



Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm Project

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EV013: Innogy skills case study Wales

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First Minister officially opens Wales' first wind turbine apprenticeship programme and dedicated training centre

THE FIRST Minister of Wales, the Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM has officially opened the country's first wind turbine technician apprenticeship programme and dedicated training centre describing it as creating jobs in Wales.

The new programme, launched by RWE npower renewables (RWE NRL) in partnership with Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, has created six new apprenticeships in North and Mid Wales – a clear indicator of the company's and sector's potential to deliver new, skilled jobs in Wales.

On completion of the course, each apprentice is expected to go on to a job on RWE NRL's most important flagship wind farm projects onshore and offshore in Wales, including Gwynt y Môr⁽¹⁾ – currently one of the largest offshore wind farms in construction in Europe.

Speaking at the launch of the programme and the official opening of Grŵp Llandrillo Menai's dedicated training centre at Coleg Llandrillo's Rhos-on-Sea Campus, the Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM said: *"I know that this centre will create jobs and ultimately will benefit greatly not just this part of Wales but the whole of the North of Wales.*

"In March, I announced the Welsh Government's commitment to work with business to bring long term economic benefits to Wales from the investment being made in our low carbon energy sector.

"Wales is clearly open for business and developing new training schemes that support our jobs, growth and skills agenda. We want to continue to be seen as a major innovator for developing and exporting skills and I am confident that with the investment so far, this goal is very much achievable"

RWE npower renewables has been working closely with Grŵp Llandrillo Menai as well as representatives from EU Skills and the National Skills Academy for Power to bring these apprentice opportunities to Wales. RWE NRL is also one of the Welsh Government's anchor companies.

Its six trainees, three from Mid Wales and three from North Wales, will spend two years at Coleg Llandrillo's new wind turbine training centre in Rhos-on-Sea, before gaining first-hand experience on a project in their final year.

RWE npower renewables head of offshore operations, Peter Williams, said: *"We are delighted to be pioneering the first wind turbine technician apprenticeship*

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scheme of its kind in Wales and our first as a company, across Europe.

“We are committed to building a long term skilled workforce to operate and maintain our portfolio of wind farms both onshore and offshore in Wales.

“This represents a significant investment for us to support the development of young talent in Wales and we hope our partnership with Grŵp Llandrillo Menai will see the College becoming a centre of excellence in training for the renewables sector.

“These apprenticeships, and those within our other industry sectors, support so many core principles that underpin the renewables industry in the UK. They're focused on long term, skilled and sustainable jobs within the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths arena. They demonstrate the significant investment the industry is prepared to make in upskilling the local workforce, and illustrate where jobs can and are being created directly through the renewable sector.”

A further four apprentices have been taken on by ISOFab, a mechanical engineering contractor based in Treherbert in the Rhondda, to work on projects run by developer Vattenfall.

They are spending their first year at Neath Port Talbot College in south Wales before coming to the Coleg Llandrillo facility for their second year.

ISOFab's managing director, Richard Morris said: *“We're delighted to be part of this pioneering and exciting initiative. In today's economic climate, businesses need to be constantly looking at new emerging industries and markets. Working on this scheme has enabled us to partner with Vattenfall on their flagship Pen y Cymoedd project which offers a real opportunity for us in the industry. As well as offering a very real opportunity to young people in the area, we hope that our partnership through these apprenticeships will help us better understand the needs of the renewable sector to develop further business opportunities for the future”.*

Glyn Jones, CEO of Grŵp Llandrillo-Menai, said: *“Energy is one of the Grŵp's key sectors for economic activity, with both Coleg Llandrillo and Coleg Menai developing provision in this area.*

“The Marine & Built Environment Centre at Coleg Llandrillo's Rhos-on-Sea Campus already provides state-of-the art facilities for renewable energy and sustainable technologies training in the region, with full-time and part-time courses up to Foundation degree level being delivered to meet the expanding needs of the local economy.

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“Coleg Llandrillo’s recent approval as a ‘National Skills Academy for Environmental Technologies’ confirms its importance in helping to expand the low carbon energy sector within Wales, and supports the Grŵp’s strategic goal of developing its curriculum to reflect local priorities and also the economic aspirations and priorities of Wales. The opening of the Wind Turbine Training Centre marks the next stage in Coleg Llandrillo’s plans to help achieve this.

“I am delighted that partnerships with major organisations in the sector have been forged to enable this apprenticeship programme to be launched, and we look forward to developing successful relationships with other key players in the sector in the future.”

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Media contacts:

<p>Karen Maurice PR, Gwynt y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Limited RWE npower renewables E: Karen.Maurice@rwe.com T: 0755 7758184</p>	<p>Mrs Jane Cater Cyfarwyddwr Cynorthwyol - Marchnata a Chyfathrebu Assistant Director - Marketing & Communications Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, Llandrillo-yn-Rhos/Rhos-on-Sea 01492 542 305/ 07771573153</p>
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Editor’s notes:

(1) Gwynt y Môr represents a total investment of more than EUR2 billion, shared between RWE npower renewables’ parent company RWE Innogy(60%); Stadtwerke München GmbH, Munich’s municipal utilities company (30%); and Siemens(10%).

About RWE npower renewables

RWE npower renewables is the UK subsidiary of RWE Innogy and one of the UK’s leading renewable energy developers and operators. We are committed to developing and operating renewable energy projects to produce sustainable electricity.

We operate 21 hydroelectric power schemes, 25 onshore wind farms and two offshore wind farms, including the UK’s first major offshore wind farm, North Hoyle. RWE npower renewables is currently constructing its first biomass CHP power plant in Scotland, and the 576 megawatt Gwynt y Môr Offshore Wind Farm, off the North Wales coast.

From development, to construction and operation, our 453 staff in area offices across Wales, Scotland and England work in close partnership with local communities and with companies. In 2011, renewable energy sites operated by RWE npower renewables invested nearly £794,000 into

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communities across the UK. The investments made by RWE in the UK are creating substantial new jobs opportunities, developing the supply chain and, very importantly, helping the UK Government achieve the EU target of supplying 30% of electricity from renewables, by 2020.

RWE Innogy pools the renewable energy expertise and generating plant of the RWE Group. RWE Innogy is fully committed to growth in renewable energy across Europe, and has a current pan-European pipeline of 17.3GW. The UK will continue to play a significant role in the delivery of this pipeline.

RWE npower renewables is a sister company to RWE npower, a leading integrated UK energy company with around 6.8 million customer accounts. RWE npower also owns and operates a flexible portfolio of conventional power stations as well as a portfolio of cogeneration plant producing more than 10% of the electricity used in England and Wales.

In Wales, RWE npower renewables operates six hydro-electric power projects, two offshore wind farms, North Hoyle and Rhyl Flats and seven onshore wind farms. The onshore wind farms are located from Neath in South Wales to Anglesey in the north.

We are also currently constructing the €2billion Gwynt y Môr offshore wind farm. This has generated investment of over £80million into North Wales businesses alone. We continue to support the ongoing development of the wider Wales Supply Chain through a number of initiatives, working with Welsh Government and businesses.

RWE npower renewables is also the proud sponsor of the Osprey's rugby team.

Some 90 employees, approximately 20% of RWE npower renewables' UK staff, are based in Wales at our regional offices, from Baglan, in South Wales; Llanidloes, Mid Wales; to Dolgarrog, St Asaph and Port of Mostyn in North Wales.

RWE npower, our sister company, also operate Aberthaw Power Station and two Combined Heat and Power plants at Barry and Bridgend. In all, RWE's combined installed conventional and renewable energy generation in Wales supplies the equivalent of around one-third of Wales' electricity needs.

For further information about RWE npower renewables and RWE Innogy visit www.npower-renewables.com and www.rweinnogy.com For further information about RWE npower visit www.rwenpower.com

About Grŵp Llandrillo Menai

Grŵp Llandrillo Menai was formed on 1st April 2012 as a result of the merger between Coleg Llandrillo Cymru (itself merged with Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor in 2010) and Coleg Menai. The creation of Grŵp Llandrillo-Menai has created an institution with the following characteristics:

- Over 30,000 students studying at 14 campuses
- Almost 2,000 staff
- Turnover of over £70 million
- The largest FE institution in Wales and one of the largest in the UK
- An organisation that serves 4 local authorities: Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire and Gwynedd.

About Vattenfall

Vattenfall is one of Europe's leading energy companies with bases in Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden and the UK with several large projects throughout the UK, including Wales. Vattenfall are building an on-shore wind farm in South Wales and are supporting ISO Fab Ltd to train up staff to service Vattenfall's wind farms.

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About ISO Fab

ISO Fab Ltd is a South Wales company based in the Rhondda, and is an emerging service company for the wind turbine industry.