

Hinkley Point B: The "Fuel Free" Milestone

Deep Dive: Technical Verification, Commercial Handover, and the Workforce Optimisation Strategy.

Market Analysis: The Decommissioning Pivot

Hinkley Point B (HPB) has officially achieved "Fuel Free" verification from the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). This is the definitive end of the station's generation lifecycle and the trigger for a complex commercial and technical transition.

For the supply chain, this event is a signal. The demand vector shifts immediately from operational maintenance to radiological characterisation, waste packaging, and demolition engineering. The following data visualises this transition.

VERIFICATION STATUS

100%

Spent Fuel Removed

RISK REDUCTION

99%

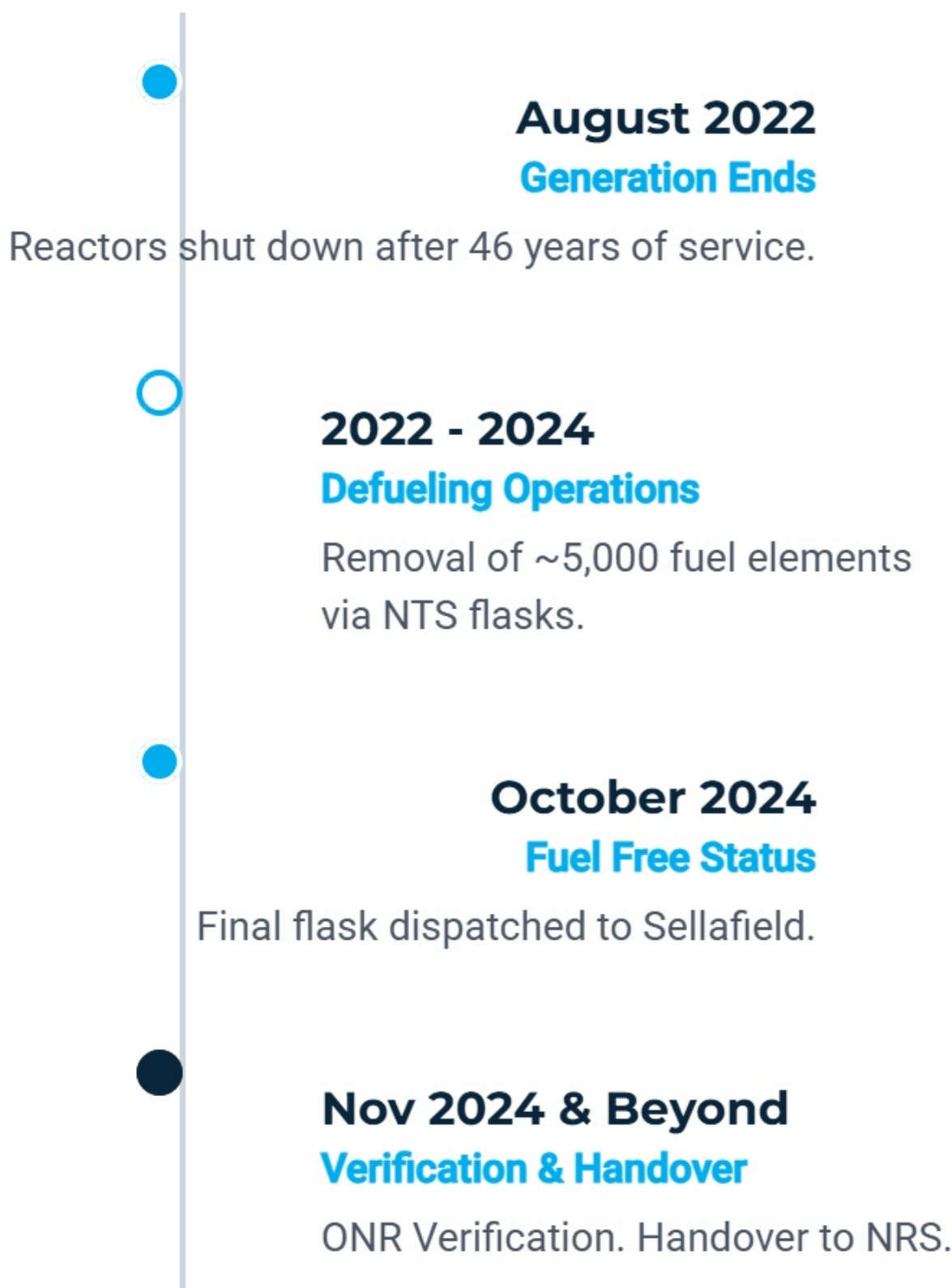
Radiological Inventory Gone

PROJECT VELOCITY

Record

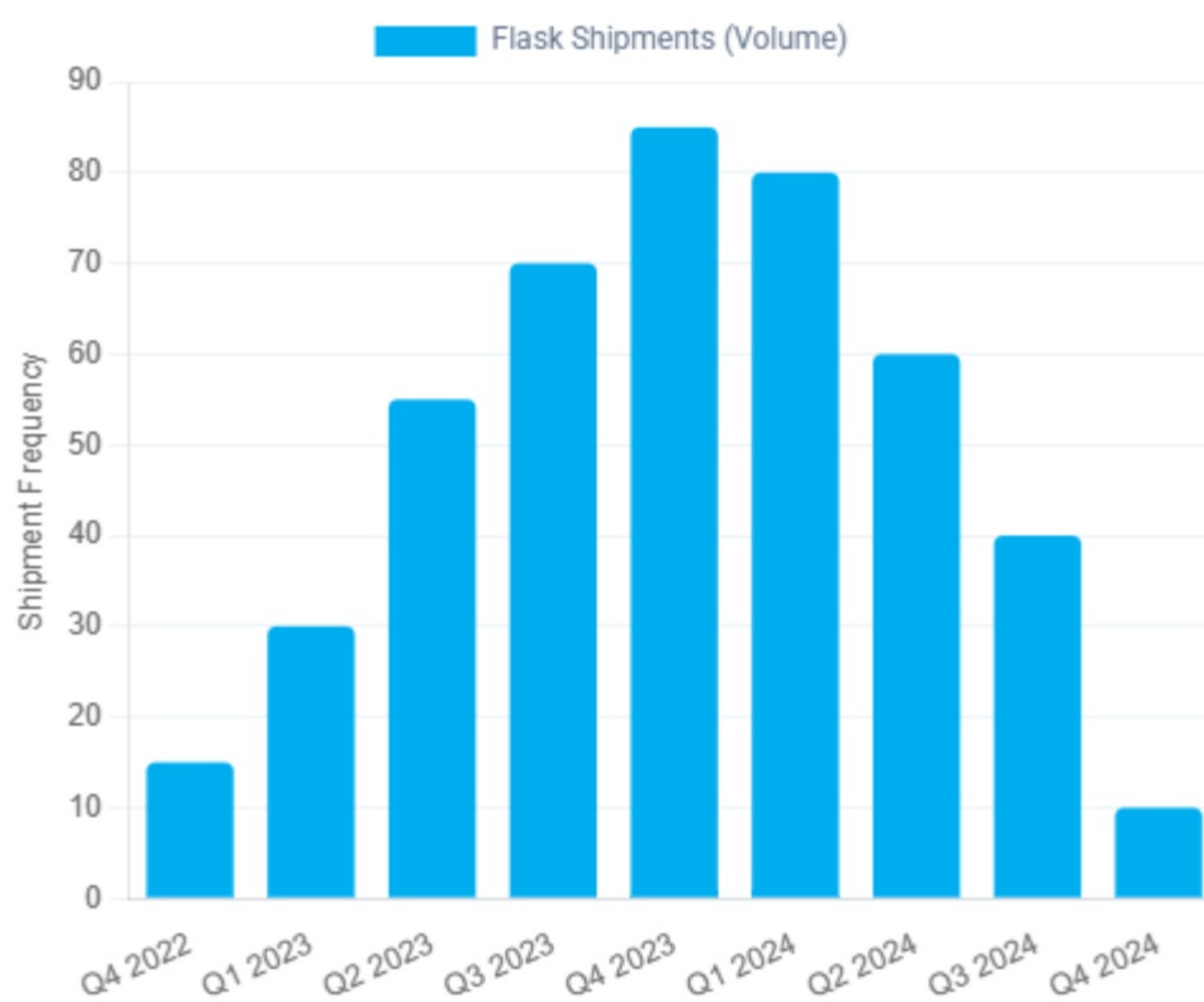
Time to Defuel (AGR Fleet)

Operational Timeline



Defueling Velocity

Estimated weekly flask shipments peaking to meet deadline.



Insight: The logistics required to move thousands of fuel elements to Sellafield necessitated a precise partnership between EDF and Nuclear Transport Solutions (NTS).

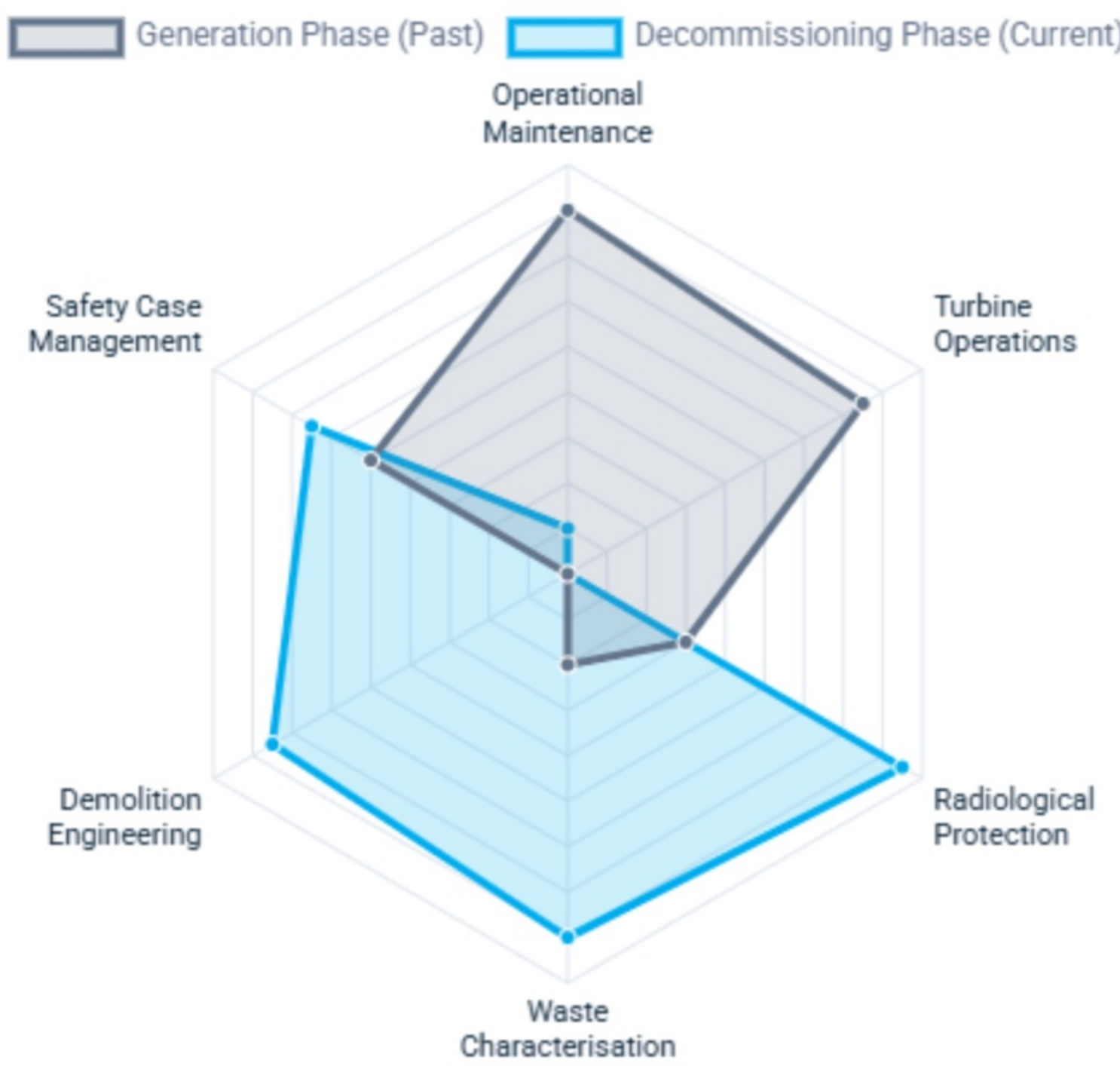
Workforce Optimisation: The Skills Shift

From Operations to Demolition

The transition from EDF Energy (Generation) to NRS (Decommissioning) fundamentally alters the site's skills profile. We are observing a decrease in demand for high-temperature maintenance and turbine operations, replaced by specific "backend" nuclear skills.

Critical Pinch Points:

- Radiological Characterisation
- Demolition Engineering
- Asbestos & Hazardous Waste Mgmt
- Remote Handling / Robotics



The Commercial Handover

1

EDF Energy

License holder during generation and defueling.



2

Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS)

Subsidiary of NDA. Assumes site license for decommissioning.



3

Supply Chain

New Tier 1/2 tenders for remediation and waste services.

Industry Perspectives

"I'm proud to say that Hinkley Point B is the first of the UK's advanced gas-cooled reactors to reach this significant milestone."

— Rob Fletcher, CEO, NRS

"We have verified that Hinkley Point B is fuel free... NRS can now focus on the next phase of work at the site."

— Mike Webb, ONR

Next Phase: Care & Maintenance Preparations (Valuation: £Multi-Million)