

MD's introduction

Welcome to the second edition of our biannual Group newsletter, we hope you enjoyed reading the last issue in October, and after a very busy six months there's plenty to report.

With the beginning of a new financial year upon us, we can reflect on the achievements made in 2010/11 and some of the major projects completed, as you can see on this page. The Group as a whole has continued to move forward with another year of improved performance, and in our pursuit of continuous improvement we will be looking to further this in 2011/12.

Hold Engineering Ltd have become an integral part of the Group, completing work for their sister companies as well as bringing new clients to the business. With Hold being based in Beckermeth, Cumbria they enable Group services to be offered from a local base to Sellafield.

NSG Environmental Ltd are leading the way in decommissioning and R&D facilities for the nuclear industry, making full use of their new high bay premises. They continue to build on a Health and Safety record that any organisation would be proud of, as they have demonstrated for key client AWE (see page 3). NSG is an exemplar organisation for service to the nuclear industry.

Business improvement techniques and investment plans at NIS Ltd are designed to create certainty. They have implemented more training and recruitment campaigns in recent months to enhance their capabilities, and the quality of the workforce gives the competitive edge. The on-going development of NIS' working processes is also helping to streamline the business into an even more efficient unit.

You will see examples of the progress the Group has made on our CSR commitments throughout this issue, with the involvement of many of our staff in promoting the Science, Technology, Maths and Engineering fields to a new generation as career possibilities. We are of course also continuing to provide support to our industries and local communities through our work with associations and charities.

We are striving to continuously develop the business group while remaining safe and successful.



NIS Group Managing Director
Richard Penrose

NSG awarded ILW management framework contract

NSG have been awarded a framework contract by Magnox Ltd for the delivery of an Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) Management Programme across eight sites. Throughout the operational life of Magnox sites, various streams of ILW have been produced and stored within shielded tanks and vaults of various design. As part of the framework, NSG will support Magnox with the retrieval and processing of the different waste streams into 'self shielding' containers for final disposal.

As one of the few organisations in the UK to have proven life cycle experience of waste retrieval and processing and a successful record of delivery throughout

the Magnox business, NSG have a unique understanding of the complexities of waste management and will use this to safely deliver projects in an efficient manner.

NSG are committed to sharing and learning through the framework and look forward to working in collaboration with Magnox, our subcontractors and other framework partners which include Babcock International; TSIF ILW Joint Venture; EnergySolutions EU Ltd; Nuvia and Spencer Atkins. We have a good track record in working with our suppliers and clients to deliver innovative solutions which take advantage of proven technologies from other industries. We will use the experience gained in retrieving and processing waste at many of the Magnox sites including Sizewell A, Hunterston, Bradwell and Trawsfynydd to enhance the performance of the framework.

NIS established as supplier of choice for the aerospace industry



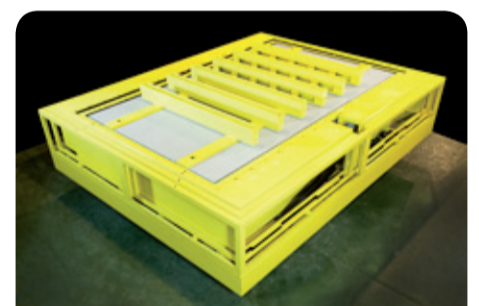
The loaders allow precisely controlled handling of components in a 950°C press.

Building on previous experience working in the aerospace industry, NIS has secured two orders from Joseph Rhodes Limited to supply tool and component loading equipment for a Super Plastic Forming and Diffusion Bonding press at BAE Systems. NIS has already designed and manufactured four such loaders, establishing an excellent track record within the industry.

The first loader, with a capacity of 5 tonnes, recently passed a factory acceptance test at NIS' workshop facilities, and construction of the second

loader is soon to commence. Two rail mounted cooling and setting tables have also been completed.

With a project scope that includes everything from design and project management to manufacture, testing and commissioning, NIS is providing a total turnkey solution. Advantages of the system include a bespoke new levelling system ensuring easier and quicker loading and unloading, automated fork change to reduce change over time, new heat protection shields for the cooling tables and a compact design to reduce the space needed on the factory floor. Safety and reliability, plus ease of operation and maintenance are all paramount factors that NIS has considered in the design as well as helping to deliver the required production cycle for the customer.



Cooling tables provide safe storage for hot tools during the cooling process.

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Magnox Ltd is owned by EnergySolutions and is responsible for managing ten Nuclear Licensed Sites, eight of which are at various stages of defueling and decommissioning.

Vital nuclear safeguard equipment delivered by NIS

NIS has recently completed an order to supply Costain with the detail design, manufacture, inspection, testing and delivery of seven sets of gamma monitoring pots and skid assemblies for the evaporator "D" project at Sellafield.

Costain are currently under contract to Sellafield Ltd for the construction of a new highly active liquid evaporator which will provide additional capacity to support the site's existing equipment. This part of the plant plays a pivotal role in the delivery of reprocessing, historic clean up and hazard reduction missions across the site. It is therefore imperative that this project is delivered to schedule and with the highest possible regard for safety, quality and security.

NIS were able to draw on an extensive experience of delivering high quality manufacturing solutions, including a previous project to produce five gamma pots of almost identical specification. This

ensured best practice methodologies were applied in order to optimise the integrity of the gamma pots and skids, which are critical to the evaporator process. The gamma pots are designed to house monitoring units that detect contaminated water, allowing automatic isolation valves to close in order to contain any radioactive material if a fault were to occur. They are therefore crucial to maintaining safety within the process.



Each assembly is fabricated from high grade stainless steel, shielded with removable lead sections and supported on a plinth framework.

NIS continues engineering support for Pilkington

A challenging new project to manufacture a 'labyrinth beam', a precision machined assembly associated with the glass coating process at Pilkington's Cowley Hill site, is currently being undertaken by NIS Ltd. Work on several dynamic and static evaporators for a similar process plant in China are also soon to be completed.

Since 2009, NIS Ltd has provided engineering services for the upgrades which the Pilkington Group has made to their float glass lines worldwide. To date NIS has supplied plant and equipment for Germany, Australia, China, Japan, UK, Vietnam and the USA; including high integrity jacketed chemical feed & exhaust pipework and headers. This high specification equipment is used to deliver chemicals to the glass sheets where it is sprayed.

Over the past 2 years NIS has become

established as a quality supplier and has supported the customer on various site installations, including the inspection and testing of a range of equipment. NIS Welding Engineer, Ray Robinson, was recently called upon to complete last minute commissioning assistance at a UK site. James Curran, Pilkington Design Engineer said, "We appreciated the rapid response at such a crucial time for us. Ray's welding was very good quality and we would like to thank him for a professional job."

NIS continue to develop the relationship with this key client as involvement in new projects increases. Industrial Business Development Manager, Richard Taffs said, "We look forward to continuing working with Pilkington, expanding the range of equipment supplied and helping to support them on other design and manufacture projects in the future."



Evaporators are one of several pieces of equipment NIS manufactures for Pilkington.

Appointments and promotions

The Group is pleased to welcome the following new team members:

NIS

- ▶ Robert Jenkinson
Senior Electrical Engineer
- ▶ Michael Culshaw
Mechanical Design Engineer
- ▶ Jessica Scott
Proposals Support Officer
- ▶ Ian Bromilow
Project Engineer
- ▶ Michael Silcock
Graduate Engineer
- ▶ Henry Richards
Graduate Engineer
- ▶ John Cottam
Apprentice
- ▶ Thomas Duxbury
Apprentice
- ▶ James Helyer
Apprentice
- ▶ Thomas Smith
Apprentice
- ▶ April Bateman
Office Assistant

NSG

- ▶ Andrew Browne
General Worker

- ▶ Andrew Dickinson
HP Surveyor

- ▶ David Walker
Assurance Manager

- ▶ Donald MacLeod
General Worker

- ▶ Jack Roderick
General Worker

- ▶ Jason Harkness
HP Surveyor

- ▶ Mark Sheppard
Assurance Officer (Site)

- ▶ Michelle Wise
Head – Consultancy Services

- ▶ Nick Taylor
Graduate Engineer

The Group also congratulates the following people on their promotions:

NIS

- ▶ Mark Pritchard
Commercial Manager

- ▶ Lee Woods
Design Technician

- ▶ Marc Green
Principle Engineer

- ▶ Mike Swift
Principle Engineer

NSG awarded £1.8m contract as part of major legacy removal at Sellafield

NSG have been awarded a £1.8m contract by US Company NuVision Engineering Ltd (NVE) to provide technical support during the research and development phase of the SPP-1 Pulse Jet Mixer (PJM) Project for Sellafield Limited. The PJM technology, designed by NVE, is a sludge mobilisation system which will be installed in the new Sludge Packaging Plant 1 (SPP1) at Sellafield site.

SPP1 is being built to hydraulically receive a large quantity of legacy sludge from the First Generation Magnox Storage Pond (FGMSP) which operated safely for over 30 years, receiving and storing irradiated fuel from Magnox reactors. SPP1 is a key risk reduction project for the FGMSP. It will comprise three stainless steel buffer storage vessels which will contain the sludge and allow it to decant and settle before being processed and disposed of in a safe and efficient manner thus removing a major legacy from the Sellafield site.

Initial trials conducted by NVE in 2009 into simulant mobilisation using the PJM technology have shown success in PJM start up. Further trials are now required to focus on the operability of the system with a view to confirming the system operating envelope. NSG will support construction of two rigs of 25% (small) and 50% (medium) geometrical linear scale with three and two PJM's respectively to investigate their operability through a series of trials. Principle components are currently being procured with installation and commissioning due to commence in July this year with trials scheduled to start in December.

NVE Vice President Martin Williams stated "NuVision Engineering is very pleased to have NSG Environmental on our team for this important international project. I believe we were selected by Sellafield limited due to the combination of our unique engineering capabilities and first class facilities. We are excited to be able to team together to resolve one of the nuclear industries significant legacy waste challenges".

NSG achieve six months of perfect days at AWE



The NSG team on site at AWE

In October 2009, AWE introduced the concept of Perfect Days on its sites in order to assist all personnel in becoming more aware of the consequences of their actions and to help keep Health and Safety at the forefront of good working practices. Although failure to achieve a Perfect Day does not mean that sites are unsafe, the concept helps to ensure that teams remain focussed on continuously improving their performance.

As a long term site contractor, NSG has been committed to contributing towards the Perfect Day initiative and have set themselves targets in areas relating to safety, quality, environment, customer satisfaction and the use of Suitably Qualified and Experienced Personnel (SQEP). These targets must be met in order to achieve a Perfect Day.

The NSG team is currently working on a variety of projects on site, one of which is a significant, cross disciplined project to decontaminate, decommission

and demolish one of the original two-storey facilities. In March 2011 the team, which currently consists of over 40 personnel including Health Physics and Decommissioning Technicians, Site Supervisors and Managers, Radiological Protection and Assurance Personnel and Mechanical and Design Engineers, achieved 6 months of consecutive Perfect Days. This was a fantastic achievement and reflects the company's commitment to safe working practices together with their ability to work with their Clients to achieve common goals. Steve Fussey, AWE's Site Director said "We take Health and Safety very seriously and this is a great example of good performance over a sustained period of time".

This commitment also brings benefit to local charities as AWE have made funds available for donation if key areas of the business can demonstrate a consistent and excellent safety record. Charities that have benefitted to date include Naomi House and the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Supporting local charity...

In keeping with the commitments made within the companies' corporate social responsibility programmes, NIS, NSG, Petrie and Hold are providing a range of support for three favoured charities, such as donating the money historically spent on corporate Christmas cards and gifts to these chosen worthwhile causes. NSG and NIS were also joined by Sellafeld Ltd and the local supply chain for an annual dinner dance at Hunday Manor in Workington, where guests were able to raise over £1,050 from a charity raffle, with all proceeds going to West Cumbria Hospice at Home.

The Group will be continuing to support charities that serve communities in which the companies operate and are delighted to have made donations totalling over £1000 to Hospice at Home, Derian House Children's Hospice and Naomi House Children's Hospice in 2010/11, in addition to money raised from fundraising events.

NIS and NSG were also happy to support Derian House with some grounds maintenance on 21st April. The companies provided Derian House with a number of volunteers who spent the day clearing gardening debris from the areas surrounding the facilities in order to make space for new plants supplied by local garden centres.

The hospice provides children and their families with the optimum support to cope with their illness so that they can lead as full and normal a life as possible. The staff there are committed to "making the most of every moment for children whose moments will be all too few" and the Group looks forward to offering them further support in order to help them in their efforts to make this possible.



Volunteers from NIS and NSG helped with maintenance work around the grounds at Derian House

NSG hits the air waves



Students from a local high school spent a morning at NSG to learn about the working environment

NSG recently took part in a 'Boom Radio' session with Balshaws High School which is a unique project developed by local radio station RockFM and Lancashire County Council. The purpose of the session is to introduce students to the skills and attributes required for the working environment.

The team at Scientia House, Chorley were joined by 12 students on Thursday 3rd

March together with a representative from RockFM. The students were given an overview of the company and the services provided before being taken on a tour of the facilities. The morning came to a close with a Q&A session with a selection of personnel from both the Science and Engineering departments after which, students returned to the studio at Rock FM in Preston to put together a 1 hour radio show and a commercial based on the information that they were given throughout the morning. The show has since been aired via their website www.boomradio.co.uk.

NIS and NSG win RoSPA gold medals

Both NIS and NSG are celebrating success in winning Gold Medals in the prestigious RoSPA Occupational Health and Safety Awards 2011. The medals mark the achievement of five consecutive years of gold awards for NIS, and seven in a row for NSG.

The majority of RoSPA's awards are non-competitive, marking achievement at merit, bronze, silver and gold levels. The Gold level marks an achievement of maintaining consistently high standards in Health and Safety performance throughout the year. The RoSPA Occupational Health and Safety Awards 2011 are sponsored



by NEBOSH (The National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health), the leading health and safety professional examining body. The awards will be presented at a ceremony at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel, at the National Exhibition Centre, on Tuesday, May 17, 2011. Adrian

Woodward, NIS Assurance Manager, will be attending to accept NIS' award as the company's health and safety representative, and said "This award is a recognition that our employees efforts to improve health and safety at NIS are being recognised. To achieve 5 consecutive Gold awards is due to the commitment to health and safety that is a part of the culture at NIS and has involved all employees in continuous improvement initiatives and constantly striving to improve health and safety at NIS".

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), a safety charity, launched its awards programme 55 years ago. The scheme looks not only at accident records, but also entrants' overarching health and safety

management systems, including important practices such as strong leadership and workforce involvement. NIS and NSG have developed robust health and safety management systems, accredited to OHSAS 18001, and involve all employees in reporting safety observations.

David Rawlins, RoSPA's awards manager, said: "RoSPA firmly believes that organisations that have demonstrated their commitment to continuous improvement in accident and ill health prevention deserve recognition. NIS Limited and NSG Environmental Limited have shown that they are committed to striving for such continuous improvement and we are delighted to honour them through the presentation of an award."

News flash

Richard Penrose announced the promotion of Dave Pattinson to General Manager of Hold Engineering Ltd.

Having safely handed over the company to the NIS Group John Hold has decided to spend more time pursuing his leisure activities in retirement. Richard Penrose expressed his thanks to John for his endeavours in ensuring a smooth handover. While John will not be involved on a day to day basis he will be around to assist in the companies endeavours from time to time.

More news on Hold Engineering to follow in the next issue of Aspire. For all the very latest news please visit our websites:

www.nisltd.com
www.holdltd.com
(New website coming soon)

NIS set to join Nuclear Skills Passport scheme

NIS Managing Director Richard Penrose has recently signed the charter to commit to implementing the Nuclear Skills Passport scheme. The passport will allow NIS to provide evidence of the skills and proficiencies of project personnel to nationally recognised standards.

Recent developments in the industry such as the advent of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, growth of the UK's nuclear deterrent programme and the beginning of a new phase of nuclear power plants, have meant that developing and maintaining a workforce of Suitably Qualified and Experienced Personnel (SQEP) has become imperative. NIS has made a commitment to identifying and fulfilling the training needs of staff through involvement in initiatives such as the Nuclear Skills Passport. Until now, individual nuclear sites have trained their contractors to their own standards. However, when staff are transferred to different facilities,



the training already completed is not recognised, leading to unnecessary additional training. In collaboration with the Cogent Sector Skills Council and the National Skills Academy for Nuclear, employers have drawn up the Nuclear Industry Training Framework which agrees on universally recognised training standards. This framework will allow NIS to benchmark capabilities against defined job context roles and demonstrate a skilled workforce, qualified to work on multiple sites.

The Skills Passport provides a record of industry specific training that meets agreed standards across the sector, and demonstrates the transferable skills that each employee has gained as a result. Using this, NIS will plan training requirements to ensure the right people are equipped with the appropriate skills, and also to further enhance competence across the company.

In short...

Aerospace alliance donation
NIS donated £100 of vouchers for the raffle at the NWAAs annual aerospace ball, which helped raise over £4000 for charity.

Exostar registered
NIS are now a registered member of Exostar's Supply Chain Platform, the preferred collaboration and sourcing tool for the aerospace and defence sectors.

Apprentice of the year
Congratulations to Jake Freeman who won the first Prize in Engineering Skills for the External Apprentice Group at the Springfield Apprentice Prize Day 2010.

Rugby team sponsorship
NIS, NSG and Hold Engineering are now official sponsors of Gosforth Greengarth RUFC in Cumbria, and supplied the team with a brand new kit featuring the company logos.

Nuclear Institute involvement
James Rudd, NSG Business Development Manager, was appointed Deputy Chair of the Nuclear Institution North West Branch earlier this year.

NSG expand capability
Michelle Wise is joining NSG Environmental from Babcock International to Head up a Consultancy division. Services offered will include Strategy Development, Environmental Restoration, Decommissioning Support and Waste Support – more to follow in the next issue.

NIS CSR committee makes positive actions
- Introduction of a corporate sponsorship scheme to allow employees' chosen charities to benefit from financial support

- Provided volunteers to support the fund raising efforts of our local children's Hospice, Derian House, including delivering leaflets and providing admin support for an annual corporate lunch

- Successfully trained 12 new Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) ambassadors, providing active support to activities across Lancashire and Cumbria

NIS Business Delivery Manager supporting the IET

NIS Business Delivery Manager John S Clarke MBE IEng MIET will be featuring as guest speaker at the Institution of Engineering and Technology's Professional Registration Ceremony on the 23rd March at the University of Reading.

The event will see the presentation of IET certificates of recognition to all those who have attained Professional Registration or Fellowship. The registration ceremony, which is also attended by business partners and local academia, includes three short talks, one of which is being delivered by John and will include an overview of his career, the factors that influenced his career decisions and the value of his IET membership.

In a career that began serving in the Royal Navy aboard ships and submarines, John has also worked within the Ministry of Defence at Gibraltar and Rosyth, installing and commissioning radio, radar and weapons systems. He has also contributed to design studies relating to a new class of ballistic nuclear submarines at Babcock Marine. John was awarded an MBE in 2004 for his services to the defence industry in starting up a technology enterprise based upon 'state of the art' 3D information capture using lasers.

As a highly active member of the institute, John regularly participates in IET events, and supports the industry by lending his expertise and experience within engineering. John is also attending a number of college career events in the coming weeks as well as being involved in the Berkshire TeenTech Week, representing the IET at an event promoting STEM (Science, Technology,



Since joining in 2009, John has been based at NIS' offices in Aldermaston

Engineering & Maths) careers to students, aged 12-14, at the Madejski Stadium in Reading.

All engineering staff at NIS are encouraged to join the IET, and the company are proud to have 14 trained STEM ambassadors. NIS has provided on-going support for this valuable professional community, with volunteering and sponsorship.

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Bringing you the latest news from NIS, NSG, Petrie and Hold Engineering.



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