

PUBLIC VIEW FOR EUROPEAN OFFSHORE WIND DEPLOYMENT CENTRE

A series of public exhibitions will take place later this month (22-26th November) regarding the proposed European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC). This is an innovative project which is being taken forward by Vattenfall, Technip and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group.

Located offshore in Aberdeen Bay with provision for up to eleven (11) offshore wind turbines, the Centre would enable the accelerated development of offshore wind power by proving the next generation of technology in a real time offshore environment. The exhibitions, taking place at five Aberdeen City and Shire venues between Peterhead and Aberdeen, will highlight environmental and economic considerations and also the planned layout for the Centre - giving the public a chance to air their views.

David Hodkinson, Director and Head of Development, of Vattenfall Wind Power in the UK said: "The UK is a major growth market for offshore wind power and is expected to attract considerable inward investment from international manufacturers of wind turbines and other wind farm components who intend to set up factories and create jobs in the UK. Several of these manufacturers are looking for demonstration facilities as a critical part of their product development process and the EOWDC presents an opportunity for Aberdeen and Scotland to take a leading role in satisfying this demand."

Ron Cookson, Managing Director of Technip UK, said: "The EOWDC is our first Renewable energy project in the UK and presents a new and exciting opportunity for us. We are very pleased to be participating in these events and look forward to engaging with the public and hearing their views."

Morag McCorkindale, Chief Operating Officer at AREG, said: "These events will ensure that the public are fully informed about the proposed development and have an opportunity to ask any questions they may have and provide feedback."

Originally conceived by AREG and AMEC (now Vattenfall Wind Power) the EOWDC could help to stimulate research and development and reduce risks and costs. It is also hoped that the facility would create jobs and economic benefit by attracting scientists, researchers, engineers, offshore wind supply chain companies and future investment in a fast growing sector.

The Crown Estate awarded the EOWDC an exclusivity agreement as an offshore wind demonstration site in August 2010. The project has been ear-marked for a grant of up to 40m Euros from the European Commission. An application for consent to construct the project will be submitted to Marine Scotland in early 2011.

The Exhibitions will be held:

- Monday 22nd November at Peterhead Palace Hotel (2-8pm).
- Tuesday 23rd November at Newburgh Udhny Arms (2-8pm).
- Wednesday 24th November at Ellon Kirk Centre (1-7pm).
- Thursday 25th November at Aberdeen Beach Ballroom, Northern Lights (2-8pm).
- Friday 26th November at Balmedie White Horse Inn (2-8pm).

Ends