Innovation Opportunities at Sellafield

Neil Smart, R&D Alliance Manager, Sellafield Ltd 21st May 2014



The Strategy for Sellafield

"Today we face another challenge where there is no blueprint; emptying and demolishing some of the most difficult and complex nuclear buildings in the world"

Tony Price, MD Sellafield Ltd



Fact not fiction

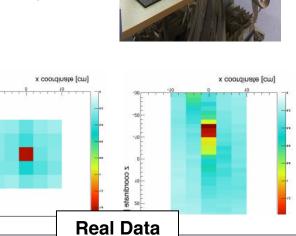


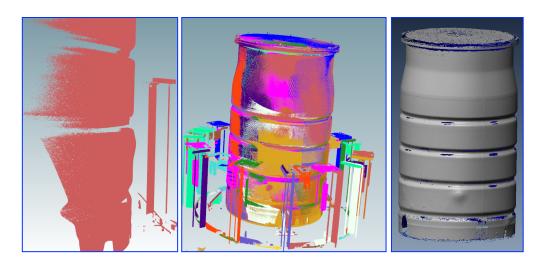


Characterisation

Research into deployment of Muon Tomography with testing of prototype



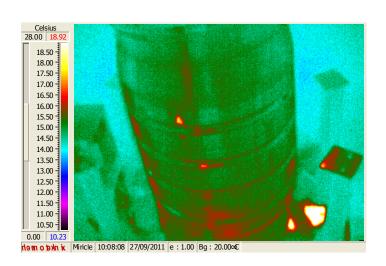




Development

Upper right—
white light
scanning of
encapsulated
swarf waste
drums

Right – infra-red scanning of drums





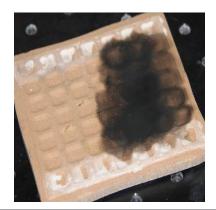
Decommissioning - Decontamination

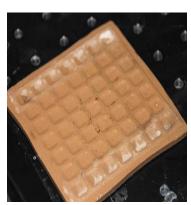






Research into ice pigging and ultrasonic decontamination







R&D in waste treatment





Development of fuel drying



Development of polymeric encapsulation



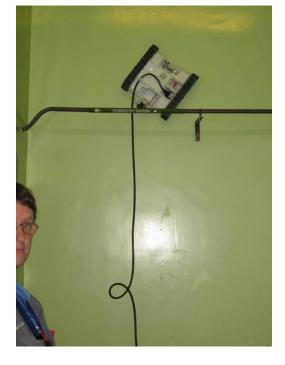
Development of vitrification



"Planes, trains and automobiles"

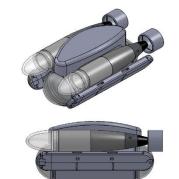












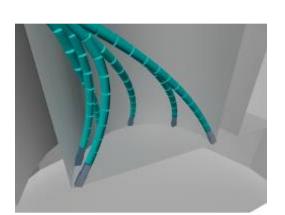
Video Ray ROV

Wallrover

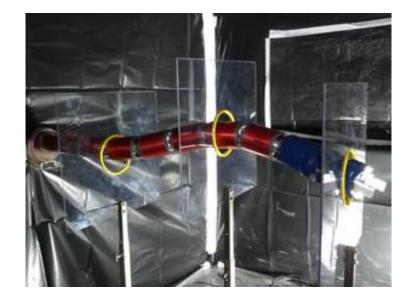


Robotics development





Evaluation of specialist robotic systems for decommissioning, retrieval, manipulation







Active Demonstrator Facilities

- Selected plant with representative alpha / beta-gamma challenges / environments
- Representative of challenges site wide
- Site team being formed
- High level support



Funding Opportunities

- Innovus
- Technology Strategy Board (recent £13M call)
- SL ca. £0.5M allocation to SME Technology Development
- Direct implementation of "proven" technologies into decommissioning projects



Conclusions

- Broad range of challenges at Sellafield
- Opportunity to introduce new technology options
- Cost saving to UK tax payers
- Once utilised at Sellafield technology can be marketed elsewhere

