

Fit For Nuclear Comment Piece



Your company name: KGD Industrial Services

Your name and position: Andrew Price-Greenow, Engineering Manager

Following successful completion and attainment of the Fit For Nuclear Recognition in 2017 we pursued several Hinkley Point C leads with the support of our Nuclear AMRC industrial advisor Huw Jenkins. We were able to tap into a wealth of information relating to EDF supply chain information and approached several companies where it was felt we had something to offer. Having been through the Nuclear AMRC F4N supply chain programme we have gained kudos and more confidence in our abilities.

On a personnel level I was made aware and able to take advantage of some Triple Bar Nuclear Manufacturing training which introduced Nuclear awareness, behaviours and nuclear quality. This was a real eye opener and brought a sense of focus onto the Quality aspects of working in the Nuclear Industry with real world examples of the challenges other manufacturers had faced supplying into the Nuclear sector.

The F4N programme prepared us well for the challenging procurement stages but there was still a steep learning curve! It was reassuring throughout this process to have our industrial advisor at hand as a sounding board to talk to and advise about best practice and tap into their experiences. Following contract negotiation where quality and manufacturing control featured very prominently, we successfully won a contract for some large complex stainless steel sumps for Hinkley Point C Nuclear Island which were a first for complexity and size.

As a company, KGD had already taken significant steps with its facilities and has a large dedicated well equipped stainless steel fabrication workshop, which was a prerequisite to being awarded our first Nuclear New Build Project. In addition following contract award significant additional investment was required. We utilised all in-house skills and also drafted in additional inspection and quality control resource. Significant investment was made in various processes including Weld Procedures & Qualifications, welder codings and welding equipment and tooling. This was essential together with a level of welding automation due to the high quality repeatable results required and production trials were conducted to prove these new processes. Due to the complex nature of the fabrication, job specification tooling was designed, manufactured and trialled prior to deployment on the contract. To have greater visibility of the manufacture process a 4m 250 tonne CNC break press with specific job tooling was installed in the stainless steel shop. Having all equipment, tooling and job material under one purpose built Stainless Steel Fabrication facility meant nothing left the building for processing and risk of contamination was exponentially reduced. It also offered repeatable processing to

enable the stringent fit up tolerance to be maintained. Throughout this upskilling of the workforce was carried out and this enabled the volume of work to be completed that would not otherwise have been possible within the timeframe.

We feel KGDs ethos and USP as being a 'one stop shop' where design, procurement, manufacturing, NDT, blasting, painting, instrumentation, electrical and testing being under one roof offered some real advantage to this Nuclear contract. We were able to have visibility and control of all stages of manufacture to ensure quality and traceability could be controlled to the exacting standards demanded by the Nuclear Industry.

Having completed an ambitious expansion plan with new 58,000 ft² dedicated segregated manufacturing plant, including a purpose built shotblasting and painting facility, KGD are well placed to meet future challenges. We believe this particularly suits the move to modular construction and with a 120 Tonne lift capacity offers some exciting opportunities and will appeal to nuclear contractors.