

Securing £50 billion investment for 60+ years of low carbon energy

Supporting the National Wealth Fund (NWF) to deliver £36.6 billion in debt financing for one of the largest energy infrastructure projects in Europe.

With a projected value of £50 billion, Sizewell C is set to be one of the most impactful infrastructure projects in generations. As one of the largest energy infrastructure projects ever undertaken in Europe, it will provide decades of clean, reliable electricity for around 6 million homes in the UK.

We were appointed by NWF to advise it in its capacity as the main debt provider to the project, committing £36.6 billion of secured debt to fund the construction of the 3,200 MW nuclear power plant. The NWF facility sits alongside an additional £5 billion of debt committed by a syndicate of international commercial banks under an ECA-covered facility supported by the French export credit agency, BpifranceAE. The project, whose largest shareholder is the UK government, is also backed by major industrial and financial investors EDF, Centrica, LaCaisse and funds managed by Amber Infrastructure Group.



WHAT HAPPENED

Sizewell C achieved strong investment grade ratings from three global rating agencies. Sizewell C is the first nuclear power project to be financed using the UK's Regulated Asset Base (RAB) model, under a regulatory regime developed over years. It is the first time globally that a significant debt and equity raise in respect of a single asset nuclear power construction project has successfully reached financial close, and represents a breakthrough moment for the nuclear power industry globally. The combination of the investment grade ratings, the RAB and the purpose of the debt (being the construction of the project) meant that the debt was structured as a hybrid investment grade/project finance financing, and certain facilities were designated as green finance, or capable of being designated as green finance, under the LMA green loan principles.

We advised NWF on all aspects of its involvement on this transaction including financing, as well as on the government support package, the economic regulatory regime, and wider specialist areas including corporate matters, subsidy control, intellectual property, planning/real estate, construction/supply chain, ESG, and employment and pensions.

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We are sincerely grateful to Addleshaw Goddard (AG) for their support on this transaction, particularly at a stage when it was still a developing opportunity for NWF. AG's willingness to engage early, when others were hesitant to take that risk, exemplifies true partnership.

Davinder Mann, General Counsel, National Wealth Fund

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We are thrilled to assist NWF as the Sizewell C project reaches this important milestone, with the commercial closure giving the green light to one of Europe's most significant infrastructure projects. Our team has been able to bring its expertise across nuclear, infrastructure finance, energy market regulation as well as a range of other disciplines to support NWF on this incredibly large and complex project. It has been an honour to work with the NWF team on this landmark transaction.

Rory Connor, Partner and Co-head of Power, Addleshaw Goddard

60+

YEARS OF CLEAN, RELIABLE POWER

70,000+

UK JOBS SUPPORTED

6 MILLION

HOMES POWERED

9 MILLION

TONNES OF CO2 AVOIDED EVERY YEAR OF OPERATION

£50 BILLION

INVESTED IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND