



RVA GROUP

Decommissioning,
decontamination,
dismantling and demolition
consulting engineers



IN BRIEF

IN BRIEF INTRODUCTION



IN BRIEF is designed to be an informative, value-adding and easy-to-digest resource from which you can find out more about RVA and the services provided by our knowledgeable team.

To read about the projects we have worked on or to hear from our satisfied clients, please explore www.rvagroup.org in full. Alternatively to talk about the specific needs of your project, please contact us today.

ABOUT US



RVA Group is a specialist engineering consultancy providing total solutions for the safe, environmentally secure and cost-effective delivery of decommissioning, decontamination, dismantling and demolition projects worldwide.

Established in 1992, RVA's hard-earned reputation and client portfolio – which comprises some of the world's leading organisations – has grown purely on merit. With extensive technical experience our consultants have grown to become renowned as leaders in their engineering disciplines.

Working exclusively for site owners and operators, RVA is totally independent of the contractor supply chain and is therefore able to provide uncompromised and unbiased advice at all stages. RVA ensures safe, commercially secure, efficient, environmentally sound and best value outcomes to projects, whilst at the same time allowing clients to focus on running their businesses.

SERVICES

RVA does not operate a generic 'one size fits all' approach. Drawing upon years of specialist engineering experience, sector knowledge and unbiased commercial awareness, RVA offers a wide range of services from which clients can select, develop and implement bespoke strategies tailored, to deliver the optimum solutions for their projects.

FRONT-END ENGINEERING SERVICES

As with most undertakings, the quality of inputs in the earliest stages of a project will very much dictate the level of success that can be achieved.

RVA therefore recognises that detailed research, planning and the bringing together of competent resources are all factors that will impact on the eventual project outcome. These front-end services are the foundation stones on which safe and secure projects are built.

Structural assessments and surveys

RVA's structural experts are able to conduct thorough investigations of varied plant and structures. Survey findings typically encompass matters such as condition assessment, temporary stability advice and corrective action recommendations with costings. The outcome of such surveys may help to determine the ensuing project route.

Feasibility and option studies

By considering safety, environmental, security, commercial and financial factors which may pose threats or offer opportunities, either in the short or long term, RVA conducts detailed studies that investigate possible approaches to projects.

RVA's resulting bespoke documentation, complete with recommendations, provides clients with a clear and focused management tool from which informed and rational business decisions can be made.

Strategic planning

Before embarking on any project it is important that the client has investigated all of the possible options available.

As RVA has a 'demolition' mindset it is likely there will be approaches to any given situation that will not even have been considered by those unfamiliar with plant decommissioning or structural demolition.

The terms 'brain storming', 'optioneering' and 'think tank' sessions may sound pretentious, however real gains are to be made by getting the team together and exploring all the options.

Decommissioning and isolation strategies

Drawing upon extensive planning, decontamination, dismantling, demolition and sector-specific plant knowledge, RVA is able to devise and audit bespoke decommissioning and isolation strategies for clients' plant and structures. Delivering the plant to a 'known' condition whilst at the same time managing risk and avoiding unnecessary spend, are essential project components.

Asset recovery

Understandably when closing sites, clients wish to minimise cost and maximise the return on assets. There are no hard and fast rules as to what should and should not be recovered and factors such as age of plant, former process, cost of recovery, transport, re-installation, testing, market forces and commercial confidentiality/competition will all form part of the decision making procedure.

RVA will however analyse each case on its own merits, looking at both safety and commercial aspects and advising whether plant should be recovered prior to or during dismantling/demolition operations.

There are several different approaches that can be taken to provide the client with the most attractive result.

From the recovery of individual items of plant, to the dismantling of entire processes for reinstallation elsewhere, RVA will devise the optimum outcome for every situation.

Budgeting and estimating

In most instances, the client needs to have a project cost indication from the outset. This information can be then used to compile sanction grade estimates, funding applications and even determine the programme and extent of a project.

RVA will not only look at the direct project costs but integrate factors such as plant resale value, scrap and credit recovery, market conditions and the possible effect of legislative changes.

Not all projects can be cash generative or even cost neutral, but RVA's specialist expertise and commercial understanding of different options allows clients to make informed decisions and demonstrably save money in the long run.

All costing information is compiled in the strictest confidence and completely independently from the supply chain.

Tender documentation

Concise, clear and accurately constructed tender documentation is the platform on which the success of a project relies.

Utilising wide-ranging and relevant experience, RVA formulates a comprehensive suite of specifically tailored documents for contract. These will typically comprise EHSplan (CDM preconstruction information), specification, conditions of contract, bills of quantities and forms of tender.

Clients' specific in-house contractual clauses or conditions can also be readily incorporated into the tender package.

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Contractor assessment

The most important factor in ensuring a project's success, is getting the team right from the outset. The competency of those involved is paramount.

Having worked with many different contracting companies over the years, RVA is trained to recognise strengths and weaknesses. We know what questions to ask and as importantly, what responses to accept.

There are many good contractors in the market place however they cannot be 'all things to all men'; what is right for one application may be inappropriate for another. RVA's knowledge of specialist services and abilities within the competent supply chain, and their available capacity, therefore plays a crucial part in assembling the most suitably skilled project team.

RVA will assist with or fully manage the contractor assessment and selection process, to bring together the required combination of expertise.

Management of plant dismantling for relocation and reuse

Many manufacturing sectors are undergoing major changes and in a number of cases, companies are either moving their production abroad or selling plant to third parties.

RVA has now managed several projects which have included the preparation and dismantling of world-scale plant for shipment and re-erection elsewhere. Not only can RVA's consultants deal with the planning and documentation of isolation and decommissioning regimes, we can also provide clients with comprehensive specification clauses for the work, thus minimising commercial exposure and ensuring the desired end result is achieved.

Often this type of undertaking calls for the integrated working of crafts persons with differing native languages or from backgrounds with unaligned cultural approaches to EHS management. RVA has therefore developed a tried and

tested structure for assessing the competence and suitability of the labour force in these circumstances, assisting them in meeting the necessary standards and ensuring that there is a mechanism to enable all involved to understand the safety and technical requirements of the project.

WORKS EXECUTION SERVICES

Utilising decades of industry experience, RVA's specialist engineering consultants ensure the best-value management of project safety, methodology, financials and site personnel.

Project management

This is the area where RVA can add maximum value to clients' projects. The earlier that RVA becomes involved in the process, the greater the level of safety, environmental and indeed financial benefit derived.

RVA acknowledges that every circumstance has to be assessed on its own merits, therefore a 'one size fits all' approach is never adopted. Clients have differing needs so RVA's input is tailored to meet these; ensuring at the same time that safety, operational, commercial and public relations matters are fully considered and controlled. RVA offers a truly substantial and robust project management package and invariably clients' expectations are exceeded.

Understanding that the majority of clients have little or no experience in decommissioning, decontamination, dismantling or demolition, RVA frequently heads up the project team. This is not to say that we do not recognise the importance of those with existing site knowledge, and we actively encourage input and assistance from the client. Indeed, no-one knows a plant better than the operators that have been running it, so their knowledge can prove a significant value-adding asset.

EHS management and safety auditing

Safety is RVA's number one priority, therefore we guide and support clients' teams at all times to ensure operations are undertaken using best-practice procedures and methodology, and strictly in accordance with ever-evolving and increasingly more stringent legislation.

Safety plans are compiled in conjunction with other contractual documentation. The result is a cohesive output, with no conflict or misunderstanding when it comes to risk management and the goal to achieve EHS excellence.

RVA views the management of EHS as a joint responsibility to be shared by all involved in any given project. The establishment of a tripartite alliance between the client, contractor and RVA creates the foundation on which to build a successful safety mindset and behavioural culture.

The installation of learning event reporting, open EHS discussions and hazard workshops are just some of the tools used to ensure that the three project priorities are Safety! Safety! Safety!

Technical auditing

RVA's technical engineering expertise can be used to actively assess and comment on method statements put forward by contractors. Thanks to many years experience in the demolition/ decommissioning arena, it is possible to take a practical and realistic view when auditing proposed work systems and procedures.

We operate as part of a project team with, not in opposition to the contractor. RVA will proactively become involved in the development of best value methodology and, where required, will explore a variety of solutions in order to advance and enhance the project.

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SERVICES

RVA's targeted skill-sets span disciplines including demolition, explosives, chemical, structural and mechanical engineering. As a result RVA is able to deliver safe, commercially secure, environmentally sound and cost effective results, even when the circumstances are extremely challenging.

As the needs of every project vary, so too does RVA's level of input. We can provide both resident or visiting management resource and via our directly employed engineering and EHS team, remain flexible to accommodate changing levels of activity over the project lifecycle.

Project financial control

The control of cost throughout a project is vital.

These controls start at the tendering stage, because a detailed scope of works will enable a contractor, in most cases, to provide a fixed sum for the project.

Using knowledge of where pitfalls could lie, RVA carefully calculates bills of quantities or pricing schedules for completion at tender stage. This information provides the client with contract spend certainty. RVA then structures financial milestones for the client to use as valuation monitoring points. This approach, coupled with bonds or guarantees, ensure contractual integrity and security for the client.

RVA will endeavour to develop bespoke cost-control systems to further protect the client wherever possible. For example, past projects have benefited from the formulation of index-linked de-risking mechanisms, which protect the client and contractor from the volatility of scrap commodity market values. Equally gainshare structures can be introduced to incentivise the whole project team to deliver optimum performance without compromise to quality or EHS standards.

COMPLEMENTARY SERVICES

Dedicated to providing clients with the level of support they require, RVA offers a 'helping hand' via a selection of additional project services.

Baseline decommissioning and near term work plans

With their roots in the nuclear power generation sector, these comprehensive planning tools are becoming increasingly sought after by many world-scale operators. Whilst the precise name of each output varies from client to client, they are essentially sophisticated and dynamic instruments by which future major decommissioning projects can be scheduled, budgeted and prepared for.

Care and maintenance management

Should a client decide to take a plant out of production but for reasons such as corporate strategy or commercial prudence wish to delay the dismantling and clearance process, RVA has developed a service to support clients to achieve their goals in a safe and cost-effective manner.

The experienced RVA team will work with the client's personnel – whilst their valuable and unparalleled knowledge of the plant remains accessible – to develop robust procedures and systems, enabling the next stages of the project to be undertaken efficiently and at the appropriate time.

The care and maintenance team offers a flexible and bespoke approach to every situation to advise on matters such as decommissioning strategies, fit for purpose decontamination regimes with appropriate documentation provision, and liaison with enforcing authorities regarding COMAH declassification and EP surrender.

Contaminated land management

With environmental protection being high on everybody's list of priorities, the eradication of pollution and restoration of land to an acceptable state is most important. There is however a tendency for clients to perceive remedial operations as very complex and sophisticated when in effect, simple and cost-effective solutions are available in many cases.

Using a network of experienced organisations and confronting problems in a practical and workable manner, RVA can produce strategies and manage the execution to the satisfaction of all parties.

COMAH license management

When rationalising or decommissioning high-hazard installations, the requirements of all relevant enforcement agencies must be met. The compilation of adequate and robust records is often a difficult task but the challenge is compounded when client resources are limited or no longer available.

RVA has the competence and experience to plan and manage COMAH-related issues whether they are transferred from top tier to lower tier or total declassification.

Asset retirement obligations (FAS143 compliance)

RVA's asset retirement obligations support service is specifically designed for the oil and gas production sector, and for other organisations who own/operate long-life major assets.

So that organisations can comply with FAS143 and other relevant financial provisioning legislation, RVA has developed an auditable, robust and flexible accounting tool that can be refined to meet individual client needs. Using industry-specific knowledge and expertise, RVA provides soundly-based, updateable and realistic long-term cost estimates, allowing companies to demonstrate that adequate funding has been reserved for the eventual decommissioning of plant and sites.

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SERVICES

Operational asset management and retirement provisioning

RVA has developed a new and value-adding service to support the chemical, petro-chemical, pharmaceutical, power, process and manufacturing sectors. In its basic form, it provides the foundations for a robust financial management tool enabling plant owners to confidently accrue adequate funds for eventual asset 'end of life' decommissioning.

This new bespoke service can be developed into a flexible commercial and engineering instrument that has a wide range of applications:

- *Periodic assessment of plant viability against future liabilities*
- *Evaluation of costs for retro-fitting and improving plant against longer term gains*
- *Clarity of all costs when assessing viability of plant over its life-cycle*
- *Realistic cost awareness for acquisition or divestment of assets*
- *Hard data to support planning and programming of asset retirement*
- *Development of detailed plant specific feasibility and options studies*
- *Identification of threats and opportunities.*

The service can also be adapted to support the feasibility and pre-construction phases of a plant where longer term costs associated with eventual decommissioning of the installation, could have a significant impact on life-cycle profitability.

With a multi-skilled in-house specialist engineering resource, RVA provides unbiased and credible information that may be readily reviewed and updated as circumstances change.

CDM Principal Designer duties

RVA acts in the UK as CDM PD for the vast majority of clients. In our opinion this role is an integral part of the project management structure and extends far beyond that required under Construction Design Management (CDM) Regulations (see also EHS management and safety auditing).

Public and private presentations

Quite often it is necessary to discuss and debate with a number of parties the rationale behind pursuing a particular route for a project. This may be with a management team from your own organisation or external parties.

RVA is familiar and comfortable with presenting well-constructed presentations to public authorities, emergency services, enforcing bodies and the general public.

Recognising that often concerns about projects are borne out of lack of knowledge of the discipline, a well set out and understandable explanation to 'whys' and 'wherefores' can alleviate fears and provide comfort to those directly or indirectly involved.

Third party liaison

Clients specialise and excel in the execution of their core business, however for most an encounter with a decommissioning or demolition project is a one off experience.

RVA is well equipped to steer the client through this course, ensuring that all external parties – including local authorities, enforcing bodies, local residents and surrounding occupiers – are compliantly and fairly considered and any obligations properly met.

The ethos for every single project is to develop tripartite communication between client, contractor and consultant to ensure it is well managed throughout.

FIND OUT MORE



RVA's specialist consulting engineers have worked with asset owners and operators around the world to ensure the safe, secure and best-value outcome of even the most complex industrial and manufacturing, oil and gas, power and energy, pharmaceutical, chemical and petrochemical and local authority and housing projects.

To read about our extensive experience or to familiarise yourself with our prestigious client portfolio, visit www.rvagroup.org.