



Fit For Nuclear Q&A: Vessco Engineering

Welsh pressure vessel manufacturer Vessco is winning significant new contracts after being granted Fit For Nuclear. Managing director Julian Vance-Daniel explains how the company ensured it was ready for the opportunities.

Could you introduce your company?

We design and manufacture pressure vessels, shell and tube heat exchangers, columns, drums and skid packages. We are based in Bridgend, South Wales.

Why did you enter the F4N programme?

We had been targeting the civil nuclear sector since 2011. Early connections with Rolls-Royce, Alstom Power Systems and EDF resulted in bidding opportunities for pressure vessel packages for Hinkley Point C.

We decided to enter the F4N programme to ensure that, as a business, we were as ready as we could be to accept any work packages that we might be successful with.

What areas did the assessment identify for development?

We required considerable work with regard to internal communication – particularly regarding major strategic plans

such as targeting the nuclear sector. Signage within the factory was relatively poor and needed attention.

Management systems throughout the business have needed to be strengthened and deepened. Some areas were already strong, whereas others were well short of the standard expected for suppliers to the nuclear sector.

How did you address these gaps?

We undertook a gap analysis and developed a plan to address all the perceived weaknesses. Basically, we picked off the targets one by one, using our own resources and assisted as required by our F4N industrial advisor.

What benefits have you seen from F4N?

We have won a significant contract with GE Power Systems for two very large (330 tonne) pressure vessels, with manufacturing to commence March 2019, and we have won two projects with Balfour Beatty for super duplex fabrications.



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We are currently bidding for packages with other tier one contractors, and also bidding for a tier one contract directly for EDF NNB.

Where do you see the opportunities in nuclear?

We expect the civil nuclear industry to account for 40 per cent of our business over the next 10 years and probably beyond. We have started to seek contracts in France and Finland, and support these aspirations with visits to the countries whenever an opportunity arises.

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

We will design and manufacture pressure vessels for HPC in the UK and will have bid for work in any other new site which has progressed beyond the planning stage at that time. We expect to have won civil nuclear work from contractors based elsewhere in Europe. We will have started to approach the decommissioning sector, initially in the UK.

www.vesscoengineering.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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