



EBOC 2009

The Energy Business Opportunities Conference 2009 was held on 7th and 8th July at Energus, Lillyhall, nr Workington.

Martineau committed five partners to the event, the first all energy conference sponsored by the West Cumbria Business Cluster together with partner organisations such as West Lakes Renaissance, Invest in Cumbria and the West Coast Development Agency.

The event was a clear success being well attended by a range of companies and organisations eager to take advantage of commercial opportunities in the energy market on the West Coast of Cumbria.

Over the two days a number of presentations were made by world class suppliers and energy businesses providing vital information and guidance on national and international contract market opportunities in the exciting nuclear, renewables, and oil and gas fields.

Martineau's clients and contacts will be aware of Cumbria's Economic Strategy 2000 - 2019 which was discussed in detail at the "Cumbria is Open for Business" conference in Birmingham, **please click here to view the press release.**

A presentation entitled "The Regulatory Regime Covering Renewables" was given at the EBOC conference by Rory Tait a

Consultant at Martineau specialising in Energy. Rory's presentation gave the conference delegates an update on important changes in the regulatory regime for Renewable Energy. **Please click here to view a copy of the slides from this presentation.**

A high level speech was delivered to the conference delegates by the Government Minister, Ed Miliband highlighting the national energy priorities. The keynote speech of the conference was given by Jamie Reed, MP for Copeland and one of the key architects of Britain's Energy Coast™. Both speeches gave specific encouragement for the onward

“Jamie Reed - one of the key architects of Britain's Energy Coast “

progression of Britain's Energy Coast™.

A number of presentations were given by high profile speakers covering the following key areas:

- Nuclear Decommissioning Market and Opportunities
- Renewables Market and Opportunities
- Oil/Gas Markets and Opportunities

- New Nuclear Opportunities
- Electricity Transmission and Distribution
- Energy Conservation

A number of the presentations focused on the overall progress of Britain's Energy Coast together with the on-going and emerging opportunities and potential for new nuclear power stations in Cumbria the supply chain business opportunities that will be created. It was noted that three potential new civil nuclear build sites at Sellafield, Braystones and Kirksanton may come forward as part of the Government's build programme.

Highlights

Some of the speeches of particular interest included:-

- John Westwood, Chairman of Douglas Westwood Associates, gave an energy market overview identifying issues and potential opportunities for the future energy market.

Keith Parker, Chief Executive of The Nuclear Industry Association explained the role, activities and assistance given by the NIA to the nuclear industry, including supply chain initiatives and promotion of new nuclear power stations. Mr Parker informed the conference that three local planning authorities in Cumbria had confirmed support for the location of a nuclear deep waste repository. He also emphasised the particular timeline promoted by the Government for the building and operation of new nuclear plants. When questioned from the floor

Maria McCaffrey, Chief Executive of the British Wind Energy Association, provided an update on the current progress of wind farms and tidal schemes within the UK. Currently there are 211 wind farms in the UK consisting of 2,434 turbines, 8 sites being offshore. Queries were raised by the conference in terms of hold ups in the planning system around the country for onshore developments. She referred to increased Government support for onshore developments and a clear commitment to the removal of recurring obstacles in the planning system had

A number of other valuable presentations were made by organisations at breakout sessions during the two days. These included the opportunities in large scale offshore wind projects by Scottish Power Renewables - Round 3 of the Government's allocation of offshore windfarms in the Irish Sea was pending which presents significant opportunities for the supply chain.

The conference also heard from specialist companies in the gas, hydrocarbon and carbon capture/storage industries.

All in all, a successful conference providing added impetus to Britain's Energy Coast™.

Martineau is looking to hold a further "Cumbria is Open for Business" conference in London late Autumn 2009, to allow other companies and organisations to get involved with Cumbria's Economic Strategy and recognise the opportunities in Britain's Energy Coast™.

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“Currently there are 211 wind farms in the UK consisting of 2,434 turbines, 8 sites being offshore”

on potential delays in that timeframe, he confirmed that the NIA was lobbying Government to ensure that the forecasted nuclear National Policy Statement would be brought forward in line with the published timeframe. He agreed that there was some uncertainty as to whether the IPC would survive the introduction of a Conservative Government. However, the Tories have recently indicated some relaxation on its approach to the IPC suggesting that it would not scrap the scheme but seek to introduce further controls. It was clear from the conference that there were some concerns that this may lead to further delays in the process of bringing new nuclear build forward within the Government's published timeframe.

been confirmed. She also indicated that there were moves by various organisations to ensure technical research was carried out to enable standard objections made to wind farm developments by the MOD and Civil Aviation to combat radar objections were removed.

Presentations were also given to the conference by the two main nuclear plant providers, Areva (by Robert Davis the UK Country Director) and Westinghouse (by Mike Tynan, Chief Executive), identifying the prospects in the UK and worldwide for the supply chain and the relevant mechanisms for companies to become involved in supply chain activity.