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James Fisher Nuclear Flying High with Sellafield Decommissioning.

- **First ever drone survey flight in an active area at Sellafield**
- **Detailed ‘substantiation of structure’ inspection carried out with operators safely at ground level**
- **Fast and Cost effective, requiring no scaffolding or special access vehicles**

James Fisher Nuclear (JFN), part of James Fisher and Sons PLC, alongside partners WYG, took to the skies recently and made history with the first ever external Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) high resolution structural survey of a chimney stack within Sellafield’s high security chemical separation (SEP) active area. This innovative use of drone technology removed the need for time consuming scaffolding construction or bringing in special access vehicles, both of which are costly and require operators to be working at height. The SEP active area contains much of Sellafield Ltd.’s older production facilities and is a very compact part of the site, which presents a number of challenges and obstacles when it comes to carrying out structural inspections. JFN was able to show that its UAV was not just up to the task, it could deliver detailed results faster and at a significant cost saving over traditional methods.

The detailed UAV survey of the chimney stack precisely assessed how the chimney’s cowling, at the very top of the stack, was constructed. This new data will allow Sellafield Ltd to compile an accurate method statement for its safe removal.

Sellafield Ltd’s John Daniel said: “This was certainly an impressive use of UAV technology. Within the first 7 minutes, the JFN and WYG team gave us key information we could not ascertain from the existing drawing record. The new information the UAV has provided helps the project fully understand what is awaiting the demolition team when it reaches the top, and preparations can be made to ensure a safe and efficient transition from climb to demolition can be made.

This is a simple and efficient way to safely inspect areas like this in a fraction of the time and cost needed for scaffolding or bringing in special access vehicle and without staff working at height”

Alex Grainger, Project Manager at WYG, said: “We are delighted to have our Cumbria Nuclear Solution Limited (CNSL) consortium partner, James Fisher Nuclear, on board to support us on this project through our single source contract with Sellafield Ltd. to provide Civil Inspections and Topographical Surveying

James Fisher Nuclear Ltd, Gordon House, Sceptre Way, Bamber Bridge, UK
T: +44 (0)1772 622200
www.jfnl.co.uk



(CITS) Services to support Sellafield Ltd. achieve their asset management objectives and to inform the decommissioning process.”

A further 2 flights were carried out around all sides of the chimney to provide WYG with sufficient information to create a comprehensive 3D model of the stack. The pilots then carried out a final pass over the top of the stack to look inside the flue itself – a task previously assumed to be too challenging, but which proved to be straightforward.

Mike Rogers, Field service manager for JFN, said: “The inspection could not have gone any better. The project engineers were extremely impressed with the clarity of the photos from the high resolution camera and the detail it captured and it had pretty much answered the questions that they were looking for.”

Having gained such valuable insight into part of the legacy production plant for Sellafield Ltd, in areas that had previously been out of reach, the project team are already organising further UAV inspection of the inside of the stack area to improve their understanding of the cowl structure following analysis of the information JFN and WYG have provided. The upcoming UAV inspection will utilise the capabilities of the new Elios UAV which again has never been used previously on the site, another first for JFN.

JFN is now looking at the possibility of carrying out more surveys on other buildings around the Sellafield site. It is clear that JFN’s UAV fleet is proving its worth in a range of areas and the scope for this form of survey across many other industry sectors is immense.

Note to editors:

James Fisher Nuclear is an established supplier of specialist engineering, manufacturing and technical services for applications within challenging environments or with high integrity requirements.

For more information see: www.jfnl.co.uk

James Fisher and Sons plc is a leading service provider in all sectors of the marine industry and a specialist supplier of engineering services to the nuclear industry in the UK and abroad. Operating in over 40 countries worldwide, the company serves both the private and public sectors and adopts a practical approach to the management of assets and provision of high quality services, ensuring an appropriate use of technology and a sound understanding of each customer’s requirements. Building on the experience and expertise gained over more than 165 years of operating in the marine environment, James Fisher brings practical experience, innovation and commercial best practice to all clients’ projects and services.

For more information see www.james-fisher.com

About WYG

WYG is a leading project management and technical consultancy employing over 1,600 people and operating from more than 50 locations across the UK, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East. We specialise in creating and managing strategic assets for our clients. We engage with them in the early stages of a project, and often continue to advise them throughout its lifecycle.

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Outside the UK, we have a strong, longstanding presence in a number of EU member states and pre-accession countries. We are a leader in international development, exporting our knowledge and networks to undertake ambitious projects that make a positive impact on infrastructure, socio-economic growth and the environment. Our in-house expertise encompasses seven global sectors: defence & justice, energy & waste, environment, mining & metals, social development and infrastructure, transport, and urban development. We also bring together a network of more than 20,000 partners and associates from around the world. This breadth of skills and knowledge allows us to provide a unique integrated approach to solve complex challenges wherever in the world our clients need us.

WYG plc's shares are traded on AIM, a market operated by the London Stock Exchange.

www.wyg.com

Media enquiries:

Name: David Buchanan

Title: Marketing and Communications Manager

Tel: +44 (0)1772 622200

Email: david.buchanan@jfnl.co.uk

James Fisher Nuclear Ltd, Gordon House, Sceptre Way, Bamber Bridge, UK

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