Rebecca Weston, Co-Chair of the North West Nuclear Arc asserts that, ‘Investment in the nuclear industries and communities in the North of the UK’s nations can deliver the greatest impact towards both of these threats and more. Nuclear can provide family-sustaining jobs, clean energy, that doesn’t cost the earth and the power needed to produce commercially viable fuels to land the Prime Minister’s ambition for Jet Zero.’

The Energy Systems Catapult report ‘Nuclear for Net Zero’ says that, ‘if nuclear is able to fulfil its cost reduction potential and contribute to the challenges of decarbonising heat and hydrogen, around 50 GWe of nuclear may be needed by 2050’.

This will take dedication and commitment; from nuclear to deliver projects, on time at competitive costs, learning the lessons of fleet, modular build and applying best practice from other sectors, and from UK Government to provide the policy and financial frameworks for the nuclear sector to get on with the job in support of UK’s post CV-19 recovery plan.

50 GW of nuclear power by 2050 will build a clean, green economy for the whole of the UK powered by the North of the UK’s nations.

CV-19 will continue to wreak havoc on health, education and businesses across the globe until a vaccine can be developed. But the ultimate threat to our future as we know it is climate change with just 1550 weeks to go before 2050.

Transformative investments across the North West Nuclear Arc, such as those listed below – will create thousands of jobs, a step-change in skills, attainment and opportunity for young people and support UK businesses to survive and thrive. Giving a much-needed boost to the lagging economies and disadvantaged communities of the North West of England and North Wales.

The Wylfa Newydd Advanced Boiling Water Reactor project on Anglesey will trigger a £5bn plus programme of civils, mechanical, and electrical supply chain opportunities for UK companies. Its construction will require 20,000 roles, 900 permanent jobs deliver supply chain opportunities worth around £875million.

Small Modular Reactor (SMR) and a medical isotope reactor at Trawsfynydd would constitute a £3bn investment, creating 100s of permanent jobs at the site and in the supply chain.

Westinghouse at Springfields, Lancashire provides vital fuel manufacturing capability to the UK and is capable of manufacturing any fuel type currently envisaged for the UK. The Clean Energy Technology Park at Springfields is established to provide a collaborative hub for the development, demonstration and commercialisation of a broad range of advanced nuclear technologies including SMRs, Advanced Modular Reactors (AMRs) and related industrial and medical applications.

Urenco is a leading nuclear fuel services company and its UK enrichment facility near Chester is at the heart of the UK’s nuclear fuel capability, focused on fuelling current and next generation technologies. This includes small and advanced nuclear reactors such as U-Battery, a cost-effective, locally embedded and reliable source of power and heat for energy intensive industry and remote locations. U-Battery is also capable of being optimised and deployed specifically for hydrogen production across the Arc. Urenco has recently invested over a billion pounds in complementary nuclear stewardship services at Capenhurst as part of its strong commitment to sustainability.

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Moorside Clean Energy Hub. The Moorside Consortium of businesses including Atkins, Jacobs, Doosan Babcock, Laing O’Rourke and EDF are proposing a substantial investment in West Cumbria including EPR reactors, SMRs and AMRs. This multi £bn investment would create 1000s of construction and 100s of permanent jobs in Cumbria and across the supply chain.

UKSMR consortium are considering sites in North Wales and Cumbria to locate the first wave of its compact nuclear power stations, creating thousands of construction jobs and 100s of long-term good quality operational jobs at each site. UKSMR will showcase British nuclear innovation. The estimate for exports from the Rolls Royce UK Small Modular Reactor programme alone is £250 billion.

The investments above create additional demand for research, innovation and skills providing opportunities for the hard-hit university and skills sector. Supporting world class work at the Dalton Cumbria Facility – Manchester University, Bangor University’s Nuclear Futures Institute, National Nuclear Laboratory, Lancaster University, Liverpool University, Sheffield University, Menai Science Park (M-SPARC), AMRI-Cymru, and West Lakes Science Park.

The North West Nuclear Arc has the nuclear sites, R&D, technologies and firms to propel the UK’s nuclear industry as a leader on the world stage again. Communities and economies around the nuclear investments, will benefit from high quality family – sustaining jobs, suppliers will flourish and once again the North will again take pride in its role of providing clean sustainable energy to the UK’s nations.

The North West Nuclear Arc is a nuclear cluster of global significance stretching from Cumbria down to Liverpool, Warrington, Manchester, Sheffield and North Wales. Unique in the UK – incorporating all the facilities and capabilities across the whole nuclear lifecycle from fuels, to energy production, management of waste and decommissioning. The NWNA nuclear cluster is a widely recognised within the industry itself as a world class, self-contained, end to end nuclear system.

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