

# Tensator energises EDF energy health & safety



## A focus on safety

A wholly-owned subsidiary of the EDF Group, EDF Energy owns and operates eight nuclear power stations throughout the UK, with a combined capacity of almost 9,000 megawatts.

As you would expect, great importance is placed on safety at the nuclear power stations, with robust systems in place to protect over 15,000 members of staff, as well as contractors and members of the public. These systems are constantly under review and EDF Energy is dedicated to continually improving its practices.

It was as part of this aim for continual improvement that led the team at EDF Energy to approach safety barrier specialist, Tensator.

Tensator had done some adhoc work for EDF Energy in the past, so the name and quality of the solutions provided was already well known to the team and the company was the logical choice for a new project at the Hinkley Point B plant near Bridgwater in Somerset.



EDF Energy is one of the UK's leading energy providers and the country's largest producer of low-carbon electricity. The company generates around a fifth of the UK's electricity and supplies power to around 5.5 million residential and business customers.



## A powerful solution

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It was felt that a more clearly defined process was needed within the plant to highlight different areas to contractors and to identify the varying levels of radiation and the access and authorisation required to enter.

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The core element of the solution involved Tensator's Heavy Duty Posts cordoning off restricted areas in the plant where certain contractors are permitted to work. Red, yellow and white tubing was used to create a simple, colour-based code to highlight information regarding radiation and access requirements for the area about to be entered. This message was reinforced by the webbing used to join the posts, which carried clear messages such as 'protected area, contact XXX'.

The Heavy Duty Posts were complemented by a number of Tensator's Wall Mounted Barriers, which were able to create non-access areas without taking up floor space. Again, these were colour coded and carried messaging on the webbing. Where possible, units with magnetic mounting were used, meaning that, just like the Heavy Duty Posts, the Wall Mounted Barriers offered a flexible solution that could easily be moved around as-and-when required.

With the scheme signed off, the products were delivered and installed, with a project turnaround of just one month from initial approach to completion.



## A surge in results

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Tensator's installation at EDF Energy's Hinkley Point B plant may have been simple, but it had a big impact. Contractors were instantly able to identify areas of restricted access resulting in more clearly defined working processes.

The success soon came to the attention of one of EDF Energy's senior managers, who saw the potential to take the system company-wide. Each site currently had its own methods of creating restricted access areas, which could prove confusing for contractors who worked at multiple locations.

A complete roll-out of Tensator's colour-based solution was ordered soon after and systems were installed in all eight of EDF Energy's nuclear power plants, from Torness in East Lothian, to Dungeness B in Kent.

In total, Tensator provided 2,468 Heavy Duty Posts, 1,884 Wall Mounted Barriers and 821 Sign Holders across EDF Energy's entire nuclear power portfolio.

With around 200 contractors on each site, this meant that everyone was able to carry out their work more efficiently and in the safest way possible.

Kevin Hickson, Tensator's general manager for Europe, added:

“Sometimes there is no need to overly complicate things and the most straightforward solution is the best. You can't take chances when it comes to health and safety, so clear and concise systems that leave no room for misunderstanding are vital.

“This is the approach that was taken with EDF Energy and resulted in a solution that everyone working for the company, as well as hundreds of contractors across the UK, will benefit from when it comes to their personal safety.

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