



GR Carr wins major contract at Hinkley Point C

Mechanical engineer GR Carr secured its first order for Hinkley Point C, less than two years after being granted Fit For Nuclear.

The Essex-based firm won the contract for four large stainless structural steel fabrications which will be incorporated into the nuclear island at EDF Energy's new build project in Somerset.

The order was placed by Bylor, the joint venture between Bouygues TP and Laing O'Rourke which is EDF's lead contractor for civil works at Hinkley Point.

"The opportunity to tender came about as a result of networking with companies that we deal with who were already part of the Hinkley Point supply chain," says quality manager Dave Jefferies.

"Having gained our F4N status in early 2018, we initially went through the pre-qualification process with Bylor at the end of 2018."

"The benefits of having gone through the F4N programme were huge, as we were able to answer their questions knowledgeably and with a degree of confidence that we simply wouldn't have had without all that we had learned from our F4N advisors, Kevin Shepherd and Dr John Coleman."

GR Carr entered the Fit For Nuclear programme in late 2015, to prepare for opportunities in the nuclear new build and to drive business improvements across the company. The firm has served quality-critical markets such as petro-chemical, oil and gas energy for almost 50 years, providing piping and structural steel fabrications and maintenance services from its 4.5 acre site in Basildon.





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Following the initial F4N assessment and gap analysis, the firm worked through an action plan to create significant improvements and raise standards all round. To embed nuclear safety culture, the company recruited a new safety manager with 14 years of experience working in a nuclear power station, and gave operations staff more responsibility for driving improvements in quality, health and safety.

GR Carr also focused on training and development for its 90-strong workforce, with personal development plans for all staff including core training in continuous process improvement methods, and advanced qualifications for key engineers. In late 2018, its efforts were rewarded with the SME of The Year Award from the Engineering and Construction Industries Training Board (ECITB).

Following the first major contract at Hinkley Point, GR Carr is now targeting other nuclear opportunities. The firm is already engaged with the Sizewell C supply chain team preparing for EDF Energy's next new build project, some 80 miles up the coast, and will be well placed for work at CGN's proposed new power station at Bradwell in Essex.

"Everyone at GR Carr has been heavily involved with the cultural changes that have taken place over the last four years, and we are over the moon to be able to share this key milestone in our F4N journey," says Jefferies.

grcarr.com
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Fit For Nuclear (F4N) helps UK manufacturers get ready to bid for work in the civil nuclear supply chain.

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