

<b>ONR / NGO Meeting – 21 March 2018</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Briefing Paper on the “UK SSAC project”
<b>From</b>	ONR Policy & Communications
<b>Date</b>	15 March 2018
<b>Status</b>	For information
<b>Agenda Item / Stats</b>	<i>N/A - There will be an opportunity for questions following the presentation by Dr Mina Golshan at the event on 21 March 2018</i>

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 This paper is to update members of the NGO forum on the UK SSAC project and the different work streams which ONR is currently involved with. This item was discussed by the ONR-NGO working group meeting (on 8 February 2018) to set the 21 March 2018 agenda. They agreed that a briefing paper would be provided in advance of the March meeting.

## **2. Background to project**

- 2.1 As part of its preparations for Brexit, the Government announced its commitment to leaving Euratom, the European nuclear safety and research community set up in 1957 at the beginning of the European Economic Community.
- 2.2 The Nuclear Safeguards Bill currently going through Parliament, will give ONR the legal powers to deliver a domestic safeguards regime, meeting the UK’s international obligations and we are currently working to establish what will be needed to meet these following withdrawal from Euratom. This will include setting up the necessary systems and recruiting and training specialist inspectors.
- 2.3 The UK will need to establish a UK State System of Accountancy for and Control of Nuclear Material (SSAC), which will be developed over time to deliver additional assurance and verification activities to existing Euratom standards. The exact terms are subject to negotiations between Government and the International Atomic Energy Agency.
- 2.4 The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has secured funding from Treasury for the project up to 31 March 2018 (<http://news.onr.org.uk/2018/02/government-publish-written-ministerial-statement/>)

**3. UK SSAC project**

- 3.1 The purpose of ONR's UK SSAC project is to work with the Government to ensure a smooth transition for nuclear safeguards arrangements for the UK as it leaves Euratom through implementation of a UK SSAC which meets Government expectations and international obligations.
- 3.2 We are currently developing a bigger web presence for the UK SSAC project, which will be online by end of April 2018, and have provided updates via our news pages and social media.
- 3.3 There are six work streams for the project:
1. Support to BEIS' development of legislation and international obligations
  2. Safeguards Information Management and Reporting System (SIMRS)
  3. Organisational Capacity
  4. Organisational Capability
  5. Hardware & Equipment
  6. Regulatory Framework

**4. Workstream 1: Support to BEIS' development of legislation and international obligations**

- 4.1 The Nuclear Safeguards Bill is currently on its way through Parliament. It passed Committee Stage in the House of Lords without amendment and the Report Stage (further line by line examination of the Bill) is scheduled for 20 March 2018. All proceedings can be read online and watched via the Parliamentary online channel.
- 4.2 The Government has published initial pre-consultation draft versions of the Nuclear Safeguards Regulations in January to demonstrate how the regulations are developing and to provide an early opportunity for engagement with Parliament, industry and other stakeholders.
- 4.3 We have worked with BEIS in the development of the draft regulations, and will continue to do so as the regulations are developed further.
- 4.4 We will discuss with stakeholders the operation of the future domestic safeguards regime in the coming months.

**5. Workstream 2: SIMRS**

- 5.1 A key aspect of the UK SSAC will be a Safeguards Information Management and Reporting System (SIMRS). A system that meets international reporting obligations must be ready for parallel running by end of December 2018 and go live by 29 March 2019.



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- 5.2 ONR requires a supplier that can develop and implement a fully functional system that meets all mandatory requirements by prescribed deadlines, provide associated user training and provide development, support and maintenance post-implementation.
- 5.3 The procurement for the opportunity to deliver this work went live on the Government's digital marketplace on 21 February, and on the closing date (7 March), we had received 16 applications. These will be shortlisted via an official review panel and we expect a contractor to be in place by 1 May 2018.

### **6. Workstream 3: Organisational Capacity**

- 6.1 We have had 13 people accepting Safeguards positions, including six new applications, including the Band 1 inspector in place; this means our initial target for recruitment has already been met. We still have some interviews planned, and further plans for recruitment are being developed.

### **7. Workstream 4: Organisational Capability**

- 7.1 We have a training plan in place which is being successfully implemented and is on target, supported by ONR's in-house training Academy, set up late last year. This includes training on legal matters, regulations and moving towards being granted full warrants.

### **8. Workstream 5: Hardware and Equipment**

- 8.1 This is a relatively new workstream (previously 4,5,6 were grouped together in one workstream), and we do not have a lot of detail at this time. We have a project lead in place for this for this, an experienced safeguards officer. We are currently considering best courses of action for this workstream.

### **9. Workstream 6: Regulatory Framework**

- 9.1 We are working closely with BEIS to develop effective secondary legislation (the regulations), and our engagement with industry and stakeholders is key to helping us do that. We intend to develop fundamental safeguards principles, in line with our Safety Assessment Principles and Security Assessment Principles and will build into our Technical Assessment Guides (will be available on ONR's website).