



Newsletter – August 2021

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

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

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

Consenting process

The Planning Inspectorate has now transferred Morlais related documentation to Welsh Ministers for the final stage of the consenting process under the Transport and Works Act. A decision is expected in the autumn. Subject to receiving relevant consents the hope is that work on land can start before the end of the year. The Marine License is a separate process and is with Natural Resources Wales - both processes are running in parallel with each other. The work at sea is not expected to start until 2022.

Support for Morlais from Growth Deal

The outline business case for Morlais has been approved by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board for Growth Deal funding. Morlais is the first project to reach this mile stone.

The decision means that the project will now move to the next phase, to draw up a full business case. If approved, the Board will invest up to £9 million of Growth Deal funding towards the infrastructure that connects the Morlais zone with the electricity network.

Morlais is one of five projects within the Growth Deal's Low Carbon Energy Programme which aims to position north Wales at the forefront of the low carbon energy sector and the drive towards net zero by 2050.

UK Government Minister visits Morlais project

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Wales, David TC Davies met with the Morlais team recently as part of a wider visit to learn about North Wales Growth Deal projects. This was his first ministerial visit since the easing of Covid restrictions.

Talking about his visit Mr Davies said: "2021 is going to be a significant year as we look to build back better and stronger from the Covid-19 pandemic. It is crucial that we continue to build our momentum across the entire City and Growth Deal Programme, creating and sustaining new jobs and revitalising local economies."



Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Wales, David TC Davies

Tidal energy creating a platform to develop skills and supply chain

Two new forums have been launched recently to promote the skills and supply chain opportunities from Morlais.

Ever since Morlais was set up, Meter Môn has been keen to put local skills, jobs and supply chain at the heart of the development. The new groups will ensure that this happens from the beginning to make the most of the opportunities and to reinforce the commitment to ensure the scheme benefits the local community.

By bringing together experts from across training and economic development sector, the aim is to highlight the job and business opportunities from the project as well as look at the skills required. It will also give members a chance to look at potential gaps in local skills and supply and to work with schools as well as further and higher education and local companies to plug those gaps.

Reaching out to future workforce

Morlais had the opportunity to take part in another virtual session with Careers Wales. At the event Project Officer, Gwenan Owen spoke to parents and students about the potential career opportunities which Morlais would bring as well as the training needed locally.

Gwenan has also taken part in a session for secondary school pupils in partnership with STEM Gogledd as part of M-SParc's Clwb Sbarci. The Club promotes STEM subjects to local school children and young people and highlights the opportunities within the low carbon sector.



Briefing politicians and representatives

Following the recent appointment of shadow ministers by the opposition parties at the Senedd, John Idris Jones, director of Morlais, met with relevant climate change spokespersons. He met with Janet Finch Saunders MP on behalf of the Conservatives and Delyth Jewell MP on behalf of Plaid Cymru. Both meetings were positive, with clear support for Morlais' commitment to carbon reduction through the generation of clean electricity using renewable energy.



Selkie Update

As part of its business support programme, the Selkie Project recently launched a series of 'Meet the Expert' events to provide knowledge transfer and support for marine energy businesses and supply chain companies.

With fortnightly sessions held, a range of industry topics have already been covered including tendering, insurance, health and safety, as well as certification and accreditation. Over 150 attendees have registered for the first 7 sessions since May, and it has been a way for businesses to learn from each another as well as network and develop future contacts.

The events will continue over the next few months, with further sessions scheduled on testing and validation, manufacturing and fabrication of the marine environment, and attracting investment. To find out more and book your place at a session, please visit the Selkie website [here](#).

The Selkie Project also recently held its first Business Network Showcase as part of the 2021 AGM. This event was an opportunity for companies in the Selkie Network to showcase their services and projects as well as connect with other businesses involved in the marine energy industry across Wales and Ireland. The project will continue to host networking and business support opportunities for companies involved throughout the project, if you are interested in finding out more please visit www.selkie-project.eu/the-selkie-network/.

For further information about Morlais please do not hesitate to contact us on email info@morlaisenergy.com or visit our website www.morlaisenergy.com.

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 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 want to ensure the project benefits the local community by bringing economic opportunities to the area as well as tackling climate change

