



UKAEA's RACE start work on ESS

The European Spallation Source (ESS) will be the world's brightest neutron source with multiple beamlines providing scientists and engineers with the opportunity to conduct ground-breaking materials research on an atomic scale. The UK is providing in-kind contributions towards the €2bn construction cost. This includes equipment procurement and installation programmes, led by RACE, for the facility's cavernous Active Cells, in which components that have become irradiated in the spallation process will be safely reduced in size, sorted, stored and packaged for road transport.

A set of 30m long crane rails will be installed by a specialist team including RACE site managers and subcontractors from James Fisher Nuclear, SCX Special Projects and Rapid Rail to form the foundation of the Robotic Handling System. The tightest positional tolerances are required to ensure that two robotic arms and a 25t capacity, remotely operated crane can be accurately positioned.

"Installation of the rails is on track to be completed in early February. The next phase, putting in the electrical distribution infrastructure and cable harnesses, will commence this summer. The robotic arms and crane will be installed at a later date and used to enable maintenance of equipment and transportation of radioactive material without the need for humans to enter the Active Cell."

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