



Delivering For Nuclear:

# HOW SPEEDY HIRE SUPPORTS **NUCLEAR** PROJECTS

Specialist Report 2024



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# Foreword

**One of the UK's ambitious climate goals is to meet net zero targets by 2050, while meeting growing energy demands. Embracing nuclear power is crucial as the country heads towards a net zero future.**

Enter Speedy Hire, a leading tool hire provider, expanding into the nuclear sector to support contractors working on nuclear projects. Traditionally recognised for its range of power tools and specialised equipment catering to construction sites, Speedy Hire has gone beyond its conventional scope. Through strategic adaptation and a commitment to innovation, Speedy Hire has not only extended its services but carved out a niche within the complex and highly regulated field of nuclear projects.

This paper explores the role of hire companies like Speedy Hire in the nuclear sector, including the navigation of safety challenges and the critical role of community engagement. It delves into the strategies that can help hire companies become trusted partners for tier one contractors at the forefront of nuclear projects.

The report offers an analysis of a hire company's important role in Major Projects such as Hinkley Point C and Sellafield, showcasing how to evolve from a tool hire provider to an essential asset in the nuclear industry's pursuit of sustainability and safety.

It also navigates the complexities of working within nuclear sites, the challenges of stringent safety measures and the importance of supporting the communities at the heart of nuclear sites like Hinkley Point C and Sellafield.



## Chapter one

# Nuclear power in the UK: Today and in the future

**The UK is on a journey toward bolstering its nuclear energy capacity. With a commitment to reducing carbon emissions and increasing energy security, the UK government plans for an increase in nuclear-generated electricity, targeting 24 GW of nuclear capacity by 2050. This will contribute to fulfilling a quarter of the nation's electricity needs.**

Currently, the UK generates nearly 15% of its electricity from around 6.5 GW of nuclear capacity. However, the landscape is rapidly evolving, with plans to retire aging facilities by the end of the decade while introducing a new era of nuclear power through the construction of next-generation nuclear plants.

The nation's approach to embracing nuclear energy involves an assessment process for new reactor designs and site selection, ensuring adherence to stringent safety protocols. This strategy aligns with the UK's overarching energy policy, primarily centred on a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. The ambitious Climate Change Act (CCA) of 2008 sets a target of at least an 80% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 compared to 1990 levels. Furthermore, amendments to the CCA in 2019 reinforced the commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

To accomplish the shift towards clean energy, the government introduced various strategic initiatives such as the Clean Growth Strategy and The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution. These frameworks underlined substantial investment and support across several areas, including offshore wind advancement, hydrogen development and an accelerated focus on new and advanced nuclear power.

Following geopolitical events, such as Russia's military actions in Ukraine, the UK has increased its efforts to strengthen its energy independence.

Part of this strategy involves an expansion of nuclear energy, projecting an ambitious 24 GW of capacity by 2050 to create a quarter of the nation's electricity. To catalyse this growth, the government initiated the creation of Great British Nuclear and allocated a £120 million Future Nuclear Enabling Fund to strengthen nuclear project development and promote industry competitiveness.

Beyond conventional large-scale nuclear power stations, the UK is advancing innovation in small modular reactor (SMR) technology. The government allocated funding to support advanced modular reactor projects, emphasising diverse approaches to nuclear energy generation.

Addressing the longstanding issue of radioactive waste, the UK has evolved its waste management strategies. Notably, the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) at Drigg in Cumbria and storage facilities at Sellafield play important roles in managing low, intermediate and high-level radioactive waste generated over decades of nuclear energy exploration.

**The advancement of nuclear power in the UK represents a paradigm shift – a commitment to a sustainable, low-carbon future while securing energy security. This journey into nuclear energy shows the UK's dedication to combatting climate change and embracing a cleaner, more resilient energy landscape.**



## Chapter two

# Hinkley Point C and Sellafield

### **Sellafield's legacy: A journey from nuclear arsenal to decommissioning site**

Since its inception in 1947, Sellafield, in Cumbria, has been at the heart of the UK's nuclear landscape. Initially tied to the British nuclear weapons programme, the site housed four nuclear reactors, evolving from military usage to becoming a hub for nuclear energy generation. However, after more than half a century of nuclear activity, Sellafield is now being decommissioned.

Operating under the mandate of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Sellafield stands as a cornerstone in managing the UK's nuclear legacy. Its multifaceted work includes critical initiatives vital for the nation's safety and security.

Sellafield's operations are structured across four key value streams, each catering to diverse yet connected parts of nuclear management:

#### **Retrievals:**

Sellafield undertakes the retrieval of nuclear waste, fuel and sludge stored within legacy ponds and silos. This addresses the highest risks and hazards present at the site.

#### **Remediation:**

Extending beyond the confines of ponds and silos, the remediation stream involves the cleanup of numerous nuclear and non-nuclear facilities scattered across the Sellafield site.

#### **Spent nuclear fuel management:**

Sellafield currently serves as a secure storage destination for spent nuclear fuel from various nuclear power stations across the UK. This safe storage route facilitates continued electricity generation in these stations.

#### **Special nuclear materials:**

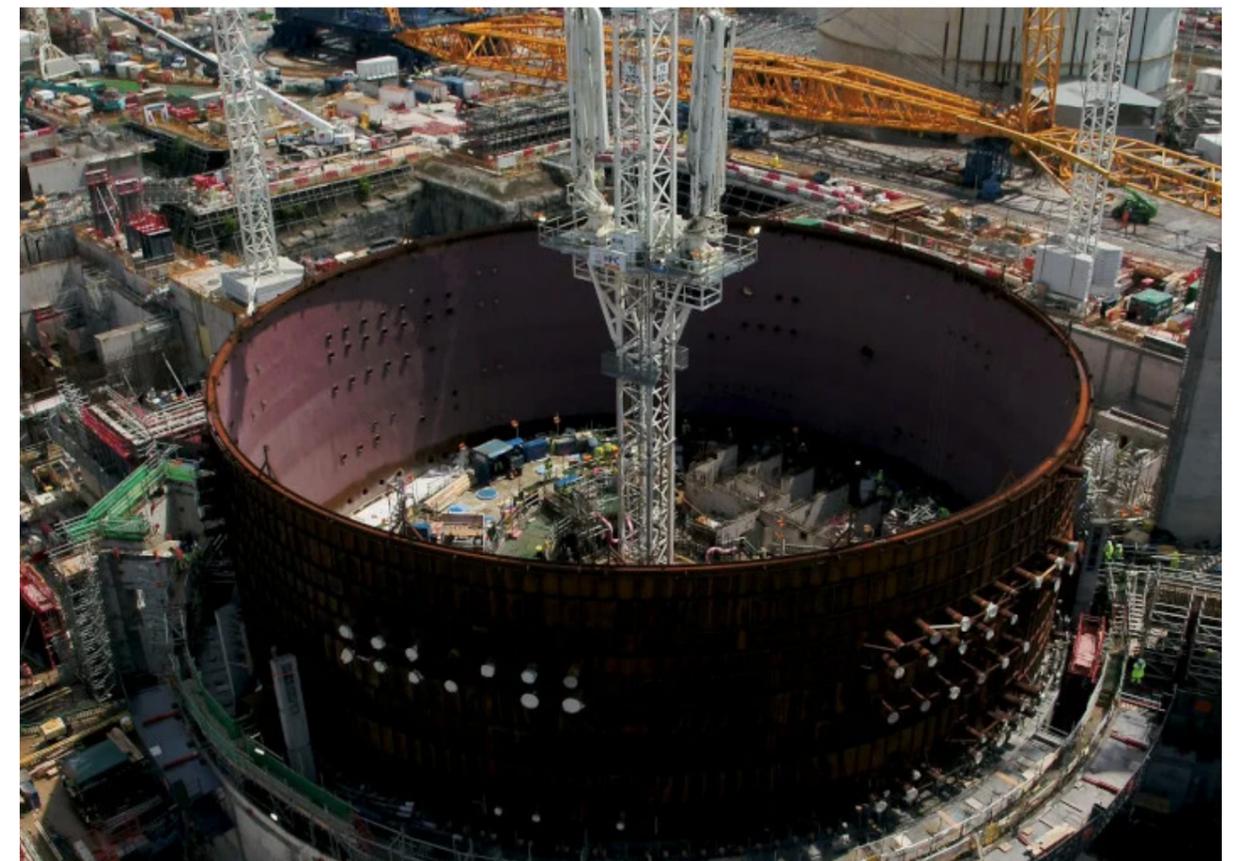
Equipped with dedicated facilities and expertise, Sellafield offers safe and secure storage solutions for special nuclear materials, guaranteeing their safeguarding. Sellafield can also safely manage all three forms of nuclear waste: high, intermediate and low.

### **Hinkley Point C: New projects in nuclear energy**

Hinkley Point C, located in Somerset, is a two-unit power station owned by EDF Energy and China General Nuclear Power Group. Two new nuclear reactors are under construction which are part of the first in a new generation of nuclear power stations in Britain. They will provide clean electricity for around six million homes, which is crucial for helping the UK reach its goal of achieving net zero. The plant's first unit is expected to be operational in 2029.

The 3.26GW power plant is estimated to generate 26TWh of electricity annually throughout its operational span of 60 years, equivalent to 7% of Great Britain's forecast electricity demand during the 2020s. The power generated by the plant will offset nine million tonnes of carbon dioxide and 25,000 jobs will be created during construction and operation.

This is the biggest environmental project in the country, which is not only helping to combat climate change, but proves that the transition to net zero can deliver huge social and economic benefits, improving the lives and wellbeing of communities for years to come.



Source: EDF Energy

## Chapter three

# Navigating nuclear safety challenges

**Working at a nuclear site is very different compared to working at a typical construction site. CRB checks and extensive training is required to access the sites, and certification for all products is essential. Ensuring that every component that goes into the nuclear reactors is safe, documented, tested and recorded is vital.**

To overcome these challenges, Speedy Hire formulated a mission within the nuclear sector to extend beyond traditional equipment supply.

Expanding a nuclear offering and enabling the successful delivery of a project while upholding values such as health, safety, compliance and environmental responsibility is vital. One way Speedy Hire expanded its nuclear offering was by establishing a specialised nuclear team devoted to working on nuclear projects. This allowed Speedy Hire to closely collaborate with its partners and gain a deep understanding of the sector.

*The dedicated Speedy Hire nuclear team handles equipment transportation carefully within strict nuclear guidelines, using correct booking systems and ensuring the team has the right passes and understands project rules.*

Everyone, from drivers to project managers, knows where they can go on-site and what's expected. When equipment is delivered, the team ensures it meets site-specific standards, especially at places like Sellafield, which has unique safety standards. Sellafield deals with hazardous nuclear waste and requires extra care to protect people and the environment during cleanup. Security at Sellafield is some of the highest in the construction industry, with multiple clearance levels and detailed background checks, emphasising the vital importance of following safety rules at nuclear sites.



## Chapter four

# Beyond traditional tool hire: The Speedy Hire approach

**Working at a nuclear site involves much more than supplying tools to purchase or hire. For instance, engaging with communities surrounding Hinkley Point C and Sellafield, providing specialised services for tier-one contractors, working with local supply chains, supporting charities and engaging in an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategy are all parts of being a hire company working at a nuclear site.**

### ESG strategy

Speedy Hire's commitment goes far beyond traditional tool supply; it's deeply rooted in its Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategy. Speedy Hire ensures high standards of accuracy, transparency and compliance in their business operations. Its ESG strategy, 'The Decade to Deliver,' revolves around four key pillars: accelerating innovation, promoting climate solutions, actively engaging with local communities and fostering inclusivity within their workforce.

### Accelerating innovation:

Speedy Hire is dedicated to making hire even more sustainable by collaborating with customers, suppliers and innovators. It aims to create products designed for longevity, reparability and recyclability.

### Climate solutions:

Committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2040, ten years ahead of the government's target, Speedy Hire invests in low-carbon delivery vehicles and innovative services. This initiative not only reduces Speedy Hire's own carbon footprint but also supports their customers' goals towards sustainability.

### Part of the community:

Embracing a decade-long commitment to supporting local communities, Speedy Hire actively contributes to tackling societal challenges and prepares for a more sustainable future.

### Including everyone:

Speedy Hire believes that a sustainable future can only be achieved by a collaborative effort. By fostering an inclusive workplace and supporting individual growth, the company aims to maximise collective potential.

### Social value:

With a focus on the local communities and environment surrounding projects like Hinkley Point C and Sellafield, Speedy Hire commits to creating local employment opportunities, supporting apprenticeships and minimising its environmental impact. The company's ambition to achieve 30% female representation in construction by 2030 and its participation in mental health initiatives, such as supporting the Lighthouse Club's 'Make it Visible' campaign, reflect its broader commitment to social causes.

Speedy Hire has made substantial strides toward sustainability, including notable achievements such as replacing diesel with sustainable fuels and introducing the largest EV fleet in hire to reduce carbon emissions. These actions demonstrate the team's determination to lead the industry in sustainability while making a positive impact on society and the environment.



# Community engagement

**Community engagement lies at the heart of Speedy Hire's ethos, reflecting its commitment to fostering positive impacts beyond business operations. The company's dedication goes far beyond providing quality services and solutions. Speedy Hire actively seeks opportunities to engage with local communities, driving initiatives that create a sustainable and inclusive environment in the surrounding areas at Hinkley Point C and Sellafield. It aims to address societal challenges, support economic growth and forge lasting relationships that benefit communities.**

## Hinkley Point C

By actively engaging with local schools, colleges and charities, Speedy Hire has fostered a strong community presence in the surrounding area at Hinkley Point C. It supports initiatives with Bridgwater & Taunton College, helping with the apprenticeship programme for Hinkley Point C. The college operates a nine-acre simulated construction site where apprentices and trainees learn the ropes on a real-life site. The students must uphold the same level of health and safety expected at Hinkley Point C, making the transition to the power station much smoother after completing training. Speedy Hire provides the relevant kit for the relevant programme, helps to set up the site for practical work and leads presentations and Q&A sessions to encourage women to join the construction industry, particularly the nuclear sector.

So far, Hinkley Point C has trained more than 1,100 apprentices. Nearly 20,000 jobs have been created directly on-site so far, with £24 million invested directly into education, skills and employment.

Hannah Ranby, Operations Manager at the Construction, Skills and Innovation Centre at Bridgwater & Taunton College, said: "Speedy Hire has consistently shown exceptional responsiveness in providing the necessary equipment and tools for our training programmes. Having access to the same kit and equipment as there would be on-site at Hinkley Point C adds a level of realism that reinforces our apprentices' learning experience.

"Our college operates a simulated construction site, providing a real-world learning environment, not just theory-based teaching. Our courses are bolstered with Speedy Hire's support in supplying essential equipment to buy or hire. Having the exact equipment apprentices would use on-site is vital in providing them with well-rounded, industry-relevant experience."

***"Ultimately, our work is about transforming lives, offering individuals the opportunity to establish lasting careers. Speedy Hire's unwavering support is instrumental in achieving this goal."***

Adrian Palmer, Head of Nuclear Projects at Speedy Hire, said: "We believe in taking a holistic approach, not just focusing on the job site. Understanding that we're working in remote locations like the countryside in Somerset, where our operations impact people's lives, is crucial.

"We aim to be a friend to these communities rather than part of any challenge a large construction site may bring. Our successful work at Hinkley Point C has involved active support for local schools and colleges, and we've also engaged with the local community through charity events like football matches, with hundreds of people coming together to enjoy a sports match. Local employment is a priority and we're proud to be contributing to job creation in the area."



Source: EDF Energy

## Sellafield

With an investment exceeding £1 million, Speedy Hire is constructing new premises closer to Sellafield, aiming to strengthen a deprived area that lacked redevelopment plans. This initiative will not only provide a much-needed facelift to the area but also create job opportunities for local people, creating a more prosperous environment.

Stuart Conway, Major Projects Manager at Sellafield for Speedy Hire, said:

***"Through our extensive investment in both infrastructure and the community, we're not just building a new facility; we're transforming lives. Our commitment to apprenticeships and local employment demonstrates our dedication to reinvesting within the area. Placing our new facility strategically close to Sellafield ensures sustainability while contributing to the economic growth of the area."***

Speedy Hire has also actively engaged in local community support activities, such as aiding the historic Egremont Crab Fair with power supply equipment and contributing fencing and tools for the development of a wellbeing garden at Mayfield School. Speedy Hire's involvement extends to local football clubs, sponsoring kits to ensure equal participation and support for deprived areas. Collaborations with organisations like All Together Cumbria and participation in events like job fairs and skills development programmes further solidify Speedy Hire's commitment to empowering the community around Sellafield.

# Specialised tools

## Different stories, common solutions

### General tool hire solutions

Hinkley Point C and Sellafield are two very different nuclear sites. Sellafield is dealing with shutting down old nuclear operations over a 120-year period, while Hinkley Point C is the construction of a new nuclear power station. Speedy Hire works with tier one contractors at both sites, providing safe and reliable hire equipment and services. In addition, Speedy Hire can test and inspect products to maintain compliance and provide expert training to ensure people are operating safely on-site.

Typically, here are some of the services Speedy Hire offers at nuclear sites.

### Buy

Speedy Hire act as a partner for contractors to purchase products, tools and accessories including:

- Lifting equipment
- Abrasives
- Burning and welding
- Adhesives, sealants and coatings
- Cutting and drilling
- Hand tools and specialist hand tools
- Electrical equipment
- Nails, screws and fixings
- Packaging supplies
- PPE
- Oils, gases and fluids
- Rail
- Signage
- Survey equipment
- Catering and janitorial

### Hire

Contractors can also hire a range of items including:

- Tools
- Lifting
- Survey
- Plant
- Powered access and low level access
- Compressors, generators and pumps
- Heating, ventilation and cooling
- Lighting
- Welding equipment
- Site and traffic management
- Communications
- Safety equipment
- Pipework and engineering
- Rail

These are some of the main services Speedy Hire offers for contractors at nuclear sites, however, the list is extensive and whatever a contractor requires on-site, Speedy Hire can source what is required. The company have the ability to collaborate and expand its supply chain to provide a 'one-stop-shop' solution for customers, so no matter what product or service is needed, Speedy Hire have the ability to source it.



# Specialised services

## Hinkley Point C

Since starting work on Hinkley Point C, Speedy Hire has provided tier one contractors with tools, lifting, survey, safety, plant, fuel, testing, inspection and certification. In the past two years, the tool hire company has supplied over 130 different companies on-site, offering a smooth and efficient service to all contractors. Speedy Hire has not only supplied tools to contractors, but offered a bespoke service tailored to their unique requirements.

Kier BAM Joint Venture (KBJV) have also played a vital part in delivering the construction work at Hinkley Point C. The team delivered the first phase of the project, including excavation and large-scale earthworks, which Speedy Hire provided equipment from all parts of the business for.

**Mark Freeman, Senior Logistics Lead at Kier BAM Joint Venture said:**

*“Speedy Hire has proved invaluable in contributing to our ability to deliver this complex project. The knowledge of the team, linked to the instant availability of equipment and additional services means we can react quickly to the ever-changing needs of our client.”*

*“Having Speedy onsite allows our teams to start work once a works order is issued, with zero down time waiting for items to be delivered. The addition of a bespoke reporting suite and regular meetings with the Speedy team mean our project costs are being kept firmly on track, which is absolutely key for a project of this scale.”*



Source: EDF Energy

## Sellafield

At Sellafield, Speedy Hire engages closely with contractors, understanding their project requirements and offering guidance on specialised tools or equipment they may need. While some tools overlap between Hinkley Point C and Sellafield, the latter often requires specialised equipment that's not in the traditional inventory. For unique requirements, Speedy Hire leverages its network of trusted partners, ensuring access to specialised tools that might not be available elsewhere. Strength lies in Speedy Hire's adaptability and problem-solving approach, addressing diverse needs, whether it's supplying essentials like power, fuel, accommodation, or navigating complex challenges like finding alternatives for fossil fuels. The goal is to simplify the process for customers, offering a single point of contact for all tool and supply needs.

Stuart Conway, Major Projects Manager at Sellafield said: “Whether it's accessing unique equipment like robotic armed lifting machines that can access active nuclear areas that humans can't reach, or innovating to find equipment our customers can't find elsewhere, we're committed to going the extra mile. Our focus is on building trust and delivering value by being a reliable one-stop destination for all their supply requirements.”

Paul Donnelly, Construction Manager at Carey Group, said: “Careys have been using Speedy Hire for a long time at Sellafield and have always been more than happy with the service and tools.

The team at Speedy Hire always go above and beyond. If I need something, they get it in for me straight away, and they are always on hand to help. Whenever anything new comes on the market, they give us a trial. The team are knowledgeable, reliable and trustworthy – you can't ask for much more from a supply chain partner.”

**Ian Rudd, EH&S Safety Manager at William King Construction, said:**

*“Speedy Hire, particularly through Stuart Conway's guidance, has been our primary source for construction equipment. The exceptional service, extensive knowledge and dedication ensure we get the right, safest equipment for our tasks. The team consistently meets our safety needs, often going beyond to source specific equipment.”*

*“In the past, our equipment would normally be selected using the information provided in supporting literature or from previous experience. Speedy Hire are always willing to ensure that any new equipment that we are not familiar with is transferred to our local hire company for viewing. This is a very important service and allows our site team and operators to review the equipment in detail, and trial the equipment to ensure it is suitable for our intended work. They also offer valuable equipment training, enhancing our operators' competence.”*

# Local supply chains

**At Hinkley Point C, Speedy Hire engages with local partners, enhancing responsiveness to specific project needs. Similarly, at Sellafield, Speedy Hire collaborates with nearby suppliers for repairs, maintenance and specialised equipment, contributing to the local business landscape while supporting project goals.**

## Hinkley Point C

More than 3,000 businesses are part of Hinkley Point C's supply chain, with Speedy Hire being one of those businesses.

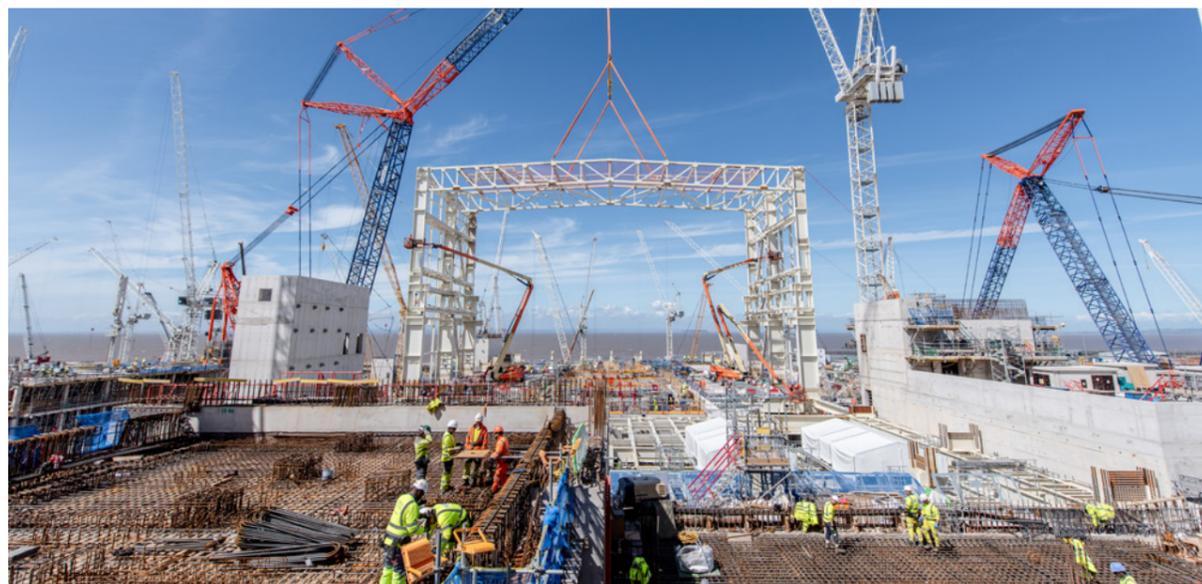
Within this, Speedy Hire has its own supply chain, who have realised the importance of developing a more local base to help communities thrive. Rather than using national depots, Speedy Hire has engaged with partners to bring the service to the local area surrounding Hinkley Point C. This approach enhanced its responsiveness to site-specific needs, a critical aspect of nuclear projects.

## Sellafield

At Sellafield, utilising local suppliers is a key aspect of Speedy Hire's strategy, especially when it comes to engineer repairs and equipment maintenance on-site. For plant equipment and specialised machinery like diggers and rollers, they rely on nearby companies due to their expertise, familiarity with local regulations and ownership of necessary certifications.

Stuart Conway, Major Projects Manager at Sellafield said: "Our collaborations with tier-one contractors and local SMEs at Sellafield are fundamental to our operational ethos. Working hand-in-hand with respected names like Morgan Sindall, Balfour Beatty and Altrad Group, we prioritise delivering a diverse range of essential supplies to support their operations on-site.

Our engagement with SMEs from the region isn't just a checkbox on Sellafield's mandate; it's a commitment to the community, ensuring that our collective efforts uplift and sustain the local business landscape while achieving our project goals."



Source: EDF Energy



## Chapter five

# Conclusion

**As the UK pushes towards a sustainable future, the significance of the nuclear industry in achieving net zero goals is more important than ever. With a commitment to reducing carbon emissions and transitioning towards renewable energy sources, the UK stands at the forefront of this transformative journey. Embracing nuclear power is the way forward, offering a low-carbon, resilient energy solution.**

Speedy Hire's venture into the nuclear sector signifies not just adaptability but the important role hire companies play in supporting net zero goals. By operating in this highly regulated industry, hire companies can expand services and contribute to the progress of major projects such as Hinkley Point C and Sellafield, aiding the nation's transition to a sustainable energy landscape.

Speedy Hire has emerged as a crucial partner to tier one contractors at nuclear sites, offering not just conventional tools but a comprehensive suite of services tailored to the unique demands of the nuclear sector. Its engagement with tier one contractors, dedication to safety protocols and emphasis on community engagement reflect a holistic approach towards supporting nuclear projects while nurturing local economies.

As Speedy Hire continues to expand its nuclear portfolio, it has proven it is not only a tool provider, but a trusted partner in building a sustainable future.





[speedyhire.com](http://speedyhire.com)