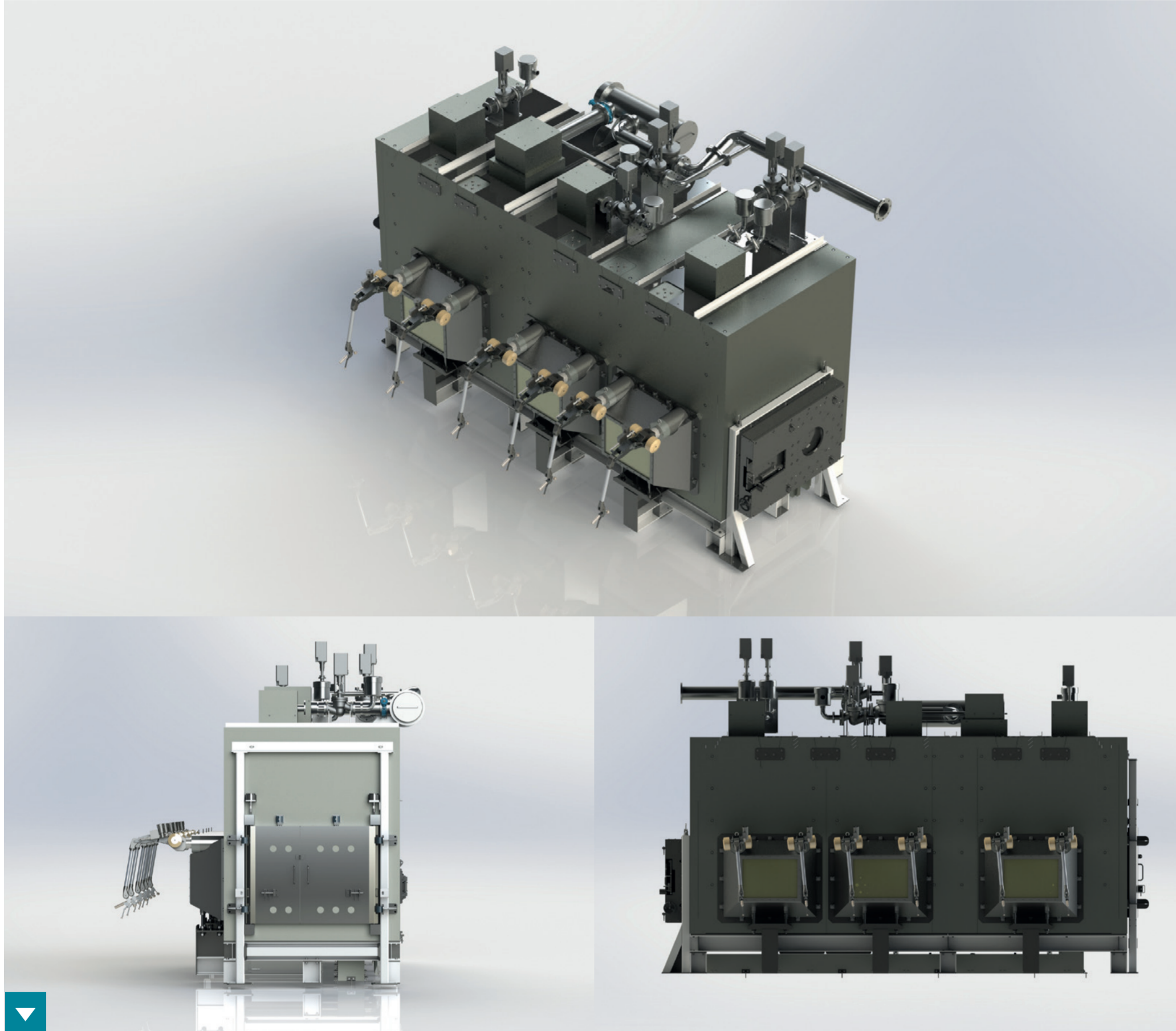




# Eagle News

ISSUE 9

aquilaeurope.co.uk



DAVE BARKER, CEO, AQUILA NUCLEAR ENGINEERING

## Welcome from Dave Barker

WORDS FROM THE CEO

It's no exaggeration when I say that Aquila Nuclear Engineering is the best company I have worked for throughout my 40-year engineering career.

The Aquila team consists of the most talented and dedicated people I have ever encountered; professional, honest, hard working and good fun to be around.

“No fuss, no drama just good robust nuclear engineering solutions.”

It's the alignment of these great people that has been key in elevating the Aquila brand to the principal solution provider in our 5 nuclear sectors; decommissioning, science, defence, new build and medicines.

I know that the success Aquila has achieved in such a short space of time is not just a result of what we do, but how we do it. Our clients tell us all the time that we are easy to deal with, no fuss, no drama just good robust nuclear engineering solutions, every time.

Demonstrating these behaviours directly, and positively, affects trading performance, and shows that we are all living and breathing the Aquila values – to be elite and ethical in every thing we do.

ISOTOPES HOT CELL

### ► | NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

# Isotopes Hot Cell for a Nuclear Research Centre

#### CONTRACT WIN

Aquila Nuclear Engineering has won the multimillion euro contract to design, manufacture, and build a shielded hot cell for a Belgian Nuclear Research Centre.

The lead shielded plant consists of two interconnected large stainless steel containments that have an array of shielded storage pits that can be quickly and easily accessed using a variety of remote handling systems.

The plant has over 125t lead shielding and has Aquila Engineering Ltd working closely with our European neighbours and suppliers, La Calhene, Wälischmiller Engineering, Sovis Saint Gobain and MC Air Filtration Camfill.

Aquila has designed plant that has excellent visibility using large, shielded windows with the best remote handling systems available. The containments are fitted with six MA11-80 manipulators and each class 2 containment has a AS-1000 robotic arm that can traverse the length of the

containment with the capacity to lift with high dexterity up to 200 kg.

The containment system is sealed using EPDM inflatable seals, with loading and unloading access through a range of shielded doors including a 270/105 CONCENTRIC DPTE® port.

We are entering the final stages and aim to complete site installation by the end of Q1 2022.

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DREW CORBETT, COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR

## Words from Drew Corbett

A NOTE FROM OUR COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR

As we head towards the end of 2021, I feel unbelievably thankful to be working in an industry that has remained operational throughout, with minimal impact from, the pandemic.

Our team at Aquila has adapted to the everchanging working environment brilliantly and has continued to drive our business forward, helping us to achieve what has, by far, been our best year to date.

Looking forward to 2022, we have been working hard to generate a strong opportunity pipeline from a range of domestic and international market sectors. The Nuclear Market in general is going to be a great place to be.

UK New Build will transition from a single project to a true 'Market Sector' when Sizewell C gets the green light. SMRs will take a significant step closer to becoming a reality, and decommissioning efforts retain their momentum across the NDA estate. In addition, EDF has started to develop its strategy for the current fleet of AGRs. The Nuclear Medicines market is also moving focus in the UK and continues to provide international opportunities and 'Big Science' projects look to seek innovative solutions, to meet their challenges around In-Cell operations.

Aquila's focus moving forwards must be to continue to develop the great people that we have on board and to identify and recruit the best possible talent to join them.

### ► | NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

# Waste Transfer System (WTS)

#### PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Aquila has designed, manufactured, tested, installed and commissioned a waste transfer system capable of exporting activated waste products from the Active Cells in the European Spallation Source (ESS) in Sweden.

The Active Cells will size reduce (predominantly by cutting),

store and enable subsequent shipping of radioactive material that will be produced as a by-product of ESS research operations. The Waste Transfer System provides the primary import/export route for materials and equipment into/out of the Active Cells Facility.

The WTS is an independent machine designed to assist with the import and export of materials within the Active Cell. The WTS consists of a bogie & rail transfer system which

transports an ATB-1T container between the Lower Transport Hall (inbound) and the Waste Transfer Area (outbound). The WTS is designed to be operated remotely through a low-level control system which interacts with the Active Cells Control system.

The WTS has successfully been installed at ESS and complements our design and build of the ESS Shaft Cutting Station.



WASTE TRANSFER SYSTEM

### ► | NUCLEAR SCIENCE

# Dragon Containment Structures

#### CONTRACT WIN

Aquila was subcontracted to deliver the Dragon Containment Structures on the Magnox Winfrith site in Dorset.

These Containment Structures are required as part of the Dragon Reactor Decommissioning Project and support

the remote decommissioning of the Dragon reactor. Waste generated in the decommissioning process will be loaded into packages for disposal.

Several containment composite panelled rooms have been designed in multiple locations around the circular Dragon building. These containment rooms will be ventilated and operated under a negative pressure to prevent the spread

of contamination throughout the building.

Aquila has worked closely with a leading bespoke panel designer and installer to create a series of Containment Structures that meet the Magnox requirements for design and installation.

### ► | NUCLEAR SCIENCE

# Sellafield Selects Aquila for Nuclear Laboratories Upgrade

#### CONTRACT WIN

Aquila Nuclear Engineering has been selected by the Sellafield Programme and Project Partners (PPP) to support the design and build of replacement nuclear laboratories.

Under an eight-year framework contract with an estimated value of £9 million, Aquila and its sub-contractor Jacobs will collaboratively modify and integrate complex, high-precision analytical equipment into gloveboxes and shielded hot cells as part of the Replacement Analytical Project (RAP).

Working together, they will combine Aquila's extensive experience of designing, modifying and installing shielded equipment for the nuclear industry with Jacobs' fundamental knowledge and operational experience of sensors and instrumentation for high-precision chemical and radiochemical analysis.

"We are delighted to have won this long term contract which not only allows us to provide high level engineering skills from the Aquila pool but also creates a platform to invest in our younger engineers joining the business and establish a presence in West Cumbria."

Dave Barker, CEO of Aquila Nuclear Engineering

RAP is one of several major projects which are considered essential for the environmental clean-up of Sellafield, the most complex nuclear site in the UK. It involves works to modify the on-site National Nuclear Laboratory Central Laboratory facility to incorporate new analytical testing to support site operational missions over the next 30 years by analysing low, medium and high active material on behalf of 200 internal customers.

The project is being delivered by PPP, which was set up by Sellafield Ltd to deliver major projects and site wide project delivery improvements over the next 20 years.

### ► | NUCLEAR SCIENCE

# Aquila Partners with Cirrus Containments

#### NEW STRATEGIC PARTNER

Aquila is teaming up with Cirrus Containments based in Tring, Hertfordshire, to provide competitive containment solutions to hospitals, pharmacies, and academic institutes.

Cirrus Containment has a wealth of experience in laboratory and radiopharma containments. This complements Aquila's pedigree for designing and supplying high integrity containments and glovebox systems for the nuclear industry.

Together, Aquila and Cirrus will develop and supply high quality customised containment solutions to a variety of customers in the nuclear medicines industry. The aim is to deliver cost effective solutions in nuclear medicines while maintaining the highest quality in design and supply.

► | AQUILA UPDATE

# Delivery Team Rising to the Challenge

AQUILA UPDATE

During this challenging time, Aquila's delivery team continues to successfully navigate a sustained period of growth, while delivering projects to a level that is helping us realise our vision to be the first choice for customers.

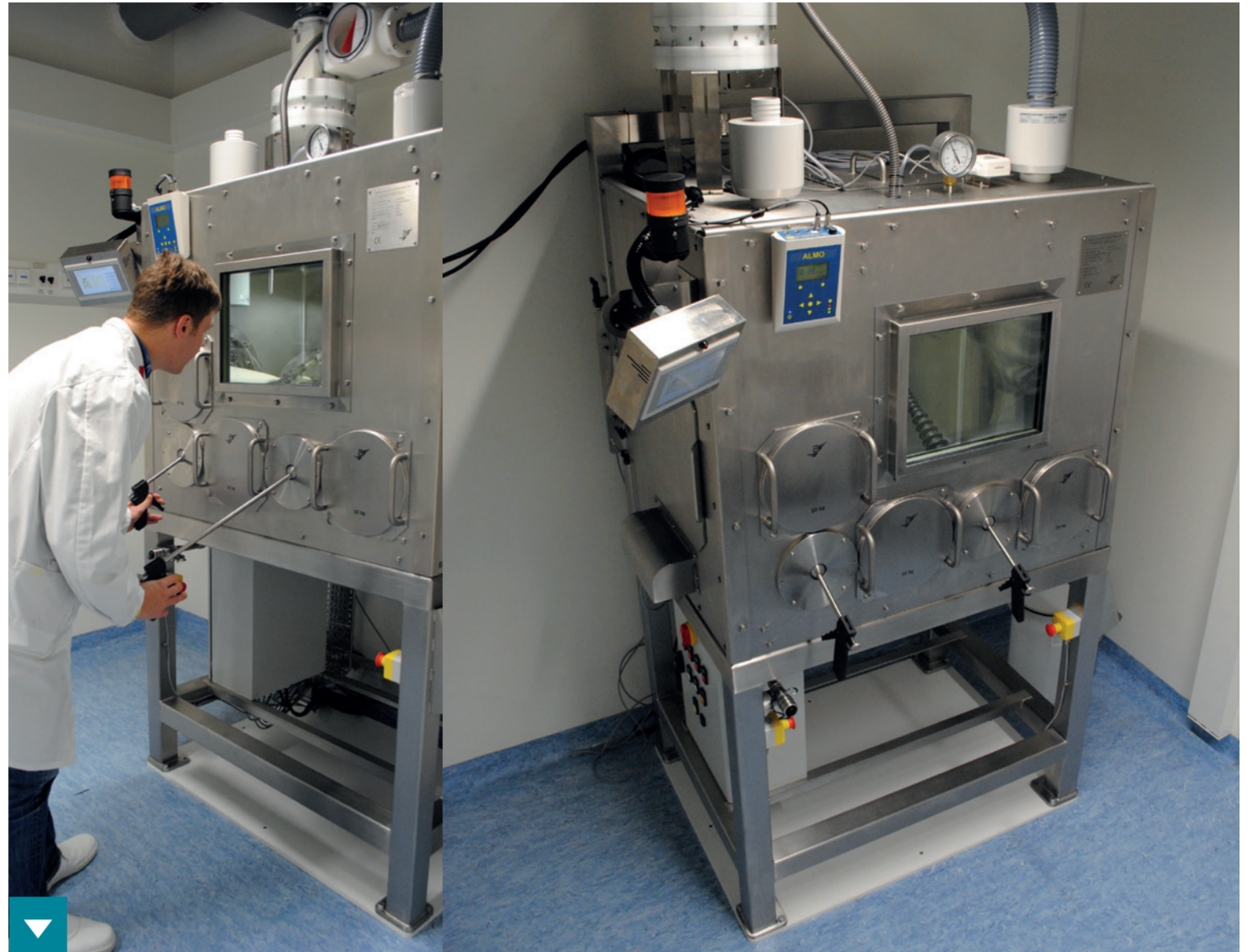
Aquila's delivery team encompasses our engineering, projects, and workshop departments, and boasts a diverse team of dedicated professionals.

Under Guy Coakley, Engineering Manager, and Russell Sloan, Head of Projects, the team is committed to continuous improvement, learning from experience

(LFE), and the professional development of our people.

Aquila has recently expanded its workshop space by an additional two units and appointed a new workshop manager, Robert Adams, to lead and develop our elite assembly and test capabilities.

We are continually on the lookout for ambitious individuals to join us and further their careers within an exciting and growing company. Our mission is to be the most fulfilling nuclear company to work for in the UK and we are committed to making this happen. Our latest vacancies are advertised on our website and social media.



SHIELDED CONTAINMENT CELL (SCC)

► | NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

# Shielded Containment Cell (SCC)

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

The Shielded Containment Cell (SCC) protects operators involved in manipulating radioactive closed and open sources, related to the necessary analysis of nuclear material sampled in the field.

Historically, some samples have been supplied that exceed radioactive levels that can be handled safely in a standard glove box.

Aquila Nuclear Engineering Ltd was engaged to design and manufacture a shielded containment that could operate as a glovebox in normal conditions, but if a higher radioactive activity sample is received, the cell can be remotely operated using tongs.

The plant consisted of a stainless steel shielded containment with 10mm lead shielding, clad with stainless steel. The containment was mounted on a stainless steel support frame. This support frame had an additional temporary bolt-on frame that allowed it to become part of a

lifting frame, that could be used for lifting the containment into position. Space restrictions in the laboratory prevented the use of additional lifting equipment.

The containment cell will protect operators involved in manipulating radioactive closed and open sources, related to the necessary analysis of nuclear material sampled in the field during inspections. This works by providing a safe containment box in which they can safely control and manipulate the radioactive substances, using appropriate equipment.

The Shielded Containment Cell incorporates the following features:

- A shielded front window to enable the operator to view the inside of the cell
- A top window to allow light into the cell from an LED floodlight situated outside the cell
- Integration of cell control systems, HMI, activity measurement, cell temperature, ventilation, and instrumentation controls
- A La Calhene DPTE 105/270

combination port for the safe loading/unloading of samples

- Interfaces for power and comms. 3 x 230V feedthrough electrical outlets, 2 x 6 pin hermetic panel connectors and 1 x 25 pin hermetic panel connector
- Welded glove port and tong ball gaiter rings integral to the cell structure
- A slope at the front bottom edge to ease retrieval of items inside the cell
- 20mm radius on all edges for ease of cleaning
- A tong change station and alpha adaptor release tool
- A fire suppression CO2 system
- Shielded Glove Port covers and storage rack

Upon specification, Aquila designed and manufactured a highly adaptable and flexible shielded containment cell. The cell provides a safe system in which operators can safely control and manipulate the radioactive substances they encounter, while delivering the client goals. The result, a safe pragmatic, cost effective solution.

## Join the Aquila Nuclear Engineering Team

Due to continued growth we are recruiting for a range of roles.

Please visit [www.aquilaurope.co.uk/careers](http://www.aquilaurope.co.uk/careers) or email [recruitment@aquilaurope.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@aquilaurope.co.uk) to find out more.

OUR VISION

To be the first choice for customers & admired by competitors

OUR MISSION

To be the most respected & fulfilling nuclear company to work for in the uk

OUR VALUES

Everything we do will be elite and ethical

Aquila Nuclear Engineering

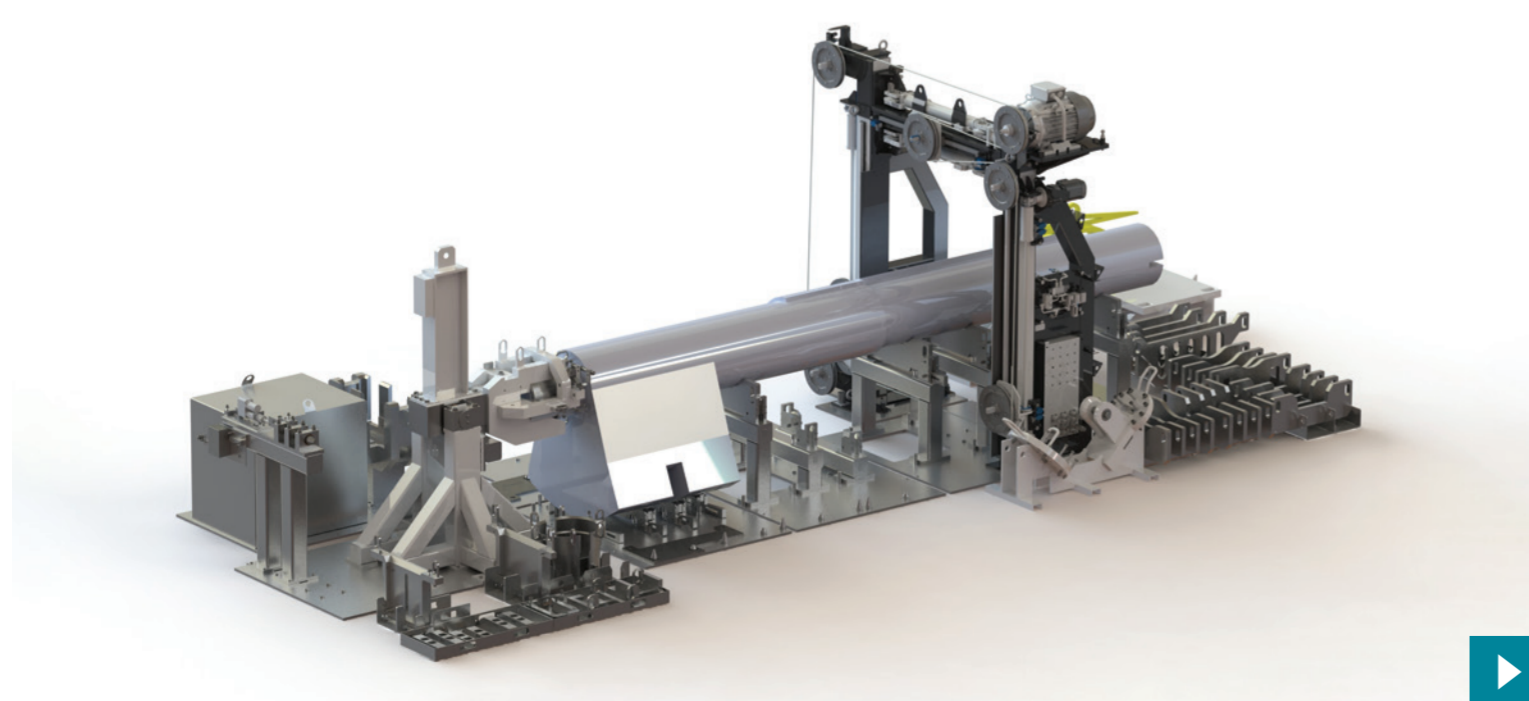
► | NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

# Shaft Cutting Station

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project brief was to design, manufacture, test, install and commission remotely operated size reduction equipment in the Active Cells of the European Spallation Source (ESS) in Sweden. The objective of the ESS Active Cells is to size reduce, store and enable subsequent shipping of radioactive material that will be produced as a by-product of the ESS research operations.

Aquila was engaged by UKAEA to deliver the full turnkey solution. Through collaboration and pragmatic working practices we developed a cost-effective solution for the ESS. This project is a good example of innovative working to employ proven industrial technology into a more challenging environment.



SHAFT CUTTING STATION

► | AQUILA NEWS

# NEW APPOINTMENT



DR NARA RINGROSE, HEAD OF PEOPLE & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Dr Nara Ringrose

HEAD OF PEOPLE & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Nara Ringrose FCIPD as Head of People and Organisational Development at Aquila Nuclear Engineering Ltd.

Nara brings a wealth of experience to Aquila having successfully delivered HR strategies in the UK, USA, and the Middle East, and having worked in the pharmaceutical, mining, exploration, oil and gas industries.

In addition to Nara's proven track record in delivering successful people strategies, she is also a published author, presenter and trainer in Management, Leadership Development, Training and Development and collaboration at work.



**Nara's appointment aligns with Aquila's vision: "To be the most respected and fulfilling nuclear company to work for in the UK." Business performance relies on all of us to be effective in our roles and work as a team. Although we are already on this path, the Board of Directors recognised that we needed more strategic direction to meet our highly ambitious goals and Nara will play a key role in helping us achieve this.**

**We have exciting times ahead of us at Aquila, and Nara will be pivotal in helping us meet both our individual career paths and achieving our business objectives.**



Dave Barker, CEO, Aquila

► | TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

# Apprentice Success

HNC GRADUATES

Engineering Training Association Ltd (The) (SETA).

Congratulations to our two third-year Mechanical Design Apprentices, Joseph Mullett and Charlie Collings who recently attended their HNC graduation ceremony, the first ever held by Southampton

Having both achieved distinctions, the highest possible grade, they have now started further education to support their apprenticeship and future career with Aquila.



JOSEPH MULLETT (LEFT) AND CHARLIE COLLINGS (RIGHT)

► | FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

# Meet The Team

FINANCE & ADMIN

In this issue of Eagle News, we want to introduce you to some of our Finance & Admin team at Aquila.

## Chloe Brown

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR



**What's the biggest misconception people have about your position?**

One of the biggest misconceptions that people have about Administrators is that we are purely there for clerical duties or to be 'your secretary'. Our role is very varied, and we have to be able to turn our hand to many different tasks. One day we can be planning new offices, furniture, IT, logistics etc or arranging facilities maintenance and other days we are carrying out fire alarm testing or processing purchase orders. It is a challenging and very rewarding area to work in. We are lucky at Aquila in that we have a fantastic team who help to keep things ticking along seamlessly. Never underestimate your Admin team.

**What's one thing most people don't know about you?**

When I was 18 I went over to America and worked as an Au Pair. I looked after 3 girls aged 3 months, 2 and 3.5 years old. It was very hard work but very rewarding. Those girls are now grown up with families of their own, which makes me feel very old! When I came home I remained a nanny for another 3 years.

**What's your favourite way to unwind after a busy day?**

My favourite way to unwind is to spend time with my Daughter. I love to cook, read, spend time gardening. I like to walk and spend time with my dogs, Lola, my 10 year old Parsons Jack Russell and Jaxon, my 1 year old rescue from Romania, he is part German Shepherd, part something else!

**If you could choose a superpower, what would it be?**

Being a Single Mum and Administrator are all the superpowers I need!!!

## Sam Snape

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT



**What do you do at Aquila and in what circumstances would I come to you for something?**

I work as the Administration Assistant at Aquila. I assist with all admin queries such as IT/stationary requirements, general email enquiries and additional support to several departments within the business. When admin are notified of any new starters joining Aquila, I will assist/arrange IT equipment to be set up by our external IT company, in addition to this I ensure a new starter has everything they require to complete their daily tasks laid out ready for their first day with the business. I would also manage and organise projects that are happening at Aquila such as, planning/ordering the furniture along with the additional comms requirements to ensure each office is set up ready for our staff. I am happy to help anyone to raise purchases orders, to ensure we can proceed with ordering items for our projects. If you have anyone attending site I welcome them at reception.

**If you could add one thing to Aquila's office, what would it be?**

If I could add one thing to Aquila offices I would add an easy and simple setup to connect to the network quickly and effectively in our meeting rooms. To have a device located in the centre of the meeting room table that you can connect to the network, USB, speakers etc. Integrated camera systems maybe?. So our staff save time in setting up before a meeting. This way there are less wires everywhere. Nice tidy atmosphere for staff and client meetings

**What energizes you outside of work?**

I attend the gym 3 days a week, this helps with my wellbeing/sleep/motivation. Also attending live gigs, the atmosphere and live music is great!

**What's one song or artist that you're embarrassed to admit you like?**

Growing up I listened to 80/90s music, the one song that stands out for me is the Footloose theme song. Great upbeat song, to make anyone want to get up and dance.

## Adrian Boddy

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT



**What was your first job?**

First job was working in a warehouse in an administrative role dealing with returns from Readers Digest Catalogue and Lledo miniature model cars.

**If you could trade places with anyone for a day, who would you choose?**

I would trade places with Mo Salah, I would love to be that good at football for a day and would also love to hear Jurgen Klopp's team talks. To listen and learn how he motivates and encourages the team to play at their highest level and together as a team and how he deals with the problems of diversity within the team and all the different nationalities and personalities.

**If you could only have three apps on your smartphone, which would you pick?**

Linkedin, Facebook and Sky Sports. Linkedln because after being made redundant from my last job I signed up and it helped a great deal with getting my details out to potential employers and agencies. Facebook because it is important to keep in touch with family, friends both new and old especially if they are a long way apart and you see them very rarely or not at all. Sky Sports because I have always been interested in and played many sports, Hockey at County level and my wife and 3 daughters are not in to sports so I rarely get to watch much sport on the TV.

## Diva Karan

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT



**What led you to this career?**

My interest in IT, initially opened opportunities in computerising manual accounting systems when computerising their accounting systems was an exciting development for companies. To help me understand accounting techniques in my task I followed CIMA accounting courses and obtained qualifications. This qualification lead to more opportunities in an accounting career.

**What's your guilty pleasure?**

Pinning lottery tickets next to my PC screen and not checking the results. I have even tried to sell these tickets to my colleagues when they volunteered to check the results for me.

**What's the top destination on your must-visit list?**

I generally like travelling new places. However, I would like to visit Sri Lanka where I grew up and travel down memory lane.

View all our Aquila Case Studies at [www.aquilaurope.co.uk/case-studies](http://www.aquilaurope.co.uk/case-studies)