SOUTH WEST NUCLEAR HUB

Securing major research projects: National Nuclear User Facilities

Value: £4.8m across two projects

Members: Universities of Bristol, Southampton, Plymouth, West of England (UWE)

Funders: EPSRC – UK Research and Innovation

Challenge

NNUF
National Nuclear User Facility

Nuclear funding opportunities regularly require multidisciplinary teams, including expertise from outside or only partially connected to the discipline.

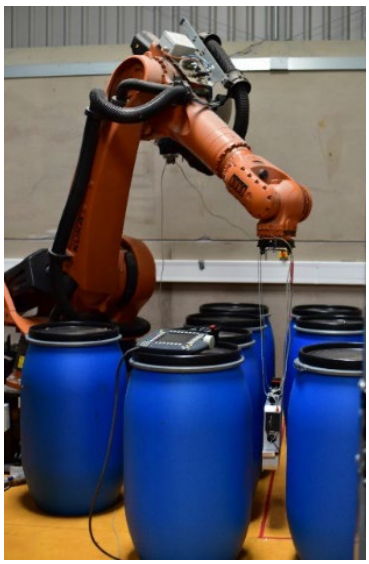
To meet the challenge of reducing costs and time of decommissioning, whilst improving safety, the UK nuclear R&D community requires better access to equipment and facilities. The National Nuclear User Facility provided the opportunity for innovative consortia to secure significant funding in this area.

Outcomes

The GAU-Radioanalytical research group at the University of Southampton succeeded in leading the NNUF-EXACT (Next Generation Accelerated Characterisation Technologies) project, in collaboration with the University of Bristol and the National Physical Laboratory.

NNUF EXACT

Another project, the National Nuclear User Facility for Hot Robotics (NNUF-HR) is led by the University of Bristol, and will open opportunities for the Bristol Robotics Laboratory at the University of the West of England (UWE) and the University of Plymouth to enhance the South West node of the facility.



As a result of these collaborations, academics from member universities are now becoming further integrated into the Hub research themes by becoming leads or co-leads, expanding the Hub's research strength and breadth.

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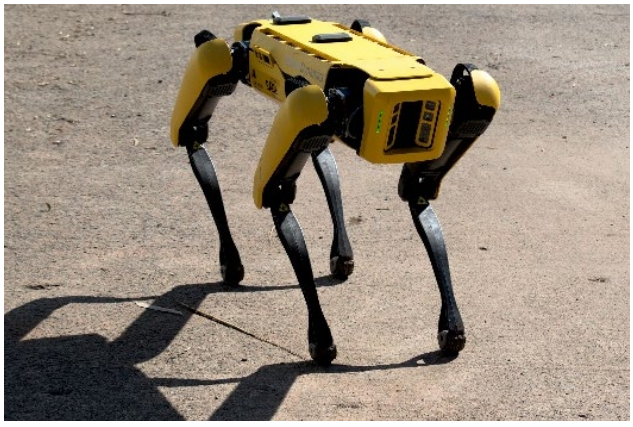
How the Hub added value

We were able to identify complimentary research capabilities already connected via Hub academic membership, creating powerful consortia. Support for scoping and writing the bids, as well as letters of support were provided from key collaborators.

As the projects are live, the Hub provides the central project management for NNUF-HR and also provides ongoing communications and engagement support to identify industrial and academic users of the facilities.

"The support of the Nuclear Hub was important for identifying the opportunity, securing letters of support and assembling the most appropriate partners. As a result users of EXACT will be able to benefit from the leading radioanalytical and materials characterisation facilities available at both Southampton and Bristol."

Professor Andy Cundy, GAU-Radioanalytical, University of Southampton



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