

# Nuclear 2025 Mid Year Update

The nuclear sector has remained broadly stable throughout the first half of 2025, though beneath the surface, significant shifts are beginning to take shape across its sub-sectors.

Decommissioning activities have faced considerable disruption following a notable reduction in government funding. This has resulted in the early termination of several contracts, the release of contractors, and a limited number of redundancies. As organisations continue to assess the full implications of these budgetary constraints, we anticipate further adjustments across the sector, including potential changes to scope, additional contract cancellations, and further job losses. The knock-on effect is a cautious sentiment within this segment of the market.

Conversely, the new build sector remains steady. Hinkley Point C (HPC) continues to progress, with new areas entering more active phases, while Sizewell C is gaining momentum and is becoming an increasingly influential project within the UK nuclear landscape. Both projects are helping to sustain demand for technical professionals and project delivery staff.

Nuclear defence is currently operating at full capacity and is expected to grow even busier as we move into the latter part of 2025. Several existing projects are expanding, and new initiatives are expected to launch, creating sustained demand across engineering and project management disciplines.

In the SMR (Small Modular Reactor) space, activity has been slower than anticipated. Although the UK Government's direction remains somewhat unclear, private investment is ongoing. Notably, a number of global corporations continue to fund SMR initiatives, viewing them as a viable solution to meeting the high energy demands of data centres and contributing to broader green energy targets.



*Continued overleaf*

# Nuclear

## Other Trends

We continue to see high demand for Safety Case Engineers, a trend that shows no signs of abating. The chronic shortage of experienced professionals in this field is exacerbating project timelines and placing upward pressure on remuneration.

Similarly, EC&I Engineers remain in short supply, with opportunities available across both permanent and contract markets. Employers are seeking to fill gaps quickly, and experienced professionals in this discipline can command competitive packages.

Project Engineers, particularly those with a proven track record of delivery in nuclear environments, are benefitting from increased salary expectations. We have observed a distinct rise in both permanent and contract rates for this role, with Senior Project Engineers now commanding up to £70,000 per annum on the permanent side and £80 per hour on contract, reflecting market demand.

