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Newsletter – July 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.

First Morlais apprentices come on stream

Three months into construction and Morlais is already welcoming new apprentices on site as work on the tidal energy development gets underway.

With the eight recruits from north Wales, Menter Môn is determined to deliver on its original pledge to keep the benefits of Morlais local. Having recently been granted consent from Welsh Government, work has already begun on land in partnership with civil engineering company Jones Bros.

The news that Morlais is already delivering local jobs and providing opportunities for young people has been welcomed and is one of the reasons Menter Môn was keen to take on the project. With these skills in high demand, the apprenticeship will help train and develop local talent and put these youngsters on the right track to developing their future careers in construction and engineering.

As well as taking on local apprentices a high proportion of all those working on the first phase of the on-shore infrastructure is from north Wales. Jones Brothers 'heat map' shows where the workforce is based with 78% from Gwynedd and Anglesey and the majority of the remaining workforce from the other counties across the region.

Community Liaison Group

The first Community Liaison Group meeting was held in May at the Ucheldre Centre, Holyhead. The meeting was chaired by Clive McGregor and was well attended by the local groups and invited representatives. Amongst the topics covered were future jobs and supply chain opportunities. The group's purpose is to update the local community and businesses as well as representatives of local stakeholders on the progress of Morlais. The next meeting is expected to be held late summer early autumn.

Cadarn Consulting Engineers

Another local company has been appointed as a partner in the construction process for Morlais. Cadarn is a Llangefni based company which was set up by Ifan Rowlands and Caryl Rowlands in 2013. They are an independent engineering consultancy and are working with Jones Bros and Morlais providing structural and infrastructure expertise during this early part of the development. Cadarn Consulting are the site supervisor which means they oversee construction, maintain relationships with stakeholders and report on any health and safety matters.

Construction update

Construction work is progressing well with trenching work between Holyhead and South Stack Road well underway. At the time of writing the Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) work was ahead of schedule.

We are aware that some traffic disruption is ongoing - we will do all we can to keep this to a minimum, with all work 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 website www.morlaisenergy.com.

Jones Bros has appointed Bryn Williams as a Community Liaison Officer - he is on hand to answer local queries and questions about the work. He can be contacted on bryn@jones-bros.com.

School visits

Morlais colleagues, Hannah Thomas and Sammy Jacques visited Ysgol Parc y Bont, Llanddaniel Fab recently to talk to pupils about renewable energy. The pupils are looking at climate change as part of a science project at the end of their school year and were keen to hear more about tidal stream energy and how Morlais will produce electricity. Hannah and Sammy took a model of a turbine with them to demonstrate how a turbine works in the water and to help the pupils get a better understanding of tidal energy.

Site visits

Morlais has welcomed elected representatives over recent months, with Rhun ap Iorwerth MS and Virginia Crosbie MP coming on site visits to Holyhead and to see the cable route. BEIS Minister, Greg Hands joined Virginia Crosbie on her visit. Deputy Minister for Climate change, Lee Waters MS also visited Ynys Môn and was able to meet the Morlais team for an update on progress.

Nova and Sabella join forces to complete local surveys

Following the announcement that Nova and SABELLA have secured berths totalling 12MW at Morlais, the companies came together to carry out an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) survey to assess the potential tidal resource at the site. As every tidal site is unique the survey and environmental monitoring was carried out using local expertise and knowledge as well as Anglesey-based boat contractors.

Menter Môn's Renewable Energy team is growing

Once again in this newsletter we are pleased to announce that the Menter Môn energy team is expanding.

Guto-Wyn Hughes joins the team as Office Manager. He will be responsible for overseeing day to day running of the Menter Môn Energy Office and the flow of information between funders, as well as other key stakeholders.

Clare Llywelyn and Helen Roberts join the team to work on Menter Môn's new ERDF funded Marine Characterisation Research Project (MCRP). This project will develop and evidence the availability of monitoring and mitigation technology to support the deployment of turbines in Welsh waters. The data collected by the project will be made available to marine projects in Wales to support them with their consenting processes.

Ian Newton joins the team as Project Officer for Selkie. Selkie is a cross-border marine energy project which brings together leading researchers and businesses to improve the performance of wave and tidal energy technologies in Ireland and Wales. The Selkie Project received funding from the European Union's European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Ireland Wales Cooperation programme.

Menter Môn is also currently in the process of recruiting a project manager to support the development of its other renewable projects including the Holyhead Hydrogen Hub.