



Press Release

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CECA: SMR Contract A Welcome Step Towards Energy Independence

The UK's civil engineering contractors have welcomed [the signing of a contract between Great British Energy - Nuclear and Rolls Royce SMR](#), describing it as a major step forward for the delivery of the UK's first small modular reactors and for UK energy independence.

The UK Government said the contract formally commences technology design activities for the UK's first SMRs, with the first project estimated to support around 3,000 jobs at peak construction and thousands more across the wider supply chain.

Rolls-Royce SMR was selected as the preferred technology partner in June 2025, with £2.6 billion allocated in the 2025 Spending Review to support the contract and wider programme delivery.

Commenting, Director of Policy & Public Affairs for the Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) Ben Goodwin said: "Today's announcement is an important milestone for the UK's nuclear and wider infrastructure ambitions.

"It is encouraging to see real progress being made in the delivery of small modular reactors, which will play a major role in strengthening the UK's energy security, supporting economic growth, and providing a key part of the mixed energy portfolio CECA has long campaigned for.

"CECA has for many years argued that nuclear power must form part of the UK's future energy mix, and this contract is a significant step in turning ambition into delivery. For CECA members, it points to major opportunities in enabling works, site preparation, transport links, utilities connections, and the wider infrastructure needed to support a new generation of nuclear development.

"But signing the contract must now be followed by a sustained focus on delivery. That means clear project milestones, a credible long-term pipeline, proportionate and efficient regulation, and procurement routes that allow firms of all sizes to invest with confidence in people, skills, plant, and innovation.

"If the Government and industry get this right, SMRs can become a flagship example of how strategic infrastructure investment supports jobs, strengthens supply chains, and delivers lasting value to communities across the country.

"CECA members stand ready to work with Government, clients, and industry partners to make sure the UK seizes this opportunity and positions itself at the cutting edge of the new technologies we will need to make the transition to net zero while delivering for British businesses and communities."

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Notes to editors

1. The Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) represents over 300 contractors of all sizes, covering approximately 80% of the civil engineering market in Great Britain. Our members build infrastructure that provides the basis for economic sustainability and quality of life in communities across the country.

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