

PRESS RELEASE

SELLAFIELD BECOMES FIRST UK NUCLEAR SITE TO WELCOME ROBOT-EX 2010

Members of the Sellafield workforce will have the opportunity for some 'hands-on' experience of Robotics & Remote Handling next month (Tuesday, 9th March), when an exhibition promoting state-of-the-art technology equipment and demonstrations is hosted at the Sellafield Visitors Centre.

Supported by Sellafield Ltd and the Nuclear Institute (Cumbria Branch), the Robotics & Remote Technology Exhibition, known as **ROBOT-EX 2010**, will see a range of specialist companies offering potential solutions to every day challenges faced by technical and engineering professionals involved in operational, waste management & decommissioning activities on the Sellafield site.

Whilst some exhibiting companies may be familiar to the nuclear industry, others are attending because they feel they have readily available technology which can be transferred from alternative industry sectors such as defence and oil & gas into the nuclear arena.

For this reason, Sellafield has been chosen as the first nuclear site in the UK for exhibition organisers, Nu-Tech Associates Ltd to launch their new event which focuses on this specific need whilst also showcasing complementary services such as instrumentation, automation & control, inspection & vision systems, high integrity cables & couplings and shielding equipment.

Explaining the reason for **ROBOT-EX 2010**, Lisa Jones-Taylor of Nu-Tech Associates who previously worked for BNFL and Nirex at Sellafield for 13 years explained: *"Given the harsh environment in which many of Sellafield's activities exist, it is not surprising that robotics and remote handling are at the forefront of technological requirements needing the very latest in innovative solutions to deal with some of the industry's most challenging of problems. However, since our ethos is also to promote technology transfer and innovation, we actively encourage companies who may not have previously worked in the nuclear sector to promote their capabilities elsewhere as there is often already a solution in existence, but it may have been developed for a very different reason. Therefore, by encouraging companies from one sector to consider transferring their technologies to another we try to help industry to avoid the need to 're-invent the wheel'".*

If ROBOT-EX 2010 proves a success with the Sellafield workforce then there are plans to see the idea spin out to other sites which host Nu-Tech organised exhibitions, these include those operated by AWE, the MOD, Bae Systems and several others around the UK.

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ROBOT-EX 2010 is sponsored by Wälischmiller Ltd, specialists in master-slave manipulators (MSM's).

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ROBOT-EX 2010 is supported by:

