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AWE The UK's Nuclear Defence Establishment

5th September 2024

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Slide 1

AWE – what we are:

- Based at Aldermaston since 1950
- On 1 July 2021, AWE plc (AWE) became an arm's length Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) wholly owned by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), working in close collaboration with the Defence Nuclear Organisation (DNO).
 - AWE is not part of the MOD and AWE employees are public servants (as opposed to Civil or Crown servants).
- **Not** involved in nuclear defence policy
- ~£1.4bn annual turnover
- Currently ~6,800 staff (and we need many more)
- A major employer of engineers & scientists
- New logo May 2024
- Defence Nuclear Enterprise Command Paper issued – March 2024

What we do

Trident warhead

1. Manufacturing & maintenance

The warhead for UK's current continuous-at-sea-deterrent (CASD)



Replacement warhead (Astraea A21/Mk7)

2. Research and development

R&D and manufacture of the UK's future CASD warhead



Nuclear Threat Reduction

3. Nuclear Threat Reduction

- Anti-terrorism
- Anti-proliferation
- Accident support



INFRASTRUCTURE

Sustaining capability for the long term

Buildings, plant, process, infrastructure, material, environment. Legacy and future



CASD

- AWE maintains Trident as the basis of the UK's Continuous At Sea Deterrent (CASD)

4 x Vanguard class submarines

PHASE 1
Warhead



PHASE 2
Convoy



Ministry
of Defence



PHASE 3
Missile



Ministry
of Defence



PHASE 4
At-sea



PLM

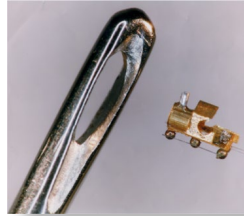
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Unique 21st Century Infrastructure

- Example: Orion laser facility



- One of the world's most powerful lasers
- Size of a football stadium
- 1 nanosecond pulse
- 20,000 x power of UK national grid
- Small-scale targets
- Recreates the sun's temperatures & pressure inside the centre of Jupiter

Unique 21st Century Infrastructure

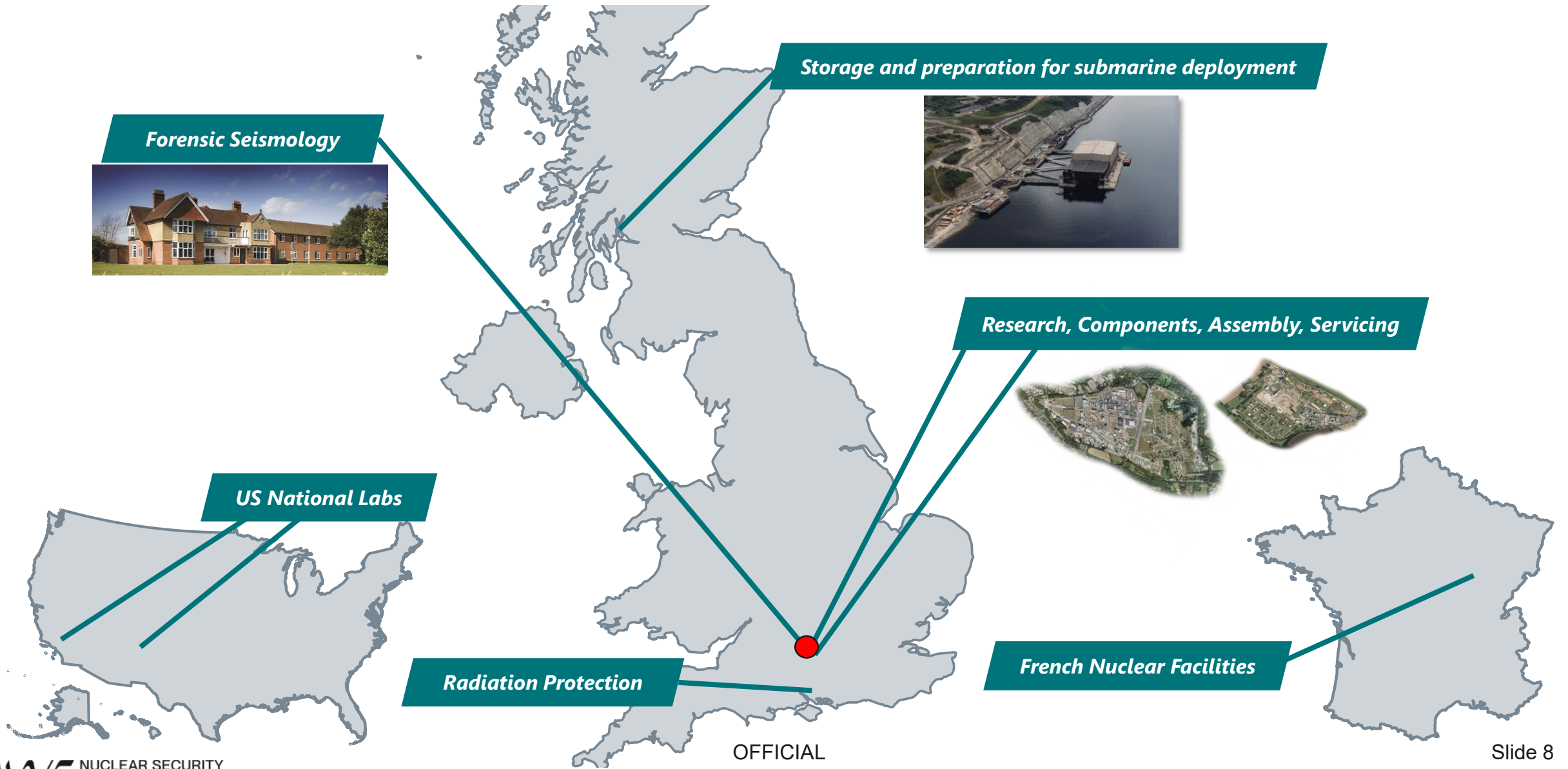
Example: Office/Lab Hub



- Engineering
- Science
- Corporate functions
- Collaboration area



Where are we currently?



Developing our AWEsome Workplace

1. Year-in-industry for undergraduates – single placement
2. Graduate development scheme (**Evolve**) – ‘rotating’ placements over 2 years
3. DSUS – Defence STEM Undergraduate Scheme
 - 3-year sponsorship (tuition fees + £5k annual bursary & 45 days paid placements) – guaranteed employment
4. Funded Masters scheme – focus is on niche skills – new grads or < 3 years’ experience
5. Direct hire into specific roles at all career stages
6. Supporting NSTF (Nuclear Skills Task Force)
7. Supporting Destination Nuclear

Prospective employees must be a UK national to work for us

Residency in the UK for the last 10 years to join us on the highest security clearance

Thank you
Any questions ?