



## **Newsletter – April 2022**

***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).

### **Significant milestone for Morlais as funding confirmed**

The Wales European Funding Office has confirmed its £31 million funding for Morlais through Welsh Government. This is likely to be the last large grant from the EU's regional funding programme.

Climate Change Minister Julie James confirmed the funding while speaking at this year's Marine Energy Wales Conference in Llandudno in March. On making the announcement the Minister confirmed that the Government wants to establish Wales centre stage for tidal stream technology developers and acknowledged the role Morlais can play in helping to achieve this.

This announcement comes on the heels of consent granted to Morlais from Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales towards the end of 2021. It also means that the work can now begin to develop the project and make Morlais a reality. More [here](#).

### **North Wales company appointed main onshore contractor**

Jones Bros Civil Engineering has secured the main contract worth £23.5 million to build onshore infrastructure for Morlais.

With its headquarters in Ruthin, the north Wales business will be responsible for the construction of the landfall substation on Holy Island, as well as cabling which will connect the scheme to the National Grid.

Jones Bros is one of the UK's leading civil engineering contractors. The company was established in the 1950s, owns one of the largest plant fleets in the UK and employs approximately 500 people. The company runs an apprenticeship scheme which has produced nearly 50 per cent of its current work force.

Stockton Drilling Ltd has been appointed to undertake specialist directional drilling on the project and will be working alongside Jones Bros at this early stage in the construction.

## **Construction update**

With contracts awarded work on site is now underway. After initial exploration activities work will now focus around Holyhead Hotspur and Holyhead Leisure Centre. Jones Bros have set up a compound on the site and have begun trenching work. Stockton Drilling have completed their trial drill and will not be working at South Stack now until August due to nesting season. Work throughout has been planned to consider local wildlife as well as main tourism season.

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. For updates on construction and traffic management please visit the project update pages on the Morlais website [www.morlaisenergy.com](http://www.morlaisenergy.com).

## **Jones Bros Local Liaison Officer**

As part of their work with Morlais, Jones Bros have appointed Bryn Williams as the local liaison officer for the project. Bryn will be the community point of contact for any matters arising from this phase of construction work. He has worked with Jones Bros for many years, most recently worked on the new Caernarfon bypass. To contact Bryn please email [bryn@jones-bros.com](mailto:bryn@jones-bros.com).

## **Marine Energy Wales**

The Morlais team recently attended the Marine Energy Wales (MEW) [conference](#) in Llandudno. This was the first in person event MEW had held since before the pandemic and was hailed as the largest marine energy event in the UK for 2022. It brought together diverse stakeholders from across the industry and was an opportunity for delegates to learn about the latest from the sector. Morlais Director, Karen Jones and Andy Billcliff took part in one of the panel sessions at the conference.

With the announcement of funding and contractor at the conference - Morlais was the main talking point during the first day. Karen Jones and Gerallt Llewelyn Jones, both project directors were kept busy throughout the day with media interviews - visit the Menter Môn [Facebook](#) page to view some of the coverage.

## **Community Liaison Group**

With funding now in place and early stage of construction underway the first meeting of the Morlais Community Liaison Group will be held early in May. The group's purpose is to update community and business groups as well as representatives of local stakeholders of progress on Morlais. Members of the group have already been invited to the first meeting - minutes will be shared on the Morlais website as soon as possible after the meeting.