

CGN in the UK – exciting times for nuclear new build

Nuclear Future talks to **ZHU Minhong**, the managing director of General Nuclear System Ltd, and CEO of Bradwell Power Generation Company Ltd and China General Nuclear Power Corporation

In this edition of *Nuclear Future* dedicated to Nuclear New Build, we are delighted to feature an interview with one of the leaders of CGN's nuclear business in the UK. ZHU Minhong presents our readers with a view of his company's vision, aspirations and perceptions so far of doing business in the UK.

CCGN in the UK

China General Nuclear Power Corporation (CGN) is currently involved in three major new build projects in the UK in partnership with EDF. These are: Hinkley Point C in Somerset; Sizewell C, in Suffolk; and Bradwell B, in Essex. EDF and CGN have been working as industrial partners for more than 30 years. The relationship includes the joint venture between CGN and EDF to build two EPR reactors at Taishan in China. This is the same technology chosen for Hinkley Point C.

About ZHU Minhong

Minhong is Managing Director of General Nuclear System Ltd, and CEO of Bradwell Power Generation Company Ltd and China General Nuclear Power Corporation.

He started his career in Daya Bay Nuclear Power Plant in 1987, and following a period of training in France was made responsible for the operation of Daya Bay and Yangjiang Nuclear Power Plants in China.

What are your main objectives as Managing Director of General Nuclear System Ltd?

Minhong explained to *Nuclear Future* that he has a number of key priorities in his role as leader of CGN's project business in the UK.

First of all, he is keen to complete the establishment of all the CGN operating entities (e.g. General Nuclear System, Bradwell B), to create synergy among these companies, and ensure the success of UK projects. Working for Generic Design Assessment Approval (GDA) for HPR1000 is also clearly a top priority. This process started in early 2017 and is estimated to get GDA approval around 2022.

Developing and augmenting CGN's experience in the UK market, he says, is also very important.

"It's about getting ourselves familiarised with the policies, regulations and market mechanisms," he says.

Then there are very specific tasks, such as building a

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One of the world's largest clean energy groups providing its customers with integrated energy solutions.

CGN also provides professional services for key components in the nuclear power industrial chain, including nuclear fuel, engineering design, technology research and development, engineering construction, and daily operations.

Key facts

- 41 subsidiaries
- 30,000 employees worldwide
- CGN owns and operates both nuclear power and renewable energy plants.
- 20 nuclear units in operation with a capacity of 21.47 GW - equal to 62% of China's installed nuclear power capacity
- 9 units under construction with a capacity of 10.24 GW
- CGN's nuclear new build projects account for around 44% of China and 17% of worldwide volume

solid foundation for the Bradwell B project, including GDA approval, obtaining the site licence, building up the talent pool, strengthening supply chain cooperation as well as relationships with the local community.

For Minhong, these activities are all about proving CGN's industrial experience, its construction and management capability, "our reliable and advanced technology", and "last but not least, our commitment to this country".

How do you feel CGN has been received in the industry and the UK?

Minhong feels that the UK's nuclear industry is very excited about these new build projects and the rejuvenation of the industry.

"We have very good relationships and frequent contacts with many industrial organisations and government departments. CGN has been well received by the nuclear industry and the UK Government," he says.

"CGN is new to this country," and, "we still need to prove ourselves, gradually build brand awareness, our credibility and our commitment."