

North West Projects Ltd Excellence in nuclear engineering



Situated at Matrix Park, Buckshaw Village, but operating nationally, North West Projects Ltd (NWP) is an advanced engineering design firm that specialises in working in the nuclear industry with clients including the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Sellafield.

Established in 1986 and previously situated at three separate sites in Chorley, the company has grown rapidly. In 2012 the decision was made to relocate and NWP is now sited within a 30,000sqft, purpose-built facility, at Rutherford Point, Buckshaw Village.

“Lancashire is renowned for its excellence in engineering, so moving out of the county wasn’t an option,” said Chairman, Liam Ferguson.

“As a company that operates nationally, we needed to be somewhere with good transport links, not only for our clients, but also for people commuting to and from work.

“South Ribble was an attractive proposition, but unfortunately there weren’t any existing properties that met our stringent requirements with regards to air conditioning and IT infrastructure.

“Working closely with South Ribble Borough Council, we identified a site for development and in March 2012 the planning process began.”

Skills and Growth

Over the past six years the workforce has increased from 20 to 160 staff and the move is expected to create 60 new jobs over the next three years. Complete with state-of-the-art IT and security systems, a café, conference facilities, a gym and meeting spaces, NWP’s new home has been built with further growth in mind.

Frank Dalton, managing director at NWP, said: “Leyland is a well-established working town with a good track record and a strong business community. Plus, its history is steeped in engineering, so we knew that the area would offer a pool of people with skills transferable to our business.

“The nuclear industry has an ageing workforce and engineers are in short supply, so we need to do everything we can to retain our people and also bring new talent into the business, especially as there will be great demand to deliver on the requirements of the proposed nuclear build programme including the recently announced Hinckley Point.”

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Liam Ferguson, Chairman

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Frank Dalton, managing director

NWP employs a number of apprentices through Training 2000, which specialises in engineering, and believes that its base in South Ribble offers an opportunity to attract a high calibre of staff.

Frank continues: “Being located where we are means we can draw interest from people living in areas such as Preston, Blackburn, Blackpool and Standish. We hold great importance on staff welfare and having a travel time of less than an hour is very important to us.

“Because of our location, in a prominent position in Buckshaw Village, we are very visible to passers-by. Not only does this raise our profile, but it also helps with recruitment as people want to know where they will be working.”

Our People

Having moved in just 20 months after identifying the site, NWP has received positive feedback from staff.

“Corporate wellbeing is extremely important to us and we wanted to do everything we could to offer a comfortable and rewarding working environment,” Frank continued.

“We are a service provider which relies on the expertise of our staff and because we are only as good as our people, we need to recruit and retain skilled individuals who are committed to doing a good job.

“It was a commercial decision to move, because one single site is more cost-effective than having three, and we’ve had some fantastic feedback from our clients. We would never consider moving out of Lancashire and have secured planning permission for a further 20,000 sq ft of offices, should we need them in the future.

“The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has estimated that the cost to clean up legacy waste at Sellafield will reach in excess of £37bn, so there is much potential for growth in the industry, as well as a requirement to train more engineers.

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