



Fit For Nuclear Q&A: FAUN Trackway

Anglesey-based FAUN Trackway is an established supplier to defence and other demanding sectors. Gareth Williams, engineering manager, explains how the company is preparing for opportunities in nuclear with help from F4N.

Could you introduce your company?

FAUN Trackway Limited is an engineering and manufacturing firm based in Llangefni, North Wales. Previously known as Laird Anglesey, the company is fast approaching its ninth decade in operation.

Historically, our skills in design, fabrication, welding and painting converted to highly complex and bespoke projects that included bridges, torpedo boats, half-track Land Rovers, aviation, aerial masts and London buses.

Over time, these skills have translated into our signature Trackway product range, comprising portable roadways, expedient runways, helipads and marine access solutions, which continue to be used in military and civilian applications worldwide where the ground conditions are extremely poor.

Today, the growth and development of the brand has led to the formation of our three sectors – Trackway Defence, Trackway Access & Environment, and Trackway Engineering – with our Trackway Engineering team providing sub-contract engineering and design services for industrial and commercial use to an array of industries.

We have grown by focusing on specialised solutions for the most demanding markets, offering a service from design through to fabrication and testing.

Why did you enter the F4N programme?

As part of our strategic plan, we decided to diversify and target the energy industry, and specifically nuclear, following much research identifying opportunities.

Following discussions with the Welsh government, we decided to apply for F4N through their funding programme which is specifically applicable to Welsh SMEs like us.

We were delighted to have been chosen by Welsh Government to pursue the F4N application. With the nuclear industry so vast an area, we identified we had the capabilities on-site to tackle it but required the confidence and push to take the leap.

What areas did the assessment identify for development?

As a military supplier, we work to strict standards and focus on manufacturing excellence, and so the assessment identified many processes which were already in place.



“We know tackling the nuclear industry is going to take a huge amount of resource to fully establish ourselves, but F4N gives us credence along with the confidence to present our capabilities.”

It is because of these processes that the assessment didn't highlight any major gaps in our operations.

The main area for development focused on 5S, alongside refining our existing procedures including a thorough recording of all meetings and providing evidence of improvements made, through the introduction of an IT communication platform.

How did you address these gaps?

We were delighted to complete the process in six months. During that time, we made the minor amends required, with the entire team playing a part in the F4N journey. We purchased the necessary software to allow for enhanced project management through increased communication and recording of events and tasks.

Alongside this, we introduced and implemented a 5S culture into the workshop, allowing for enhanced efficiency and increased performance.

What benefits have you seen from F4N?

As a company freshly diversifying into the nuclear sector, the F4N process is already working for us as it has demonstrated the expectations of the industry and where we have come from to achieve those expectations.

We know tackling the nuclear industry is going to take a huge amount of resource to fully establish ourselves, but F4N gives us credence along with the confidence to present our capabilities.

Where do you see the opportunities in nuclear?

We are now able to start formulating relationships, meeting with potential buyers and introducing our capabilities.

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

Acquiring F4N has given us the much needed platform to tackle the nuclear industry.

Following the status approval, we can set our sights on marketing the brand, attending relevant exhibitions and networking events, and hopefully working in partnership with fellow F4N companies. Our procedures, systems, methods and culture are now geared to take the next step in our new chapter, and further support the future of British engineering.

fauntrackway.co.uk
October 2018

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



NUCLEAR AMRC

To find out how the Nuclear AMRC can help your business:

 namrc.co.uk

 enquiries@namrc.co.uk

 0114 222 9900

Nuclear AMRC, University of Sheffield, Advanced Manufacturing Park, Brunel Way, Rotherham, S60 5WG

