



Partnering for a net zero future

# **CASE STUDY: DELIVERING EXPERTISE IN THE **NUCLEAR** SECTOR – HINKLEY POINT**



## A low carbon revolution

The UK government is committed to generating a significant portion of its electricity from nuclear power, with plans to achieve up to 24 GW of nuclear capacity by 2050, contributing to 25% of the country's electricity requirements.

The government has mobilised a taskforce to help support the construction of projects

like Hinkley Point C as they focus on the mass production of nuclear power to cope with consumer demand in the UK.

Using nuclear power will help address the climate change crisis and ensure energy security, with projects like Hinkley Point C leading the way.

## Navigating the nuclear landscape

As the UK strives to meet ambitious climate targets and shifts towards using sustainable energy solutions, the growing nuclear sector represents a chance to achieve a net zero future. Speedy Hire, a leading equipment and tool hire provider, has embarked on a journey in nuclear, solidifying its position as a trusted partner to tier one contractors, SMEs and communities.

Speedy Hire's involvement at Hinkley Point C (HPC) has proven the company is a credible and knowledgeable partner, truly understanding the challenges and safety requirements involved in a large-scale project like Hinkley Point C.

## What is Hinkley Point C?

Hinkley Point C, located in Somerset, is a two-unit power station owned by EDF Energy and China General Nuclear Power Group. Two new nuclear reactors are under construction which are part of the first in a new generation of nuclear power stations in Britain. They will provide clean electricity for around six million homes, which is crucial for helping the UK reach its goal of achieving net zero.

This is the biggest environmental project in the country. It is not only helping to combat climate change; it proves that the transition to net zero can deliver huge social and economic benefits, improving the lives and wellbeing of communities forever.

## Speedy Hire at HPC: The challenge

Entering the nuclear sector is no small feat.

It presents unique challenges, including rigorous safety regulations, compliance requirements and the need for a deep understanding of how nuclear projects work.

Speedy Hire faced the challenge of not only supplying the right tools and equipment to contractors working at Hinkley Point C, but also becoming a credible partner that could navigate these complexities and support nuclear projects effectively.

## The Speedy approach

Speedy Hire understood that working at Hinkley Point C wouldn't be like working at a typical construction site. CRB checks and extensive training is required to access the site, and certification for all products is required. Ensuring that every component that goes into the nuclear reactors is safe, documented, tested and recorded is vital.

To overcome these challenges, Speedy Hire formulated a mission within the nuclear sector that extended beyond traditional equipment supply. They wanted to expand their nuclear offering and enable the successful delivery of the project while upholding values such as health, safety, compliance and environmental responsibility.

Speedy Hire established a specialised nuclear team within the company, devoted to working on nuclear projects such as Hinkley Point C. This allowed them to closely collaborate with their partners and gain a deep understanding of the sector.

## The results

Speedy Hire's dedication and innovative approach has produced impressive results:

### Tier one contractor support

Since starting work on Hinkley Point C in 2014, Speedy Hire has provided tier one contractors with tools, lifting, survey, safety, plant, fuel, testing, inspection and certification. In the past two years, the tool hire company has supplied over 130 different companies on site, offering a smooth and efficient service to all contractors.

### Framatome

Alan Wiltshire, Operations Director at Framatome, said: "Over the past 6 years Speedy has been one of our key suppliers, supporting us on HPC and through the UK with equipment, calibration, and maintenance. We have found them to be very receptive and flexible to our demanding requirement.

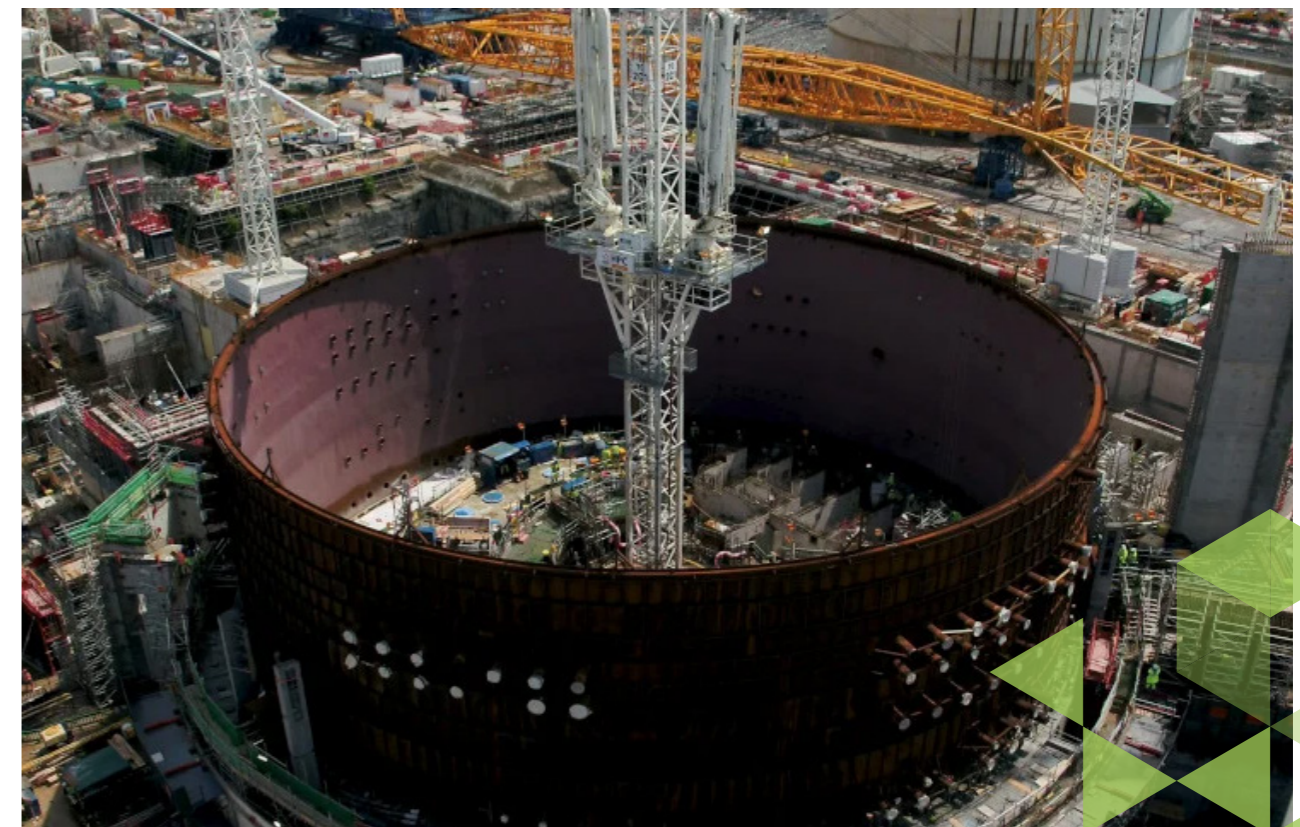
The relationship within the teams has been strengthened as Speedy became more integrated into the day-to-day activities of our works both on and off site and their reactivity to provide not standard or bespoke equipment not in their standard portfolio help us hit the clients demanding targets."

### Kier BAM

Kier BAM Joint Venture (KBJV) have also played a vital part in delivering the construction work at Hinkley Point C. The team delivered the first phase of the project, including excavation and large-scale earthworks, which Speedy Hire provided equipment from all parts of the business for.

Mark Freeman, Senior Logistics Lead at Kier BAM Joint Venture said: "Speedy Hire has proved invaluable in contributing to our ability to deliver this complex project. The knowledge of the team, linked to the instant availability of equipment and additional services means we can react quickly to the ever-changing needs of our client.

"The Speedy depot allows our teams to start work once a works order is issued, with zero down time waiting for items to be delivered. The addition of a bespoke reporting suite and regular meetings with the Speedy team mean our project costs are being kept firmly on track, which is absolutely key for a project of this scale."



## Community engagement

By actively engaging with local schools, colleges and charities, Speedy Hire has fostered a strong community presence. They support initiatives with Bridgwater & Taunton College, helping with their apprenticeship programme for Hinkley Point C. The college operates a nine-acre simulated construction site where apprentices and trainees learn the ropes on a real-life site. They must uphold the same level of health and safety expected at Hinkley Point C, making the transition to the power station much smoother after completing training. Speedy Hire provide the relevant kit for the programme, help to set up the site for practical work and lead presentations and Q&A sessions to encourage women to join the construction industry, particularly the nuclear sector.

So far, Hinkley Point C has trained more than 1,100 apprentices. Nearly 20,000 jobs have been created directly on-site so far, with £24 million invested directly into education, skills and employment.

Hannah Ranby, Operations Manager at the Construction, Skills and Innovation Centre at Bridgwater & Taunton College, said: "Speedy Hire has consistently shown exceptional responsiveness in providing the necessary equipment and tools for our training programmes. Having access to the same kit and equipment as there would be on-site at Hinkley Point C adds a level of realism that reinforces our apprentices' learning experience.

"Our college operates a simulated construction site, providing a real-world learning environment, not just theory-based teaching. Our courses

are bolstered with Speedy Hire's support in supplying essential equipment to buy or hire. Having the exact equipment apprentices would use on-site is vital in providing them with well-rounded, industry-relevant experience."

*"Ultimately, our work is about transforming lives, offering individuals the opportunity to establish lasting careers. Speedy Hire's unwavering support is instrumental in achieving this goal."*

Hannah Ranby

Adrian Palmer, Head of Nuclear Projects at Speedy Hire, said: "We believe in taking a holistic approach, not just focusing on the job site. Understanding that we're working in remote locations like the countryside in Somerset, where our operations impact people's lives, is crucial.

"We aim to be a friend to these communities rather than part of any challenge a large construction site may bring. Our successful work at Hinkley Point C has involved active support for local schools and colleges, and we've also engaged with the local community through charity events like football matches, with hundreds of people coming together to enjoy a sports match. Local employment is a priority and we're proud to be contributing to job creation in the area."

## Localised supply chain

More than 3,000 businesses are part of Hinkley Point C's supply chain, with Speedy Hire being one of those businesses.

Within this, Speedy Hire has its own supply chain, and they realised the importance of developing a more local base to help communities thrive. Rather than using national depots, Speedy Hire has engaged with partners to bring the service to the local area surrounding Hinkley Point C. This approach enhanced their responsiveness to site-specific needs, a critical aspect of nuclear projects.

## A partner for a net zero future

Speedy Hire continue to support tier-one contractors and the community surrounding Hinkley Point C as a compliant tool provider. As well as Hinkley Point C, Speedy Hire is working with two other Major Project sites at Sizewell C and Sellafield to support the increasing energy demand in the UK.

As they continue to expand their nuclear portfolio, Speedy Hire has proven it is not only a tool provider, but a trusted partner in building a sustainable and net zero future for all.

