**Integration Group for the Safety Case (IGSC) Symposium 2024***MOVING TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SAFE DGR – GETTING REAL*

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| **Abstract Title:**  **Growing the Safety Case Community: Knowledge transfer and developing the next generation** | |
| **Abstract (300-500 words):**  It has been 38 years since the 1986 Chernobyl accident, that is about the duration of a technical career. Those working in nuclear safety in the 1980s are likely now at or near retirement. A slow-down in recruitment to the nuclear industry across Europe in the Chernobyl aftermath has led to a “missing generation”, with relatively few people in their 40s currently working in nuclear safety. In recent years it has been encouraging to see programmes making significant progress in dealing with their nuclear legacy and in countries such as the UK also a greater positivity towards nuclear energy. There is therefore a need to accelerate the learning of those joining the nuclear safety case community now, so they can take the mantle from older colleagues and ensure the safety case community remains vibrant and equipped for future challenges.  This presentation will consider practical ways in which senior members of today’s safety case community can support the development of the next generation of safety case experts, with illustrations of specific examples from the UK and international initiatives including the IGSC and EURAD. A co-presentation will model examples of knowledge transfer and personal development within NWS, covering the following stages:   1. *Starting out on the journey*   The initial need is to attract talented young people into the nuclear industry, by showing exciting and rewarding career prospects. Increasingly for today’s young generation, “reward” is not purely financial, but it is also important to be making a meaningful contribution to society and the environment. Practical examples at NWS include STEM ambassadors in schools, the UK NuclearGraduate scheme, the NWS Research Support Office, and most recently founding engagement with the IGSC Young Generation network.   1. *Accelerating on the journey: Gaining competence, the first promotion*   As the framework for synthesising and analysing technical understanding across multiple disciplines, a safety case is complex and gaining competence in preparing and reviewing safety cases is a challenging task. Working alongside those with relevant experience is invaluable to gain as wide a breadth of understanding as possible. NWS seeks to provide a structured approach to competence development, for example through on the job training, appropriate secondments, involvement in integrated project teams and review of safety cases.   1. *Scaling the first peak: Gaining international recognition*   It can be hard to take the first step on the international stage – initial exposure to senior international fora can sometimes be achieved, for example, by offering a technical secretariat service and working alongside senior colleagues, benefitting from their experience and networks.   1. *The destination – showing the way to others, passing on the baton...*   The presentation will conclude by highlighting the importance of international knowledge transfer initiatives, such as the EURAD Roadmap, the NWS Young Persons Network (YPN) and the newly launched IGSC Young Generation network. | |