



Newsletter 3

Summer 09

## EU Commissioner for Energy to address NOW Ireland Conference

### Minister Ryan to open second National Conference

The EU Commissioner for Energy Andris Piebalgs will be the keynote speaker at this years NOW Ireland Conference. The Conference which is titled 'Going Offshore, the Dawn of Ireland's Green Economy' will be held on October 12<sup>th</sup> in the Westin Hotel in Dublin. This will be Commissioner Piebalgs only speech to a national industry body this year.

Minister for Communications Energy and Natural Resources, Eamon Ryan TD will once more open the conference.

The Conference will focus on the opportunity provided by the offshore wind industry to be the driver for Ireland's green economy. Leading energy industry figures from Ireland, the United Kingdom and the European Union will discuss how to unlock the potential of Ireland's offshore wind resource.



Minister Eamon Ryan opens the inaugural NOW Ireland Conference in 2008.

Minister Ryan and Commissioner Piebalgs will be joined at the conference by Scottish and Southern Chief Executive - Ian Marchant, Pdraig McManus, CEO of the ESB, Chairman of Sustainable Energy Ireland - Brendan Halligan and Christian Kjaer, the Chief Executive of the European Wind Energy Association. More speakers will be announced in the coming weeks.

### EU Directive to lead to National Action Plan for Renewables.

NOW Ireland has given a warm welcome to the EU Directive on Renewable Energy and Energy Security. According to the EU Directive, a national action plan must be reported by the Government to the EU Commission by June 2010. In it the Government will outline how the state will achieve its target for renewable energy deployment. The EU target for Ireland's renewable energy use is 16% by 2020. Energy use incorporates, electricity generation, heating and cooling and transport. To achieve this will require 40% of our electricity generation to be renewables based.

The new EU Directive also encourages countries to work together to maximise the use of renewable energy throughout the EU. Countries, such as Ireland, which have significant renewable energy resources, will be given an incentive to export energy into countries which have less resources at their

disposal. This would effectively create a new export sector for our economy based on the utilisation of renewable resources such as offshore and onshore wind energy.

## **NOW draft REFIT position paper for Department of Finance**

Now Ireland has prepared a position paper in conjunction with the Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources. The paper will be presented to the Department of Finance in the coming weeks. The aim of the paper is to demonstrate the importance of a REFIT support mechanism for offshore wind, similar to the price support mechanisms which exist in other EU states.

The Minister for Communications Energy and Natural Resources announced a REFIT price of 14c per MW in February 2008. To date there has been no movement on how that will be implemented and this is now the main focus of NOW Ireland discussions with the Department. We are hopeful following our discussions that the Department will move to clarify this in the near future.

In a related matter, the UK Government has continued to press ahead of Ireland in terms of their commitment to renewable energy with their decision to increase funding for renewables projects as an interim measure to overcome investor slowdown due to the credit crunch. The UK increased the ROC (Renewable Obligation Certificate) funding by a further 50% to ensure that their target of 33 GW of offshore wind by 2020 was not missed.

## **Grid agenda being actively pursued**

With access to grid a key issue for all developers NOW Ireland has been extremely active on this front in recent months. We are representing offshore members on the Gate three consultative group established by CER, with Seamus McCabe of Airtricity and Damien Courtney of Saorgus providing the representation for the sector.

In addition to liaising on existing grid policy, NOW have held a series of meetings with both Eirgrid and CER on their future strategies for offshore grid connection. Eirgrid are currently drawing up an offshore grid study and NOW Ireland have inputted into this. We are looking forward to seeing the output of their deliberations later in the year.

## **Major legislative changes on offshore wind**

Two pieces of legislation have been proposed which are likely to have a substantial effect on the future of the offshore wind industry. The 2009 Planning Act, published in May, will see responsibility for foreshore licensing move from the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries to the Department of Environment.

In addition to this, the Joint Committee on Climate Change and Energy Security have published draft legislation which proposes a significant change to the consenting process for offshore wind farms. It is not clear that this will translate into enacted legislation, however it is likely to provide the impetus for a re-evaluation of the consenting process. NOW Ireland has met on a number of occasions with the Committee and indeed the Department on this matter and are fully behind a change to the consenting process for all projects not currently in the system. The opportunity to learn from the mistakes of the current system will be of considerable benefit to the next generation of offshore developers.

## Grattan Healy appointed to Sustainable Energy Ireland

One of the best known members of the wind community in Ireland Grattan Healy, a Director of Fuinneamh Sceirde Teoranta, has been appointed to the board of Sustainable Energy Ireland. Grattan is well known for his work as an independent energy consultant, in addition to his involvement in both onshore and offshore projects, was a founder member of NOW Ireland.

## NOW Ireland represents Irish offshore sector on new European body

NOW Ireland Committee members Arno Verbeek and Brian Britton are to represent Ireland on the EWEA Offshore Wind Energy Group. The group was recently reconstituted and has already been actively involved in preparing for the EWEA conference in Stockholm in September. The conference will see the launch of a major new study on the Offshore sector in Europe.

## Island Shipping arrange open days



*The Husky, one of the Island Shipping fleet, with the Arklow Bank wind farm in the background*

Tim Greenwood of Island Shipping has extended an invitation to all NOW Ireland members to go on board his vessel 'The Husky (pictured left) ' and take a trip out on the Irish Sea to view at close proximity the Arklow bank wind farm. The Island Shipping open day will take place on Tuesday July 28<sup>th</sup>.

Tim recently had a similar 'open day' on which the passenger list included representatives from the Marine Institute, Oriel Windfarm Limited and Sustainable Energy Ireland. Not only does the journey give an indication of the impressive nature

of the wind turbines in operation, it also shows the work that Island Shipping undertake in support of the wind industry. For further details contact [tim@islandshipping.ie](mailto:tim@islandshipping.ie) and he will arrange to include you on the invitation list for the next open day.

## Sunday Business Post conference

NOW Ireland Secretary Brian Britton presented a paper Capacity Capacity Capacity, Kickstarting the Renewable Energy Sector in Ireland at the recent Sunday Business Post Renewable Energy Summit in Croke Park. The conference received substantial media coverage. Copies of Brian's paper are available on [www.nowireland.ie](http://www.nowireland.ie)

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