



## **Newsletter – December 2021**

***Welcome to the 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 the climate.*

If you would like to contact the team, please email us on [info@morlaisenergy.com](mailto:info@morlaisenergy.com).

### **Green light for Morlais - major step forward**

Welsh Government has given its consent to develop Morlais. This means construction can now begin on land in preparation for work offshore. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has also confirmed it will issue the scheme a marine licence. Visit our [website](#) for the full story.

Gerallt Llewelyn Jones, one of our directors, said: “We are delighted to have secured consent from Welsh Government to deliver Morlais and to have had confirmation from NRW that they will issue a Marine Licence. The decision comes after many years of hard work and consultation. We’re now looking forward to moving to the next phase and to ensuring it can become a reality.”

Following approval by Welsh Government and NRW, construction and operation will happen in phases to enable monitoring of impact on wildlife and habitat. Work on land is expected to begin early next year, with work offshore to start in 2023.

Morlais would like to thank the Wales European Funding Office (WEFO), The Isle of Anglesey County Council, the North Wales Growth Deal, as well as The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority for their continuing support for the project.

### **Initial site exploration**

Contractors have been working alongside Menter Môn over recent weeks on initial site exploration work which includes geotechnical investigations along South Stack and Porth Dafarch roads and near Parc Cybi.

There will be some traffic management linked to the work which is expected to last around three weeks. This activity is a key part of the pre-construction phase - local residents and elected representatives have been informed.

## **Community Liaison Group and ‘meet the contractor’ event**

The aim is to hold the first meeting of the Morlais Community Liaison Group early next year. Its purpose is to update community and business groups as well as representatives of local stakeholders of any progress on Morlais.

We aim to appointment the main contractor early in the new year. Following this we will be arranging a ‘meet the contractor’ event which will give local residents the opportunity to talk directly to the company appointed to undertake construction of the on-land infrastructure. Keep an eye out for further information.

## **Traffic Management**

During the construction of the project there will inevitably be some disruption to local traffic. We will always aim to keep this to a minimum and work will be agreed in advance with the Isle of Anglesey County Council. We will give local residents and businesses as much notice as possible and our website will be updated regularly with details of any work which will take place on the roads including closures and any traffic management in place.

## **Contract For Difference**

A ringfenced pot of £20 million per annum has been allocated for tidal stream energy in the fourth allocation round of the Contract for Difference (CfD) auction. This means that whilst tidal stream developers are still in competition with each other during the auction, they now don't have to compete with floating offshore wind or other renewables. This was a significant positive step forward for the industry and has been welcomed by Morlais.

The Contracts for Difference (CfD) scheme is the [UK Government's](#) main mechanism for supporting low-carbon electricity generation. CfDs incentivise investment in renewable energy by providing developers of projects which have high upfront costs and long lifetimes, with direct protection from volatile wholesale prices. They protect consumers from paying increased support costs when electricity prices are high.

## **‘COP 26 Bach’**

To coincide with the global summit on climate change in Glasgow last month, Menter Môn held its own event for local primary schools. The summit for schools aimed to raise awareness about climate change amongst pupils and the need to take action. This was the first time that Cop Bach Môn had been held. It gave year five and six pupils an opportunity to feel part of what went on at the UN Climate Change Summit.

## **Holyhead Hydrogen Hub**

A public information event was held in Holyhead to share information with local residents and businesses on the proposed new Hub for Parc Cybi near the town. The Hub, also a Menter Môn project will see hydrogen being produced at the site and distributed as green no-emission fuel. If the scheme gets the go-ahead it will be the first of its kind in Wales. Subject to planning permission work is expected to start on site in 2022 with the Hub operational from 2023. For more information visit [Menter Môn - Hydrogen Hub \(mentermon.com\)](https://mentermon.com).

**We'd like to to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**