

## **THE BIRTH OF HINKLEY POWER STATION**

For all of the recruiters out there that are or have recruited into the nuclear industry over the last 10 years, do you not feel that the Hinkley Power Station is like someone being pregnant forever but the baby just never comes!

For myself based in Bristol, the excitement of the next nuclear power station new build the industry has seen for 60 years was big news! When I first heard that Tony Blair had approved the future of the UK's energy was going to be nuclear fuel it was hands to the pump, making sure that we had all the right candidates on the database, that we were speaking to all the main contractors who could be chosen to build the thing and at the time understanding what the build was actually for.

The company I was working for at the time, even set up a virtual office to be in the right catchment area, due to the postcode engagement agreements the local council had asked for, and like so many other companies the cost of keeping that virtual office going to get a sniff of business has been costly, with no return of revenue.

Well this sudden urge and panic was back in April 2006, just a cool 11 years ago and that's how long I have been waiting along with thousands more of you to get stuck into recruiting for what will be the most significant recruitment I will probably ever be involved with, in this industry.

I have spent many years getting my head around industry terminology, technical skillsets and quite honestly what the hell nuclear physics is, and I can now say hand on heart I am there, well as much as I am going to be.

With not coming from a scientific or engineering qualified background it's a steep learning curve but one that has been well worth it and when I introduce myself to potential new clients and manage the careers of nuclear candidates I am in a good place to confidently advise. You are safe with me and you can trust that I understand what your business and careers are looking for.

That said, whilst we sit waiting patiently for the first phase of live requirement to come out of the £18bn project we can be assured there is enough to go around for all recruiters to get involved. Just imagine the amount of candidate's duplications that it will create, it doesn't bare thinking about, but whatever challenges we face in the recruitment process, we have many years to get it right as the build won't be finished until 2025 if they get the build back on track to its original project deadline?

I guess, a revenue stream of business from Hinkley could be to set up a local caravan site for all the new workers, should recruitment be slow, I will be involved with Hinkley one way or another - That was a joke by the way!.

So if you are looking for recruitment resource to assist your company on site at Hinkley Power Station, please do not hesitate to call Project Start, I have only been recruiting for nuclear engineers since 1998. Ssssh don't tell anyone, I am showing my age.....