



Newsletter – December 2020

Welcome to the latest Morlais newsletter – bringing you updates and the latest news about the project.

Morlais is Menter Môn's tidal stream energy project which aims to benefit local communities, the economy and environment.

If you would like to contact the team please email us on info@morlaisenergy.com.

Public Inquiry

Over recent weeks we have been taking part in the Public Inquiry as part of the Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) process and the application made by Menter Môn to develop Morlais. During the inquiry, the Planning Inspector considers our evidence and representations as well as those from other interested parties and individuals. Due to ongoing restrictions over Covid19 the inquiry is being conducted entirely on-line – the first time that this has ever happened. We were pleased to hear contributions from our potential developers as well as other key partners. The inquiry will formally end in February and a decision is expected by Welsh Ministers during the summer of 2021. For further information on this process click [here](#).

Morlais set to be one of first projects to gain from North Wales Growth Deal

The North Wales Growth Deal has taken a significant step forward this week as partners formally approve the five programmes that make up the £240 million Deal.

Morlais could be among those first projects to benefit. This is good news and a potential significant boost to efforts to secure funding to make the project a reality. Subject to our business case, Morlais could receive £9m from the Deal which will be a match to unlock a further £26m from the Wales European Funding Office (WEFO). We will update you on this when there is further news to report. To read our statement in full please visit our [website](#).

Local support for Morlais

Local businesses and young people have been pledging their support for Morlais over recent months in a short video created by Menter Môn. Jobs and training opportunities were top of the list of potential benefits for young people who see the project as a chance to for them to live and work locally. For businesses, supply chain opportunities were clearly an important factor, whilst most of the contributors felt

that climate change was a key factor and why developments like Morlais were so important. To see the three-minute video click [here](#).

Myth buster

As part of our on-going communications with communities and stakeholders locally we have developed a 'Myth Buster' which helps explain in simple terms some aspects of the project which are sometimes misunderstood. Click on the link to read the [Myth Buster](#) or we'd be happy to email you a copy – please email us on infor@morlaisenergy.com.

Business Directory

Do you have a business in north Wales that could be a Morlais supplier?

In the last newsletter we reported that we are developing a directory of all services that could be part of the supply chain throughout the project. The directory will be shared with developers so that they are aware of the breadth of services available locally. We are still gathering business details so please get in touch if you would like to be included, you can email info@morlaisenergy.com.

Opportunities are wide ranging and cover a large number of areas e.g. electronics and logistics; engineering services; marine services; accommodation and catering; media and public relations; health and safety; and transport and much more.

Several meet the buyer events have already taken place including one with Orbital Marine in August and another with developer Verdant in September. By joining our mailing list, we will let you know about similar upcoming events.

Hydrogen Hub

Morlais isn't the only large-scale project that Menter Môn has been involved in over recent months. Last month Welsh Government announced funding for a potential hydrogen hub development for Holyhead. This is a project which is run in partnership with the Isle of Anglesey County Council and proposals could see the production of hydrogen at Holyhead as well as a fuelling distribution centre. It is a first for Wales and has potential to link into the renewables sector on Anglesey including Morlais – we look forward to hearing more about the project as plans develop.

The Welsh language and Morlais

Morlais is keen to ensure that the project plays its part in safeguarding the Welsh language, and work is currently underway to gather baseline data so that the project's impact on the language can be measured. A strategy will also be created to ensure that any impact is positive with contractual targets set for developers to employ and spend locally, and to adopt the Welsh language in public relations and their communications.

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Gerallt Llewelyn Jones, one of the project directors gave a presentation to the Ynys Môn Language Forum recently. He had the opportunity to explain to partners and forum members more about Morlais and what the project means as well as to talk about the work being done around gathering data on language use.

Selkie webinars

Morlais' sister project, Selkie, has been hosting a series of free webinars on different aspects of the Marine energy sector. Since the last newsletter two more have been held – one in October on 'Operations and Maintenance in Marine Energy' and another in November on 'Foundations and Mooring Systems for the Tidal Stream and Wave Energy Sectors'.

A fourth webinar is planned for the 19th of January. It will focus on 'Skills for the Marine Energy Sector in Wales and Ireland' and will have speakers from the industry, supply chain and education institutions giving their perspective on skills gaps in the industry and how we can fill these gaps and upskill local companies.

A series of business networking sessions for Selkie members will also start in January. They will be small focused groups of developers and supply chain companies and will allow businesses to showcase the services and build new contacts in the industry.

For further information or to join the Selkie mailing list please contact sophie@mentermon.com.

We'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy 2021.

Who we are? Menter Môn is a social enterprise with a focus on ensuring social, economic and environmental benefit to local communities

What we are doing? Developing the necessary infrastructure to enable tidal stream technology to be deployed in order to generate electricity

Where are we doing it? The development area is off the west coast of Holyhead in an area designated by Crown Estate for the development of tidal stream energy

Why we are doing it? We believe tidal energy has an important role to play as a zero-carbon energy source to meet future electricity needs