



CQI NucSIG/Nuclear Institute Event - Quality Challenges Working for the Nuclear Sector

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Wed 26th March 2014 at Esterline Engineered Materials, Darchem Engineering Ltd, Stillington, Stockton-on-Tees.

NucSIG's first event in the North East of England was well attended. It was held in conjunction with the Nuclear Institute (NI), and generously hosted by Esterlines' Darchem Engineering. After introductory words from Andrew Bradley (Darchem) and Mark Lyons (NI), Mike Underwood introduced four recently joined members of the NucSIG Steering Group: Neil Ivison and Ricky Smith from Sellafield, Alec Boughey from BAE Systems and Michelle Pearce from NDA; and the day's programme commenced.

The presenters gave a good overview (presentations attached below) of the issues involved with supplying the nuclear sector:

- Paul Bunting, the Quality Manager for the Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing and Research Centre, described its 'Fit 4 Nuclear' programme, which helps those companies considering becoming involved with the nuclear sector establish how much of challenge this will be for them.
- Neil Ivison and Gordon McNeil of Sellafield shared with the group the proposal for a new programme of supplier qualification which is planned for their supply chain following learning that has emerged from the "Evaporator D" project, including learning for themselves as well as their suppliers.
- Drawing on the inspiration of Admiral Hyman Rickover, Alec Boughey talked through the process of planning and assuring the supply of parts and services to BAE Systems submarine construction facility at Barrow.
- Gary Joblin, the QA Manager at Darchem Engineering drew comparison between the requirements expected of their aerospace customers and those of the nuclear sector.

Members enjoyed a tour of the Darchem Engineering facilities and were able to appreciate the high quality of workmanship involved in the fabrication and welding of some high tech assemblies in "exotic" materials.

There was good discussion throughout and we also heard from Byron Bruce (Rolls Royce) about the NIA Readiness Programme for Nuclear New Build and from Iain McNair about joining the ISO Working Group drafting ISO 19443 a standard for Nuclear Sector Suppliers. It is a



repeated message from the supply chain that the nuclear purchasers all have slightly different QA expectations so hopefully this ISO will help to rectify the situation.

Many thanks to Philip Vaughan and Mark Lyons (NI) and Jennifer Hillcoat and Andrew Bradley (Darchem) for their help organising this event.