

Summer 2008

Minister Ryan to Open Inaugural NOW Ireland Conference

Minister Eamon Ryan will be the opening speaker at the first NOW Ireland national conference, taking place in the Westbury Hotel in Dublin on Friday 12th September 2008. The Conference is being jointly organised by NOW Ireland and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Ireland and will bring together the foremost experts in Ireland and Europe to discuss the potential of offshore wind for Ireland.

The line up for the conference includes policy makers and industry experts from around Europe. Confirmed to speak at the event are;

Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for Communications Energy and Natural Resources

Ms. Liv Monica Stubholt, State Secretary (Deputy Minister), Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy

Dr Greg Swinand of Indecon,

Paul Dowling, CEO Airtricity

Eoin O'Driscoll, Chairman of Forfas,

Niels Ladefoged, Policy Officer European Commission

A key theme running throughout the conference will be the economic potential of developing offshore wind energy. The conference will see the first discussion of the Indecon Cost Benefit Analysis on Offshore Wind in Ireland. This report is currently being completed and its presentation will be of critical importance, not only to the offshore sector, but to energy planners and policy makers.

Places are strictly limited for this event. Booking details are available on our website www.nowireland.ie or by calling the Now Ireland office at 042 -9322952

Airtricity Announces World's Largest Offshore Wind farm

Airtricity has recently announced that construction of the 504MW Greater Gabbard offshore wind farm will begin shortly. Once completed this will be the world's largest offshore wind farm. The development of the wind farm to this stage has been carried out by Greater Gabbard Offshore Winds Ltd, a 50:50 joint venture between Airtricity, now SSE's renewable energy development division, and Fluor International Limited.

Airtricity has now entered into a contract with Fluor Limited for the design, supply, installation and commissioning of the balance of the plant. Having secured the construction contract, Fluor International Limited has agreed to sell its 50% stake in Greater Gabbard Offshore Winds Ltd to Airtricity for £40m in cash. Airtricity intends to sell 50% of the project equity

later this year. A turbine reservation agreement with Siemens Wind Power A/S for the supply of 140 3.6 MW turbines was secured in 2007 and both parties have now agreed the turbine supply contract.

Paul Dowling, Chief Executive of Airtricity, said: "Ireland and the UK wants to respond to climate change and become more self-sufficient in energy, so it makes sense to exploit the excellent resource that UK offshore wind represents. On completion, Greater Gabbard will be the largest offshore wind farm in the world and gives Airtricity the opportunity to build a significant share of the UK's offshore wind market and reinforce our position as the country's leading generator of electricity from renewable sources.

NOW Ireland Presentation to Oireachtas Committee

Members of NOW Ireland met with and made a formal presentation to the Oireachtas Committee on Climate Change on May 14th and impressed upon the members, the need for immediate action to facilitate the development of a strong Offshore sector in Ireland. The meeting ran well over schedule and representatives of Olsen, Oriel and Airtricity presented the committee with an up to date analysis of the Irish and international offshore wind energy sector.

For a full review of the NOW Ireland presentation and the questions and answers which followed, just click on the following link <http://debates.oireachtas.ie/DDebate.aspx?F=CLJ20080514.XML&Ex=All&Page=1> a limited version is available on the NOW Ireland website.

Crown Estate Announce Round 3 Application

The announcement by the Crown Estate of the Round 3 process for offshore wind applications in the UK has further served to highlight the gap which exists between the Irish and UK markets. The Crown Estate has launched its round 3 leasing programme for the delivery of up to 25 GW (gigawatts) of new offshore wind farm sites by 2020. The announcement was made at the BWEA (British Wind Energy Association) conference in central London on June 4th.

The Crown Estate will in due course be inviting potential partners to bid for development zones; identified through both spatial planning by The Crown Estate and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) being undertaken by BERR. Successful bidders will have exclusive rights to develop wind farms in specified zones. The Crown Estate is planning to co-invest up to 50 per cent of the cost of obtaining planning consents for wind farm sites, including the funding of enabling works intended to speed up wind farm delivery. This may include action to address generic, zone-wide environmental concerns, consenting bottlenecks, supply chain constraints and options for connecting new wind farms to the national grid.

The selected partners will remain wholly responsible for construction and operation of wind farm sites. The Crown Estate will not take any role in the eventual ownership or operation of offshore wind farms other than to provide leases of the seabed to operators.

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