



Fit For Nuclear Q&A: Vessco Engineering

Welsh pressure vessel manufacturer Vessco has won significant new contracts after being granted Fit For Nuclear. Managing director Julian Vance-Daniel explains how the company ensured it was ready for the opportunities.

Could you introduce your company?

We design and manufacture pressure vessels, columns, heat exchangers, skid packages and specialist fabrications. We have contracts in the civil nuclear market with Rolls-Royce, Balfour Beatty, Jacobs, Ovivo UK and others, and have delivered products and services to Hinkley Point C, Sellafield, Iter, Bangor Nuclear Futures Institute and UKAEA.

We manufacture products in a vast range of metals including carbon steels, chrome molybdenum, austenitic stainless steel, ferritic stainless steel, duplex and super duplex stainless steels, nickel alloys, aluminium and titanium.

Why did you enter the F4N programme?

We entered initially to prepare the company for working in the civil nuclear sector. Since first gaining Fit For Nuclear in 2018, we have used the programme to underpin our development,

guide our people progression and to help with our continuous improvement campaign.

What areas did the assessment identify for development?

We have always been strong in the manufacturing areas such as fabrication, welding, planning and delivery; less strong in the support areas such as people development, and communication both within and outside the company. Also our nuclear safety culture was initially at a basic level.

How did you address these gaps?

We used F4N as the means to improve our people skills – investing in training, appraisals, development and mentoring.

We strengthened our nuclear safety culture through communication, using town hall delivery, toolbox talks and various visual impact means such as posters, leaflets, notice boards, display boards and banners.



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What benefits have you seen from F4N?

We have progressed from a single order with GE for a pressure vessel to over 20 contracts for products destined for Hinkley Point C, and civil nuclear products being delivered to France, Germany, Sellafield, Bangor and UK decommissioning sites.

Where do you see the opportunities in nuclear?

We expect to concentrate upon the civil nuclear and defence new build sectors. We have experience in pressure vessels, but also increasingly in specialist fabrications such as super duplex components for the marine tunnels, pipework and support structures.

How do you see your business in the nuclear sector in five years' time?

For the first ten years of the company's existence the oil and gas sector contributed over 60 per cent of the turnover. In the past ten years, the output has included in more or less equal measure civil nuclear, oil & gas and water industry business.

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vesscoengineering.co.uk

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



F4N is exclusively delivered by the Nuclear AMRC, and has been extensively developed and expanded to meet industry demand. The service lets UK manufacturers measure their operations against the standards required to supply the nuclear industry, and take the necessary steps to close any gaps.


Hundreds of companies have completed the online F4N assessment, with most receiving ongoing support and development from the F4N team of nuclear specialists and experienced industrial advisors.

Begin your F4N journey: namrc.co.uk/services/f4n



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