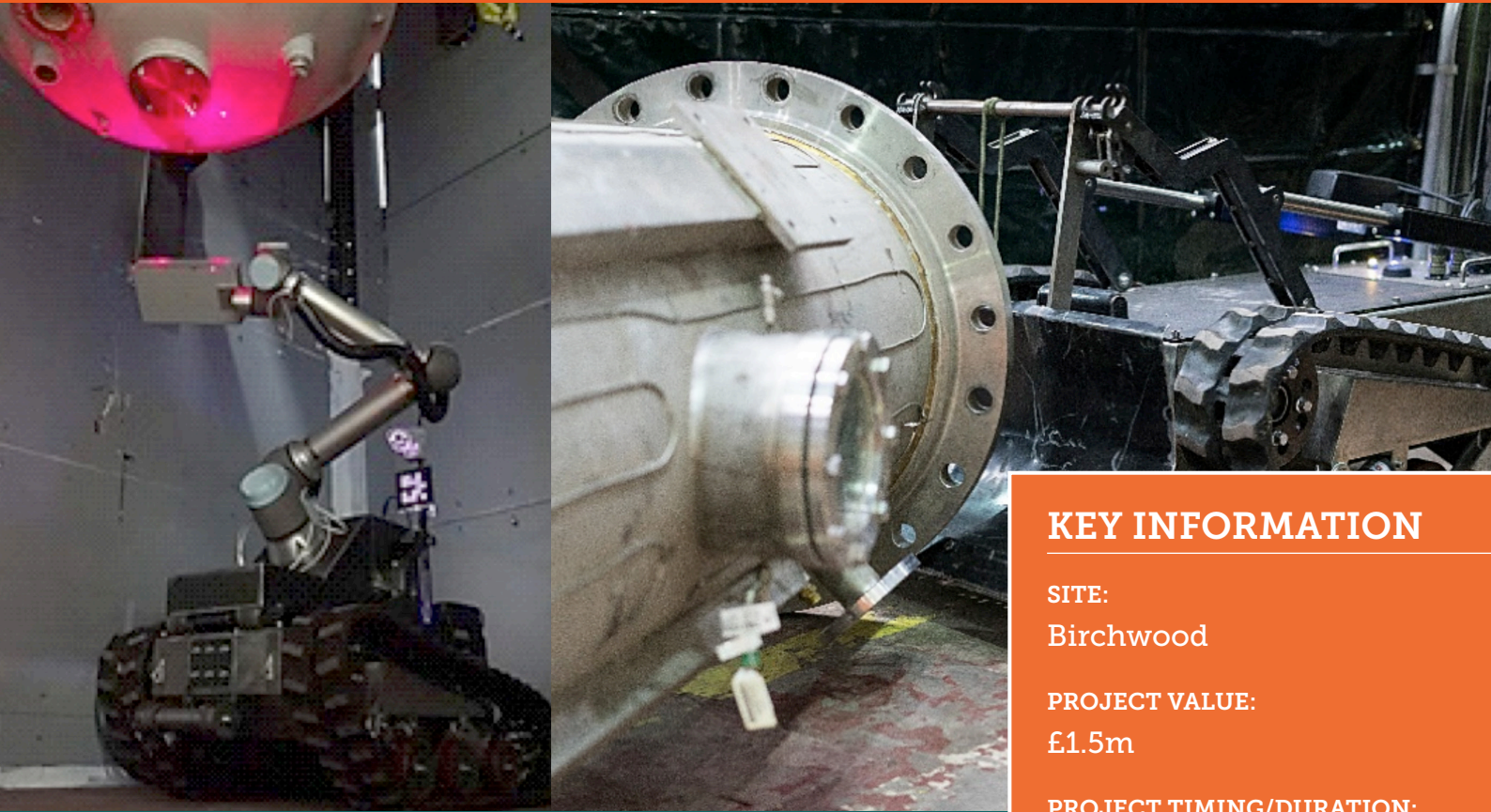


CASE STUDY:

Integrated Innovation for Nuclear Decommissioning



KEY INFORMATION

SITE:

Birchwood

PROJECT VALUE:

£1.5m

PROJECT TIMING/DURATION:

21 months

Project Overview

For Innovate UK's Small Business Research Initiative, funded by the NDA, BEIS and Innovate UK, Wood developed a toolset that brought together, in an inactive demonstration, various technologies, systems and processes to decommission nuclear facilities. The project solution was developed to generate a step-change in decommissioning performance. Wood is developing a new nuclear decommissioning methodology using innovative technology to evolve the process while recognising existing good practice and the unique requirements of the sector. To meet the Safer, Faster, Cheaper decommissioning objectives, Wood identified three themes that underpin this enhanced process.

Details on solution/approach

Three main themes were adopted as a guiding vision to underpin the development strategy: real-time planning and characterisation; reduced working at height risk; and improved control of robotic systems. Wood brought together a consortium of eight academic institutions and SMEs who draw on experiences from the medical, space and military sectors to complement Wood's depth of expertise in areas such as radiology, chemistry, physics, material

identification, human factors and mechanical, system and process engineering. The project was anchored in the reality of the current decommissioning landscape but set out to use innovation to push into underdeveloped areas that can be incorporated into a new decommissioning strategy. A central theme of the system is an alternative vision of how remote systems can be used to remove human operators from hazardous environments.