



■ **LOOKING FORWARD:** NuGeneration executives, from the left, Rafael Jinenez, Alfio Vidal, Gavin Brydon and Olivier Carret address stakeholders at the Westlakes Science Park Pictures: Mike McKenzie

TALKIN' ABOUT NU-GENERATION...

Consortium tells of a strong commitment to West Cumbria

NUGENERATION Ltd, the consortium behind plans for a new nuclear power station at Sellafield, pledged to make a strong and lasting commitment to West Cumbria.

Known as NuGen, the group is a partnership between energy giants Iberdrola, GDF Suez and Scottish & Southern Energy.

It has secured a £70m option to buy nearly 500 acres of land at Sellafield on which to build a new reactor.

And, subject to final investment decisions, the consortium wants to start building a new reactor in 2015, which would be commissioned in 2023.

It hopes to employ 5,000 people on the construction phase of the plant and 1,000 permanent staff once operational.

Olivier Carret, the company's chief operating officer, said: "We look forward to being part of a local environment in which there are so many industries directly involved with nuclear, so many people with valuable skills and who know what it means to work in the nuclear industry."

"Our goal is to be treated here in West Cumbria as neighbours, part of the environment and the fabric of the industry."

"We are making a strong and lasting commitment to involve and engage people in our plans and the opening of our new office here at the heart of the business community of West Cumbria means that we will be able to actively contribute to Cumbria's Energy Coast vision and develop strong and long term relationships with local communities in the area."

"There is a huge amount of

BY ALAN IRVING

expertise and knowledge that comes from the long tradition of nuclear power in this area and we are very much looking forward to working with the people of West Cumbria as our plans progress."

Stakeholders from all over the area heard NuGen executives speak of the employment opportunities for local people and its desire to work harmoniously with the local communities.

About 70 guests covering community, business forums, nuclear and political arenas attended last Friday's launch at Westlakes Science Park, where NuGen has now established its West Cumbrian base.

Extending a warm welcome to NuGen, Professor John Fyfe, Ambassador of the University of Central Lancashire, said: "We seek to create new wealth, jobs and quality of life for people living here and for future generations."

Twenty-five years ago, he said, the seeds were sown for West Cumbria's regeneration with the setting up of England's first economic development partnership which led to the establishment of Westlakes Science & Technology Park.

"We have different partnerships now with Britain's Energy Coast West Cumbria the fulcrum," he added.

Copeland's MP Jamie Reed, who was heavily involved in attracting the consortium's interest, said: "I have been impressed by the honest and transparent way in which they have approached the community with their plans but, at the same time, we will have to work in a dedicated, integrated way to overcome any obstacles on the way but we can do it."

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