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## Delivery Partners for the Hinkley Supply Chain Team

# August 2023



It may be the summer holidays but work has been continuing apace at Hinkley Point C – both onshore and offshore. Huge progress has been made on the power station's cooling water system and you can watch a video update by clicking the link in the project update below.

The MEH team is also making notable advances on the vital electrical equipment which will power the HPC site, installing key switchboards and cabling.

The team has also recently welcomed 11 survey apprentices, 10 welding apprentices and 20 electrical apprentices to site – another example of the training opportunities and legacy offered by the project. And it is worth reiterating that it is still not too late for local and regional businesses to be a part of HPC. But to be considered for work, firms must be registered on the Hinkley Supply Chain portal with their most up-to-date information.

So, if you have not visited the website recently, please log-in to the portal to ensure your registration details are correct. You can find the portal and the Hinkley Supply Chain's [website here](#).

**Scott Jenkins, Hinkley Supply Chain Project Lead**  
**Somerset Chamber of Commerce**

## Project Update

An incredible summer of engineering is underway in the Bristol Channel, as Hinkley Point C's offshore work nears completion. Six giant steel casings, which weigh 350 tonnes and are 40m long and 6m wide, have been installed, marking a significant step in the construction of the power station's cooling water system.

They will form part of the vertical shafts which will



connect the 5-miles of tunnels with the intake and outtake heads

These 5,000-tonne structures were lowered onto the seabed last year and will circulate water to the nuclear reactors.

More can be seen here: [new video shows Hinkley Point C's offshore progress \(edfenergy.com\)](https://www.edfenergy.com/news/new-video-shows-hinkley-point-cs-offshore-progress)

The MEH Alliance is set to complete a project to fit a series of high-voltage switchboards that will help distribute electricity across the power station during commissioning and operation.

The first high-voltage switchboard was installed in the Unit 1 electrical building in June. Manufactured by Schneider Electric, they have been designed, manufactured and tested over a six-year programme to meet stringent nuclear-safety standards. The 10kV switchboards help distribute electrical power to essential equipment such as the reactor coolant pumps.

The electrical team is also installing cableways that will carry electrical cables throughout the building as well as putting in earthing cables. The installation means work can begin on commissioning the rest of the plant's electrical infrastructure.

The Unit 1 turbine hall team has completed a huge 150-tonne roof truss lift, which will pave the way for the turbine hall to accept the 300-tonne crane.

The next step for the team will be to lift it into its final position onto the upper steelwork of the turbine hall. It is the first of four trusses that will form part of the roof structure for the building. The remaining trusses will be lifted one after the other a few weeks apart.

Once in place, the huge crane will be a permanent fixture in the turbine hall. It will travel overhead on large rails to lift in heavy equipment during the construction phase, as well as for maintenance when the plant is operational.

## Case study



### *Whitecroft Lighting: LEDs go nuclear*

Whitecroft Lighting's LED lighting at Hinkley Point C has set a new specification standard for the nuclear energy industry – and scored a first in the process.

HPC was the company's first nuclear energy lighting contract and was some six years in the making, as the company researched, collaborated and custom tested to deliver the first LED lighting proven to be optimised for the needs of the nuclear industry.

As a result, LED lighting has been written into the specification for Hinkley Point C (HPC) – the first time LEDs have been included in a nuclear power project.

Although low-energy LED lighting has become the new industry standard across most markets, the

technology was still to be proven for lighting nuclear energy, which to-date has mainly used traditional fluorescent lighting.

With the support of the Hinkley Supply Chain, Whitecroft Lighting was encouraged to work with the project to try and find an energy-saving lighting solution.

Tony Male, Whitecroft Lighting's Regional Sales Manager, Wales and West, said: "Fluorescent lighting is essentially a 1930s technology and much of it is set to be phased out by new industry standards over the coming years.

"EDF was keen that HPC benefited from the energy saving benefits of LEDs where appropriate, and its preference was to use a UK lighting manufacturer.

"Whitecroft not only saw this as an opportunity to be part of one of Europe's largest infrastructure projects, but to also break new ground for lighting and set new standards for the nuclear energy industry for years to come.

"The Hinkley Supply Chain team was instrumental in encouraging Whitecroft Lighting, a UK manufacturer, to engage with the Hinkley Point C project and develop a new, specialist LED lighting solution for the nuclear energy sector."



Innovating to the unique standards of nuclear energy meant tackling a new set of engineering and environmental challenges as well as safety considerations.

Mr Male said the LEDs and the electronics which supported them had to be proven to meet HPC's stringent safety standards.

"Each requirement encouraged Whitecroft Lighting's custom design team into new areas of creativity and collaboration, and in many ways, these testing regimes are as innovative as the final product.

"After multiple layers of testing, we eventually demonstrated that we could deliver a viable LED solution for the zones covering around 90 percent of HPC's estate," Mr Male said.

As a result, Whitecroft initially agreed to supply around 40,000 LED luminaires across a broad range of buildings and facilities. These include specialist environments, such as the generation halls and more standard areas, including the command building.

Whitecroft Lighting's first batch of specialist LEDs were delivered to HPC in May this year, with further large consignments of luminaires and other hardware to be made over the duration of the site's ongoing construction.



Mr Male explained: “The unique LEDs luminaires manufactured for HPC by Whitecroft will be around 40% more energy efficient than traditional fluorescent lighting, so enabling LEDs to be written into the HPC specification is a ground-breaking moment for the lighting and nuclear industry.

“Over the 40,000 LED luminaires supplied, the saving will equate to around 11,200KWh each day – the equivalent of around 3,000 average family sized homes.

“The exciting legacy for this investment in research and development is that nuclear energy projects across Europe can now be able to share in the benefits of the high quality and energy efficient lighting previously not available for nuclear zones.”

Founded in 1945 and based in Asthon-under-Lyne, Greater Manchester, Whitecroft Lighting is one of the UK’s largest public and private sector lighting manufacturers.

It prides itself on its business and product sustainability by reducing the amount of material in its products and promoting circularity, reducing whole life carbon and waste.

Part of the Fagerhult Group, Whitecroft Lighting has 343 employees, turns over £55m and undertakes all R&D, product design and manufacturing in its UK HQ and neighbouring 10,000 sqm manufacturing facility.

To find out more about Whitecroft Lighting Ltd visit [www.whitecroftlighting.com](http://www.whitecroftlighting.com).

## Labour Party leader voices support for nuclear on HPC visit

The Leader of the Labour Party, Sir Keir Starmer MP visited Hinkley Point C, declaring nuclear “part of the future”.

Addressing a crowd of workers, Sir Keir thanked them and said Sizewell C should move forward “at pace”. He met apprentices, union representatives and hosted a question-and-answer question session with 50 members of the workforce.



He emphasised the need for more new nuclear in Britain and the crucial role of its reliable, low-carbon electricity, for fighting climate change and increasing energy security.

# HPC secures future of holiday park with huge investment



The Pontins Brean Sands Holiday Park has been upgraded and its future secured, thanks to an investment by Hinkley Point C.

As it moves into peak construction, Hinkley Point C will be using the holiday park with around 900 workers being housed there. The move follows discussions with the local community, councillors and business groups which began in Autumn 2022.

The future of the Pontins site had been uncertain and the facilities in need of modernisation – but Hinkley Point C's investment will leave it in a better condition for future holidaymakers.

The project's use of Pontins will bring year-around benefits to the local economy outside of the holiday season. Over 80 full-time year-round jobs have been created and workers will spend millions of pounds in the local area. Community groups can also access Hinkley Point C's £20 million community fund – with groups in Berrow and Burnham already receiving over two hundred thousand pounds in grants.

A massive refurbishment of the chalets has been carried out - including new kitchens, bathrooms, furniture, TVs, and all new Wi-Fi access. The restaurant, bar and laundry areas have also been upgraded and a brand-new gym installed. The park's swimming pool is also being maintained and it remains open for community use.

Workers are also bringing their families to stay at the chalets and are making use of the beach and local leisure attractions.

The cost-of-living crisis and poor weather in the early season is affecting tourism nationwide, but Brean continues to be a popular destination. Businesses which may be more affected by the project's use of the holiday park are being given support. Grants are being made available for businesses to adapt and the project is also funding marketing campaigns to bring new visitors to the area.



Tommy Marshall, an Industrial Relations Manager for BYLOR, said: "I've been living here for 6 months, and it suits me because I can really make my chalet my own. My partner and 6 children, who live in Ireland, also come to stay with me regularly.

"The kids absolutely love it because there's loads for them to do – like the beach, the amusement arcades and getting an ice-cream. They wish they could live here all the time!"

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