsyths will have developed a stronger position in the nuclear sector as a result of F4N which, with our continuous improvement plan, is on an upward spiral of improvement and progressions, helping us to achieve our goals and, with time, establish ourselves within the nuclear market and beyond.

Where do you see the opportunities in nuclear?

Initially in decommissioning – we have focused on Dounreay and have invested in facilities in the area to support this. We have been successful with the award of two framework agreements there. We are also focusing on the new build programme, and continue to raise our profile with tier two suppliers.

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

Forsyths has many years of experience in the manufacture of

high quality fabrications from piping systems, pressure vessels and tanks to complete preassembled skid packages. Our vision is to become a trusted supplier of fabricated equipment for the nuclear new build programme and decommissioning sector for many years to come.

www.forsyths.com
July 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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