



## **The Future of Springfields Fuels- Joint Statement from Prospect and Unite**

Springfields Fuels is the only UK site capable of producing the fuel we will need to power the next generation of UK nuclear reactors and fulfil our Net Zero ambitions as a nation.

We strongly believe that protecting this sovereign capability in nuclear fuel manufacturing is firmly in the national interest, maintaining our world leading status at every stage of the nuclear cycle.

However the immediate future for fuel manufacturing at Springfields is deeply challenging, with a shortfall in domestic fuel orders and a lack of overseas work contributing to a gap that puts the future of the site in jeopardy.

As trade unions representing the highly skilled workforce at Springfields, we are increasingly concerned that the current ownership model is becoming a potential obstacle to preserving the site and the jobs that depend on it.

Westinghouse, the current owners, have so far failed to provide cast-iron guarantees on the future of fuel manufacturing at the site and have failed to bring in additional work either from their own reactors abroad or to fuel the reactors of their competitors.

Unless this situation changes, we believe that the government should consider an alternative ownership structure that will maximise the possibility of protecting the site and maintaining this vital sovereign capability.

Given the sovereign capability involved, we believe that government ownership of the site is an option that should be actively explored, either on a temporary or permanent basis. There are a variety of options from achieving this, with organisations such as the NDA or NNL well placed to take on the site.

Given that NNL already operates on the Springfields site and has a deep understanding of the business model and the work of fuel manufacturing, we believe that this would be the most logical potential owner. The organisations are already working together on an exciting project on next generation fuel for the future. Being owned by NNL would also remove some obstacles for other nuclear organisations when thinking about procuring fuel from Springfields, as they would no longer be dealing with a direct competitor.

Our understanding is that the NNL are deeply committed to the future of the site and would be open to exploring this possibility.

We therefore call on government to urgently develop options for alternative ownership structures for Springfields, with the aim of protecting sovereign capability and securing the future of UK nuclear fuel.