

Nuclear Supply Chain Programme

The global revival in nuclear power, and the wider move to a low carbon economy, provides a major opportunity for the nuclear supply chain. There will be opportunities for manufacturing companies to get involved in the building and operating of the UK's new nuclear power stations as well as the nuclear decommissioning programme. MAS has put together a flexible package of subsidised support to help UK manufacturers access the growing civil nuclear market both at home and internationally.



Nuclear Supply chain opportunities

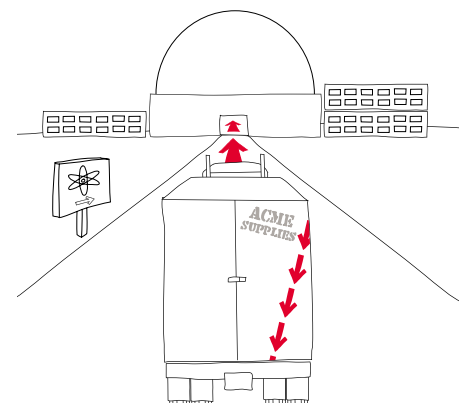
- Nuclear island components
- Turbine island components
- Electrical equipment
- Generator main connections
- Switchgear
- Mechanical equipment
- Pipework
- Pressure vessels and tanks
- Pumps
- Cranes
- Valves
- Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC)
- Site services and materials

How can MAS help?

- Free advice line: 0800 093 9077
- Free* manufacturing review
- Nuclear supply chain opportunities events
- Subsidised* consultancy support including:
 - Guidance on how to get into the nuclear supply chain
 - Advice on quality and standards requirements
 - Help with self assessment
 - Assistance with tendering
- Signposting to other sources of support and funding

*Free manufacturing review and subsidised support for SMEs only. Please see website for full eligibility criteria.

For further
information or
advice, visit
www.mas.bis.gov.uk
or call
0845 658 9600



Commissioned by

Case study Croft Engineering Services

Croft Engineering Services of Risley in Warrington, soon to celebrate a quarter of a century in business, is a specialist manufacturer and supplier of filters and filter components. Founded by two brothers, who still run the business today, the company originally started as a bespoke mesh and specialised perforated sheet manufacturer to the hydraulic pump refurbishment market.



As they further established their name as filtration problem-solvers, Croft quickly found that they were increasingly being called upon for their specialised knowledge to apply it to manufacturing custom-made products for a host of industrial sectors.

Their speedy response to filtration problems and their ability to develop specialised and bespoke resolutions quickly spread through the petrochemical, food, chemical, pharmacy, marine, construction, transport, automotive and printing industries.

Their entry into the nuclear supply chain as a tier 4 supplier was very much as a result of their ability to tailor a product to the client's specific needs. Croft were called upon to supply a filter for a catalyst retainer. Prior to their involvement, the existing French-manufactured filter needed to be lifted out of its container and inverted in order to drain it.

However, Croft re-engineered the filter, and not only solved the drainage problem, but also effectively removed a hands-on function out of the process, saving time and cost.



Neil Burns, a partner in Croft said: "The nuclear industry needs to engage with small specialists across the supply chain who know what they are talking about. A small redevelopment or refinement by an expert can save thousands, or often hundreds of thousands of pounds, not to mention countless working hours. And the amazing thing is that, like us at Croft, manufacturers don't have to be nuclear specialists in order to seize a nuclear opportunity – the nuclear industry is another "specialised" area of work for us in the same way that food or automotive industries require specific understanding of the manufacturing challenges they face."

"Our main area of specialism is simply doing what we do, but ensuring we do it extremely well."

Croft Engineering Services have a proud heritage of directly exporting 40% of what they manufacture and are quietly increasing their domestic output as import substitution. Training and development also plays an important part in the life of Croft Engineering Services, with Neil and his staff regularly travelling abroad to learn more about the various sectors they engage with.



"There is great capability out there to prove that the British manufacturing and engineering sector is the best in the world, and if the nuclear industry purchases locally, it further reduces the carbon footprint. There are plenty of opportunities from every conceivable British manufacturing sector to supply to the nuclear industry, and these opportunities can be seized if companies use the guidance provided by the MAS service as well as put a little professional effort in themselves."

Within the nuclear supply chain, Croft Engineering Services supply to VT Nuclear (Sellafield), Nuvia (Dounreay), Strachan & Henshaw Ltd (Sizewell decommissioning), Babcock International and NSG, with many repeat orders.