

Employee Spotlight

Alan Hogan
Radiation Protection Adviser
Joined NSG in 1990



Q. What was your impression of the nuclear industry before you started working in it?

A. I didn't really know it existed! I went into engineering via an apprenticeship at a local firm and by chance got involved in the nuclear sector later in my career.

Q. Describe your career journey to this point.

A. I started my career at 16 as an engineering apprentice for British Rail in Horwich. To be honest, had it not closed down, I probably would have still been there because I loved it! I stayed in the railway industry for a little while longer until I joined NSG in 1990. At the time, NSG was a small company with approximately 10 employees and delivered smaller R&D projects for the likes of CEGB, Nuclear Electric and Sellafield. As the company grew, I started working at nuclear licenced sites and started to learn about health physics whist further developing my mechanical expertise. It was interesting being involved in both roles as they were completely different, but I eventually decided to focus on health physics. I did the necessary qualifications to progress in radiation protection and in 2009 I was as proud as punch when I achieved my first RPA certificate after being a trainee RPA on a project for two years. Since then, I have worked as an RPA on a variety of different projects and in 2012 was awarded a City & Guilds Licentiateship and Chartered status. None of this would have been possible if it wasn't for NSG and my colleagues believing in me and helping me achieve my ultimate goal.

Q. What do you enjoy most about your role?

A. The mix of engineering and radiation protection working hand in hand to create the best working solutions.

Q. What three words would you use to describe working at NSG?

A. Dynamic, initiative and committed.

Q. Where do you see your career heading in the future?

A. Still with NSG, doing what I do and hopefully passing my experience on to the next generation. I don't think you realise what you have done until you sit down and go through it.

Q. What advice would you give someone looking to join the nuclear industry?

A. It is the perfect time to get involved in the nuclear industry. It has to be the future if we want to keep the lights on, as recent events show us. There is a raft of positions available; not just for younger people starting their careers, but for all ages and those perhaps looking for a career change. Get involved!