

Capula keeps on top of standards

Industrial control, instrumentation and automation specialist Capula is aiming to be the nuclear industry's supplier of choice after securing Fit For Nuclear status.

Established in 1969, Capula has decades of experience in designing, manufacturing, installing and commissioning control systems and equipment for critical nuclear facilities. The firm is headquartered in Staffordshire with offices at key locations around the UK, including Whitehaven, Gloucester and Aldermaston, and since 2017 has been part of EDF Energy Services along with its parent group Imtech.

With the UK's new build programme starting in earnest at Hinkley Point C, and control and instrumentation (C&I) work packages set to go to tender after the initial construction phase, Capula's nuclear business manager Lee Heathcote saw Fit For Nuclear as a way to make sure the firm was ready for the opportunities.

"Capula is a well-established C&I company and, although we have been supporting the nuclear industry for many years, we were unsure if we would meet the anticipated criteria," Heathcote says. "It's vitally important that we don't get complacent and keep on top of the standards and behaviours expected to succeed in this sector."

Capula obtained a high score in its initial self-assessment in late 2018, a result confirmed by Nuclear AMRC industrial advisor John Olver during his on-site verification. Capula appointed nuclear bid writer Katie Henshall to manage the process of addressing Olver's recommendations, setting a target for each measure and completing the required actions to an agreed timescale.

"The Fit For Nuclear process has been a welcome opportunity to see our business through the lens of an independent eye," says Henshall. "Not only has this allowed for improvements within our business, but also to highlight what we are doing well and what we should be taking credit for."

Capula was granted F4N status in summer 2019, just over eight months after starting its journey. "We see our F4N status as an extended commitment to our customers and partners in developing long term trusted relationships, providing that extra assurance for the solutions and services we provide," says Henshall.



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The firm has expanded its nuclear team with the appointment of Peter Handley, a former business development lead at the Nuclear AMRC, as business development manager for nuclear.

Capula sees strong opportunities in the decommissioning sector, where it has supplied some 80 per cent of control systems installed at Sellafield site over the past decade, and also in next-generation technologies such as small and advanced modular reactors.

“We believe that we have a key role to play by offering next-generation control system solutions that will provide greater access to data and enabling more efficiency,” Henshall says.

“We are investing in new capabilities relevant to our nuclear future, and developing the skills and forward thinkers to ensure opportunities within our gift to deliver are realised.

“Over the next five years, we plan to be the supplier of choice

providing world leading capability and playing a key part in enabling low-carbon secure energy to successfully develop here in the UK and internationally.”

www.capula.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.




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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