



ALTRAD BECOMES UK'S LARGEST INDUSTRIAL SERVICES PROVIDER

PETROCHEMICAL, ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRIES TO BENEFIT

BY GRAHAME ANDERSON

From the moment Cape PLC, NSG and Hertel combined with Altrad it was clear great things were destined for the petrochemical, energy and infrastructure industries. Altrad services has quickly emerged as a streamlined, dynamic and visionary business, positioned at the cutting edge of the industrial services market.

THREE DISTINCT LINES

Intelligently designed to create three distinct lines of business and with a

unique strategy to match both market and customer, Altrad Services is now a single business offering "first class efficiency and service."

From maintenance to modifications, overhauls to projects and nuclear, future developments across the energy and infrastructure industries, they continue to lead the way.

You may recall our interview with Altrad founder, Mohamed Altrad earlier in the year offering a fascinating insight into the approach and ethos of the

company. In the light of this latest exciting move, I caught up with Altrad Services CEO Louis Huetz, to gain a fresh perspective on their ambitions for the future.

THE LOUIS HUETZ VIEW

He told me: "The group is significantly involved in the nuclear business as these installations need to be particularly monitored and followed-up in terms of maintenance. Besides, we provide a wide range of industrial services

and solutions in support of the construction and maintenance of France and the UK's high-value, super-critical nuclear power generation assets.

"When it comes to the Hinkley Point C project in the UK, Altrad is part of the 'MEH Alliance' composed of four major UK contractors to work together on the complex installation of cabling and pipework in the power station's 2,500 rooms. The innovative approach means that Altrad, Balfour Beatty Bailey, Cavendish Nuclear and Doosan Babcock will pool their expertise to work as a single entity. The alliance aims to create new industrial capacity and jobs by manufacturing specialist pipework in Britain."

Company services also include the provision of surface preparation and treatment, scaffolding, insulation and PFP for new-build facilities, such as the next generation EPR in Flamanville, France.

ALIGNING THE BUSINESSES

So what were the challenges involved in aligning three huge businesses into one? Huetz said: "We had fantastic leaders, who, across their regions, have supported the integration process and helped the assimilation of different cultures to ensure all our employees feel part of this new journey. In many ways, this is being supported by the rebranding exercise currently under way as part of the integration.

"As ever, we seek to ensure our clients' requirements are met and so maintaining and enhancing our relationships here and the deep understanding and knowledge of the dynamics of their businesses remains paramount.

"We can bring more skill-sets to meet the demands of clients' evolving requirements, meaning we can support the simplification of project management, if there is a single point of contact



for the client. We also have world class systems and processes, to meet with the rigorous industry demands in which we operate. This gives clients great comfort, particularly as things continue to evolve."

NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

The company are heavily involved in the fascinating role of nuclear decommissioning. ScaffMag was keen to discover what exactly this involves. Huetz explained: "The decommissioning of a nuclear installation such as a power plant or research reactor is the final

step in its life cycle. It involves activities from shutdown and removal of nuclear material to the environmental restoration of the site.

The whole process is complex and lengthy (up to 30-40 years), and it's carried out with the highest safety standards, understandably.

"The Altrad Group has extensive experience when it comes to significant decommissioning operations involving all types of reactors. Our comprehensive range of services can indeed be deployed at every stage of an asset lifecycle."

GROWTH OF THE COMPANY

This forward-thinking Altrad brand has 42,000 employees around the globe carrying incredible experience, through a deep pool of very talented practitioners. Their new website details the work they do, as well as offering a point of contact for those who may be interested in applying for any positions at Altrad Services. They believe a sustainable business is a successful business, and think this is why they have been able to grow and prosper over the lifetime of the development of the Group.

They aim to cultivate the expertise

of their employees as well as ensuring they have the best tools and development opportunities, to continue delivering world class services to clients in a safe and responsible manner.

FIVE YEAR PLAN

So, given this latest transition, what's the plan for the next five years? Huetz added: "We want to draw out the additional value from being a larger operator with a greater international footprint, maintain our market share and grow where we can. We will continue to look for further inorganic opportunities, in

so far they complement our ambitions and the sectors we seek to operate.

"Our client base suggests we are doing well in this regard, but we will seek never to become complacent and continue to strive for operational excellence in everything that we do."

It would seem this is a company with a clear vision. Their new developments will certainly change the face of the oil and gas, energy and infrastructure industries for the better.

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