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Newsletter – Spring 2023

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.

Work update

We're pleased to share that work on the roads surrounding the Morlais sites at both South Stack Road and Parc Cybi is now complete. Traffic lights and traffic management systems have been removed and all diversions cleared in time for this year's peak holiday season. We'd like to thank residents and businesses for their cooperation throughout and for working with us over the last 12 months and more.

Work will now continue on site at the landfall substation off South Stack Road and is expected to be complete by autumn. Visit the [gallery](#) on our website to see artist impressions of how the substation will look when it is finished.

Marine Energy Wales Conference 2023

We were able to take our story to a national audience in March, when we attended the annual Marine Energy Wales (MEW) conference at Swansea Arena. Morlais had a stand at the event again this year, representing Menter Môn, and putting north Wales on the map.

The two-day event was a great opportunity to extend our networks and make new contacts. We were pleased to welcome Mark Drakeford, the First Minister of Wales and Julie James, Climate Change Minister to the stand and to give them an update on the project.

John Jenkins, Morlais Commercial Director took part in a panel discussion with other sector representatives and our [LinkedIn](#) platform was launched to at the event – follow the link to get the latest updates and news from the project.



Morlais continues to deliver local jobs and apprenticeships

Our contractor, Jones Bros, has reinforced its commitment to provide local opportunities by recently welcoming a new intake of 10 higher apprentices to work on different projects, including Morlais.

One of the latest recruits is 19-year-old Twm Tudor, from Bryngwran, Anglesey. Twm lives down the road from the scheme and is a fluent Welsh speaker, he told us: "I can't wait to be a part of the team on Morlais, it's an exciting opportunity and one that I look forward to. Being able to work in the civil engineering industry in my local area is something I've always wanted to do. I really enjoy being on site and am keen to learn on the job."

Creating jobs and benefiting the community is extremely important to us, so it's great to hear that the next generation coming to work on Morlais are local.

Currently there are about 85 people working on Morlais this includes with our contractor, Jones Brothers; subcontractors; and Menter Môn - 80% of those are Welsh speakers.



Community Liaison Group

Meetings of the Community Liaison Group (CLG) have been held at the Ucheldre Centre, Holyhead in December and March. Thank you to all the representatives who attended and for their continued interest.

Since the last meeting we have shared a questionnaire with members to ask them what format they would prefer for these meetings in future. The view was that we keep to the quarterly sessions, but respondents were split 50/50 as to whether they prefer face to face or online. As a result, we will alternate between in person and online meetings. Members will be updated before the next CLG which is due to take place in June.



Site visits

Since our last newsletter we have had several site visits from stakeholders and partners.

Wales European Funding Office (WEFO) – In February we welcomed representatives from WEFO to Anglesey to see progress on the project. They are our main funders; it was a good opportunity for us to update them on recent developments and to show how the infrastructure on land is taking shape.

Janet Finch Saunders/ Virginia Crosbie – The MS for Aberconwy and MP for Ynys Môn paid a visit to the construction site to see work currently underway. The visit was an opportunity for both politicians to learn more about the project and its potential to generate clean renewable energy. They were given a tour of the construction site and saw first-hand the progress so far.

Crown Estate - a delegation from the Crown Estate came on site this month. The Crown Estate is responsible for the designation of Morlais as a tidal energy demonstration zone and as owners of the seabed they were keen to get a better understanding of the project timeline and the role Morlais can play in the development of the marine energy sector.



Schools and careers outreach

Our programme of school visits continues. This is an important part of our work and mission to raise awareness around green energy and how we can make a difference to climate change. Since our last newsletter we have visited Ysgol Santes Fair (Holyhead); Ysgol y Tywyn (Llanfihangel yn Nhywyn); Ysgol Pencarnisiog; Ysgol Goronwy Owen (Benllech); Ysgol y Graig (Llangefni); Ysgol Moelfe; Ysgol Carreglefn; Ysgol Penysarn; Ysgol Llanfechell; Ysgol y Fali; Ysgol Llannerchymedd.

We also attended several careers fairs, including at Ysgol Friars, Bangor; Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni; Ysgol David Hughes, Porthaethwy; School of Ocean Sciences, Bangor University; Green Careers at M-Sparc in Gaerwen.



Welcome to new team members

Osian Roberts joined us recently as Commercial Lead. He joins us from Minesto and brings with him many years of experience from the marine energy sector. We'd like to welcome him aboard and are delighted he is now part of the team.



A thank you message from Holyhead Hotspur

With cabling work coming to an end near Parc Cybi and as Jones Bros clear the compound near Holyhead Hotspur Football Club, the team received a message of thanks from club representative Davey Hughes. He said: "I would like to thank you and your whole team for the way the process at the Oval has been carried out, nothing has been too much trouble for you and the lads carrying out the work around our area have been fantastic. Thanks also for installing the new goals on our Junior Pitch, they are well used so far."

Being a good neighbour and working with our communities is important to us at Morlais – messages like this mean a lot and prove that we are doing our best to live up to this aim.

Selkie – Marine Renewable Supply Chain event

Selkie is a Wales Ireland, cross-border marine energy project which brings together researchers and businesses to improve the performance of wave and tidal energy devices and technologies in both countries. As part of its remit Selkie held an event at M-Sparc on the 28th of February which included speakers from across the sector as well as Welsh Government and Business Wales. Menter Mon MD, Dafydd Gruffydd opened the event and Morlais Director, Gerallt Llewelyn Jones updated delegates about Morlais and outlined the supply chain opportunities which are likely to come from the project.



If you would like to know more about the project of contact the team on info@morlaisenergy.com.

The latest news and work updates are also available on www.morlaisenergy.com