

# UK PONI

UK Project on Nuclear Issues

## Call for Presentations: The UK PONI 2017 Annual Conference

1<sup>st</sup> June 2017

Royal United Services Institute  
Whitehall, London

The UK PONI Annual Conference has established itself as the premier UK forum for developing new nuclear expertise from academia, industry, government, and the military. By bringing together emerging and established experts from across the nuclear field, this conference series promotes an informed and diverse dialogue on the most pertinent nuclear issues of the day.

We are now accepting proposals from UK PONI members for presentations at the 2017 Annual Conference, which will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> June at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies in London. The event will consist of panel presentations, keynote speeches, breakout sessions, and an evening dinner reception. This conference will focus on, but will not be limited to, the topics listed in the research agenda overleaf. For information and presentations from the 2016 Annual Conference please click [here](#).

UK PONI encourages presentation proposals from graduate students, emerging technical specialists, and early career professionals who will have the opportunity to present their work to a broad audience of nuclear experts and gain the chance to present at US Strategic Command at Omaha as part of the US PONI Conference Series.

Presentation proposals should be no longer than 300 words and should include the following:

1. Your name, organisation/school affiliation, and position
2. The notional title of your presentation
3. A summary of your presentation, including its contextual background

Please send presentation proposals to [ukponi@rusi.org](mailto:ukponi@rusi.org) by Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March. Please include 'Annual Conference Proposal' as the email subject. Please note the UK PONI Annual Conference is open to registered UK PONI members only. To register for UK PONI free of charge please visit the UK PONI website, located at [www.rusi.org/ukponi](http://www.rusi.org/ukponi).

## Research Topics for the UK PONI 2017 Annual Conference

The following topics are meant to outline, in broad terms, the issues which the UK PONI 2017 Annual Conference hopes to cover. The list is not exhaustive and all presentation proposals will be considered insofar as they relate to the below.

### **The Future of Nuclear Relationships**

Over the course of the next four years President Trump will have the opportunity to reshape Washington's nuclear relationships both in the near and long term. He has alluded to new approaches for dealing with nuclear adversaries and allies alike, from NATO and East Asia, to Russia and Iran. Other nuclear relationships will also likely continue to remain in the spot light, including India and Pakistan, North Korea's regional relationships and engagement between NATO and Russia. UK PONI welcomes presentations that consider a specific nuclear relationship.

### **Future Challenges for the UK nuclear industry**

2016 was a landmark year for British politics and nuclear decision making: from the Brexit referendum, to the Successor vote in Parliament, the approval of Hinkley Point C, and a new Prime Minister in Number 10. In 2017, the UK nuclear industry will embark upon the implementation of these decisions. Presentations could focus on the technical, financial and policy related challenges and opportunities these decisions may bring.

### **New Global Leaders in Nuclear Energy**

The number of countries entering the nuclear export market has increased in recent years along with new states pursuing an interest in nuclear energy. Many states have invested heavily in becoming world leaders in the manufacture and supply of nuclear energy, and have developed new reactor designs and technologies to compete in an increasingly crowded marketplace. Presentations could focus on: new trends in the global nuclear market (new nuclear contracting, suppliers, joint projects, economics of nuclear energy) and changing nuclear energy policy.

### **New Initiatives in Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

2016 saw a UN resolution mandate the negotiation of a Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty - advocated by states and non-state groups - as well as Marshall Islands attempt to bring a legal challenge against the nine recognized or suspected nuclear weapons states. This year will see the start of the NPT Review Conference cycle, which will follow on from the failure to reach consensus in 2015. Presentations could focus on the benefits and drawbacks of these approaches, the future picture of non-proliferation and disarmament, and the challenges that may arise.

### **Technological and Scientific Nuclear Innovations**

Scientific and technical innovations are key in responding to contemporary challenges in the civil and military nuclear realms. UK PONI would like to invite presentations on new research and/or on advancements in existing areas of research that focus on issues such as: verification and monitoring, reactor designs and emerging technologies in the civil nuclear market, decommissioning and disposal, cyber security, and innovations in delivery systems and missile defense capabilities.