



Newsletter – March 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.

We are facing challenging and uncertain times in all aspects of our lives – and everyone has a responsibility to do all we can to help reduce pressure on our health and care services. Morlais is no different – the team is now working from home, and some of us have diverted our efforts to helping our Menter Môn colleagues in their work to support Anglesey's food banks who are struggling for supplies during the current coronavirus crisis.

Just a few weeks ago climate concerns were top of the agenda and governments were making commitments to change the way energy is used. None of the issues we faced then have changed but the level of attention being given to decarbonisation has fallen dramatically. After the pandemic ends our demand for energy will return, and we will still need to increase our use of renewables. Looking ahead, Morlais will have a key role to play in meeting future energy needs as well as tackling climate change.

If you would like to know more about Morlais please contact the team on info@morlaisenergy.com or 01248 725 713.

Who we are? Menter Môn is a social enterprise with a focus on ensuring 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

A Sea of Opportunities – supply chain event

Morlais jointly hosted the 'Sea of Opportunities' supply chain event in March with sister project 'Selkie'. The aim was to introduce potential suppliers and contractors to the project and highlight the support that's available to companies who want to make the most of the opportunities that Morlais and other marine energy projects can potentially provide. Take up for the event was



fantastic and it was good to see M-SParc full with representatives from businesses from across north Wales as well as sector experts and developers from the UK and overseas.

One of the speakers was Gareth Williams from Anglesey-based FAUN Trackway who has already worked with Morlais. He said: "We've been contracted through Orbital to produce sub-sea anchors for their tidal stream devices. They are one of the developers who have committed to the Morlais project – so it's great to get involved at this early stage. It's good for our business – as well as putting us in a strong position for future development as a business."

All major opportunities with Morlais will be published on morlaisenergy.com and potential suppliers are encouraged to sign up to receive updates.

International tidal technology developers sign agreement with Morlais

Three turbine developers have signed-up as partners in the project over recent weeks. The agreements come following months of discussions with French firms Sabella and HydroQuest as well as Spanish developer Magallanes. All three companies aim to deploy their devices on a commercial scale at the zone.

Sabella is a tidal technology designer and developer based in Brittany, northern France. Its D10-1000 turbine was the first device of its kind to be connected to the French grid. With its technology successfully demonstrated during sea trials in 2015 Sabella is currently targeting marine applications for remote grids with its range of modular products, this includes Morlais.

HydroQuest, also based in France has been developing hydro technology since 2001. The Grenoble-based firm develops turbine technology for rivers and the sea and aims to deploy its flagship 1MW tidal turbine OceanQuest in the Morlais zone. HydroQuest have successfully deployed their devices in rivers in locations across France including on the Rhône.

Magallanes Renovables launched in 2009, in Galicia, Spain and has developed a technology capable of harnessing energy from tidal currents with a low cost easily maintained device. Following the successful tests of its first commercial scale tidal platform at the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) in the Orkney Islands, Magallanes is now aiming for larger scale deployment at Morlais.

The new agreements show that there is real confidence in Morlais and the team is delighted to be working with Sabella, HydroQuest and Magallanes. They are well-respected developers and will bring with them significant expertise when we move to the second phase of Morlais subject to securing relevant consent.

Consenting Process – update

We have been advised by Planning Inspectorate Wales that there is no change to the consenting process due to the coronavirus pandemic. Morlais submitted additional information as requested by Welsh Government on the 27th of March. The same information has been sent to relevant stakeholders who have registered their representations or objections. This has affected expected decision dates – we now



expect a public inquiry to take place in the autumn and a final decision during the summer of 2021.

Events

Although all the events we were going to be part of have understandably been cancelled or postponed the team has taken part in several careers fairs recently to highlight potential of the Marine Energy Sector. They include:

- Bangor University School of Ocean Sciences Careers Fair
- Careers Wales Fair