

Franco UK Forum

R&D Skills

Progress update March 2007

Presented by: Dr Peter Bleasdale, Managing Director

Workshop in Paris in February

- Representatives and input from industry, research institutes, universities, government agencies
- Developing / maintaining skills most effectively achieved by undertaking R&D programmes
- Considered priority R&D areas and agreed topics to take forward with mutual interest
- Importance recognised of considering R&D skills at technician, undergraduate / postgraduate and in industry
- Significant joint working already in existence in education, research and collaborative R&D

Workshop attendees

France

- Bernard Bonin, Nuclear Energy Division, CEA
- Pascal Girard, CTE, CEA
- Laurent Turpin, Director INSTN

UK

- Peter Bleasdale, Nexia Solutions
- Graham Fairhall, Nexia Solutions
- Richard Clegg, Dalton Nuclear institute, Manchester
- Robin Grimes, Imperial College
- Rosemary Thompson, University of Highlands and Islands
- Sam Usher, Amec NNC

Education and training

- Requirements cover all levels from technicians to PhDs
 - UK NTEC Masters programme and Nuclear Engineering Doctorate programme provides high level professionals
 - French requirements are mainly fulfilled by “grandes écoles” and “Génie atomique and professional master programmes
 - There are many opportunities to extend existing links on education and training
 - Detailed inventory of programmes is to be made, including professional training
 - Exchange programs have to include both people (students, teachers, professionals) and education programs (master modules, doctorate training, ...)

Way forward

- Leads to be nominated covering education, research and R&D programme areas from both countries
- Invitation to participate in existing education / research schemes in France and UK including exchange programmes
- Education and training consider constitution of a UK - F “nuclear academy”
- Four R&D topic areas initially to be developed with balanced cooperation from France / UK
 - Materials
 - Gas reactor technology
 - Dismantling
 - Social economic studies
- Learn from experience of current joint working