

Tritium research centre plans move ahead with £5m contract

The consortium will design, supply and install the mechanical and electrical instrumentation necessary for the new plant at Culham Science Centre.

The purpose of the new Hydrogen-3 Advanced Technology (H3AT) facility will be to support the development of new technologies to process and store tritium, one of the fuels that could be employed in future fusion power plants.

The facility, which will be commissioned in 2021, will have the capacity to hold tritium and, uniquely, will provide a 'closed-loop' research system. Although the stand-alone technologies for each component are used elsewhere, the H3AT facility will be the first to bring these together in one place, and will represent a small-scale forerunner of the tritium facility for the multinational ITER fusion project in France.

This 'closed-loop' system allows for the recycling and reuse of tritium as well as the ability to use it for further experiments – a valuable resource, therefore, for tritium R&D.

Contracts for a suite of sub-systems for the facility will also be awarded by tender to industry in the coming months.

Colin Walters, Director of the National Fusion Technology Platform at UKAEA, said: "The H3AT facility will provide a truly world-class capability, and will enable the development of technology, expertise and skills to support UK industry growth."

Thomas Keegan, Group Chief Executive Officer at DBD, said: "H3AT is a dream project for Different by Design; it allows us to use our skills on an internationally important facility. We were thrilled to be appointed as a delivery partner to UKAEA and are looking forward to the collaboration."

Sir Edward Lister resigns as Homes England Chair

Homes England Chief Executive Nick Walkley said:

I confirm Sir Edward Lister has informed the Secretary of State for Housing, Robert Jenrick MP that he is stepping down as Chairman of the Homes England Board permanently to focus on his new role as

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Chief Strategic Advisor. I'd like to thank him for his huge contribution to the agency, particularly during a period that has seen us expand rapidly.

Homes England Board member and Senior Independent Director Simon Dudley said:

Sir Edward leaves a remarkable legacy, including making the case for a new Homes England that promises to disrupt the housing market to deliver the homes this country needs. Sir Edward has worked tirelessly to ensure Homes England has the expertise it needs, helping to double the number of staff in just 18 months, and by strengthening its Board to make it more resilient and diverse.

We are all incredibly grateful of the support Sir Edward has given Homes England and its partners over the past three years and I am honoured to continue to stand in whilst we look to recruit a new Homes England Chair.

Background

- Sir Edward Lister has been Chairman of Homes England for the past three years.
- Simon Dudley was appointed Senior Independent Director by the Homes England Board on 4 July 2019. The Non-Executive role is in addition to Mr Dudley's responsibilities as a Board member and will include deputising for the Chairman.

Corporate information: Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs – Statistics at Defra

We publish national and official statistics relating to the environment, rural communities, food, farming and biosecurity.

Multi-million pound investment for

Yorkshire coastal route

Resurfacing, drainage, junction upgrades as well as major safety improvements are being planned for the A64 between the A1(M) at Bramham and Seamer in Scarborough.

Around 25 schemes are being carried out along the 55-mile route including safety improvements at Crambeck and Rillington between now and the end of March next year.

Highways England project manager Chris Dunn said:

We are carrying out a series of improvements along the A64 between the A1(M) and Seamer over the next 12 months which will provide better journeys for drivers and improved road safety.

These include major safety improvements at Crambeck and Rillington which are being funded as part of our safety designated funds. It also includes further improvements for cyclists along the route as well as some junction improvements making it easier for people to access caravan sites in the area.

The majority of the work is being carried out from September onwards to avoid the summer months when traffic is at its heaviest, although we do need to start some overnight resurfacing work prior to that between Headley Bar and Hopgrove roundabout from Monday 19 August.

This work is part of Highways England's £80m maintenance improvements on Yorkshire's roads this year providing drivers with smoother and safer journeys.

The resurfacing work between Headley Bar and Hopgrove roundabout begins this year's investment along the route. It also includes replacing the road markings, reflective road studs and kerbing. The work will be carried out overnight between 8pm and 6am.

Some of the projects along the A64 have also been developed as part of Highways England's cycling, safety and integration designated fund. This is a special fund of £250m to be spent between 2015 and 2021, helping address barriers caused by our road network, providing a more accessible, inclusive and integrated network that gives people the freedom to choose their mode of transport.

Residents, drivers, businesses and tourists will also be able to find out more about this investment and further details about the schemes by talking to one of the project team at the following locations:

- Friday 16 August at Staxton Village Hall, Wain's Lane, Staxton, YO12 4SF

between 3pm and 7pm

- Thursday 22 August at RNLI Lifeboat Station forecourt, West Pier, Foreshore Road, Scarborough, YO11 1PB between 10am and 4pm
- Friday 30 August Rillington Village, Hall High Street, Rillington, YO17 8LH between 3pm and 7pm

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General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

Appointment of Three Further Standing Junior Counsel to the Advocate General for Scotland

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