

Radar Issues?

Try our Impact Assessments

Click Here!

More Info ...

Pager
Power Limited
01787
281528
Email: mike@pagerpower.co.uk



reNews

We Design, Manufacture,
Assemble and Test to
your requirements

Ross Deeptech
Energy Engineering

Tel : 44(0)1569 767 888
www.rossdeeptech.co.uk

RENEWABLE ENERGY NEWS

ISSUE 46

23 APRIL 2004

Second round lease impasse

The DTI is coming under increasing pressure to resolve an impasse between second round offshore wind developers and the Crown Estate that centres on leasing arrangements.

PAGE 2

Mayflower off the rocks

Mizuho International has bought the business and assets of Mayflower Energy for £12 million just three weeks after the administrators moved in at parent Mayflower Corporation.

PAGE 3

Death knell for tidal project

The Department of Trade and Industry has pulled the plug on a controversial UK tidal current technology project that was awarded a support package of £1.6 million in January 2003.

PAGE 4

IWEA aims for high ground

The Irish Wind Energy Association told the Irish Wind Energy Conference in Sligo this week that the country could have as much as 6500MW of renewable energy on-line by 2020.

PAGE 5

Ready to roll off Belgium

C-Power's 60-turbine Thornton Bank wind farm, up to 30km offshore Belgium, has won the last and most important government sanction, the building and operation permit.

PAGE 6

ESB 'holding back Ireland'

A leading critic rounded on what he considered the lack of action by state-owned national grid operator ESB in a keynote speech at the Irish Wind Energy Conference in Sligo this week.

PAGE 7

Cambrian second coming

Newly-formed Scottish company Cambrian Caledonian Limited has picked up the pieces of its troubled predecessor Cambrian Engineering in a deal likely to total around £1.2 million.

PAGE 8

MoD invitation to parley over radar conflicts

The Ministry of Defence has signalled a sea change in its approach to tackling potential conflicts with offshore wind farms, taking proactive steps over recent weeks to begin a constructive dialogue with second round developers.

The initiative, which has been warmly welcomed by the offshore wind industry, follows ministerial level contact between the Department of Trade and Industry and the MoD.

It is understood a



meeting has been scheduled between the MoD and all developers for 30 April but already individual project managers have been sitting down with defence officials to try to resolve issues relating to their particular schemes.

The defence department has also put on the table a radical solution to circumvent its objections to second round schemes in the Wash due to interference with air defence radars.

It is understood to be proposing the possible construction of

an offshore air defence station, presumably sited on the seaward side of the offshore-most proposed farms.

Conceptual studies of such a plan have given rough cost estimates and many think it an attractive and viable solution. What is not clear, or decided, is who will pay for such a facility.

Despite this progress, the MoD has notified developers it currently has objections to more than half of the second round schemes.

In the Wash the number currently opposed is believed to be in the order of seven out of eight projects. The only project here thought to be in the clear is GREP/UU's Humber Gateway scheme.

Even the distant Triton Knoll project, being developed by National Wind Power, has an objection.

The problem in this area is believed mainly to be the Trimmingham radar station to the south and the Staxton facility to the north. There are also possible issues with RAF Coningsby.

The MoD's current guidelines are that there will be potential conflicts with any wind farm within 74km of air

defence radars. It is understood all the Thames Estuary developers have been notified the military has no objections to their schemes.

In the North West, two out of the three projects, Gwynt y Mor and West Duddon, are in the clear but Walney developer DONG has been told the MoD objects to its plans.

However, even when there is an objection, developers are voicing optimism a solution can be found and this is understood to be a reflection of the MoD's more proactive approach to the issue.

"We will need to commence a dialogue with the MoD but we see their contact so far as an invitation to discussions. We are fairly confident we can overcome the objection and it will not be a hindrance to our project," one developer said.

Another, with objections to his Wash site, went further. He said: "I can't think of one second round project that will be stopped by the MoD."

This optimism was not shared by all. "It is certainly still a big risk and everyone is concerned about it," one developer concluded.

Experts in all aspects of wind energy

- Wind farm design
- Energy assessment
- Due Diligence
- Training
- Turbine design
- Software

Garrad Hassan and Partners Ltd
Contact: info@garradhassan.com
Tel: +44 (0)117 972 9900

