



**Dounreay's dirtiest building is being demolished**

Members of UKAEA's Executive were able to take a coffee break in a former criticality building when they visited Dounreay in November.

Despite suggestions in the past that such heavily-contaminated buildings could never be sufficiently cleaned up, UKAEA's Executive were able to tour the former plutonium criticality laboratory at Dounreay and take coffee in the criticality cell itself.

Known as D8550, the building has been one of the most difficult facilities at Dounreay to clean up and the decommissioning work has been underway since 2000 to empty and clear out the heavily contaminated facility, safely and efficiently.



Decommissioning has allowed demolition of the facility to begin, starting with the removal of the building's ventilation stack, and marks one of the key achievements at Dounreay since the formation of DSRL as a subsidiary of UKAEA in April 2008.



DSRL managing director Simon Middlemas, UKAEA's manager leading the decommissioning of Dounreay for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, said,

“Demolition of this building will mark yet another milestone in decommissioning Scotland’s biggest civil nuclear site.

“This hugely challenging project has been completed with an excellent safety and environmental performance, and the decommissioning team can be rightly proud of their achievement.”

The facility was built in the 1950s to carry out a major programme of criticality experiments on plutonium-bearing materials for the benefit of the UK nuclear industry as a whole. Housing a heavily-shielded cell, 7 metres high by 8 metres wide, the facility carried out experiments on solid and liquid-bearing plutonium.