



Custom House
Main Street
Bowmore
Isle of Islay
PA43 7JJ
01496 810 873

philip.maxwell@islayenergytrust.org.uk

14th April 2010

Alex Reid
Marine Scotland
Pentland House
47 Robb's Loan
Edinburgh
EH14 1TY

Further Leasing Round (Saltire Prize Projects)

The Islay Energy Trust welcomes the opportunity to comment on the areas proposed for a further round of leasing for marine renewable developments. Detailed comments are attached to this letter.

We strongly believe that early and continued engagement between Government, Crown Estate, developers and local communities is an imperative for the success of marine projects as it provides developers with high quality local experience whilst enabling the community to maximise the potential benefits.

The Islay Energy Trust strongly supports the inclusion of the areas to the west and south of Islay and to the west of Colonsay in the next round of leasing for tidal and wave energy development. With a rapidly growing experience of marine projects and strong community support, Islay has both the natural energy resource and the capability to become a major centre for marine renewables in Scotland.

If you require any further information about our comments then do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Maxwell
Chair, Islay Energy Trust



Custom House
Main Street
Bowmore
Isle of Islay
PA43 7JJ
01496 810 873

philip.maxwell@islayenergytrust.org.uk

Background

The Islay Energy Trust (IET) is a community organisation that aims to promote and develop renewable energy projects for the benefit of the Islay, Jura and Colonsay communities. IET is currently working with ScottishPower Renewables on the Sound of Islay tidal energy project. This 10MW project is an important step that will demonstrate the installation and operation of a ten device tidal array prior to large scale deployment in areas such as the Pentland Firth.

IET is also working with partners in the Argyll Renewables Consortium (ARC) to engage with the planned offshore wind projects around Argyll.

Experience

Islay has an established track record in renewable energy projects. From the world-leading LIMPET wave power station at Portnahaven to the proposed 10MW Sound of Islay tidal project, Islay has demonstrated the ability to facilitate and support major projects.

It is likely that Islay will see a significant increase in marine skills and experience with the proposed Sound of Islay tidal project planned for installation in 2013 and the offshore wind farms from 2014 onwards. A further leasing round for tidal development around Islay would capitalise on these skills and greatly increase the likelihood that they would be successful.

IET would like to build on its achievements with new wave and tidal projects. Inclusion of the areas around Islay and Colonsay in the next leasing round would enable this to happen.

Resource

The areas to the west and south of Islay have been identified by the Saltire Prize Leasing Round Scoping Study as having a very significant tidal resource. They have also been shown to be relatively free of environmental constraints.

With three of the proposed developments of the Scottish Territorial Waters Offshore Wind projects planned for the Argyll area, there is likely to be investment in the grid infrastructure that could provide the capacity for additional tidal developments in the region.

At least one developer has already started survey work to the west of Islay demonstrating that even at this early stage there is a strong belief that Islay is likely to be a commercially viable location for tidal development.

IET would also like to encourage the potential of wave developments to the west of Colonsay to be explored. As with the Islay tidal areas, there is substantial energy resource and opportunities for sharing of grid capacity with other marine projects in the region.



Custom House
Main Street
Bowmore
Isle of Islay
PA43 7JJ
01496 810 873

philip.maxwell@islayenergytrust.org.uk

Community Support

The Islay Energy Trust is a well supported community organisation. It is community owned and run with membership comprising over 170 local residents. IET has Board representation from the local community council and consults closely with it. The IET board has shown a commitment and enthusiasm for ambitious renewable projects that will benefit the community with employment, infrastructure and the potential for financial returns.

The Sound of Islay tidal energy project is an excellent example of what can be achieved by partnership between a developer (in this case ScottishPower Renewables) and a community organisation.

The project has used local experience and expertise to support development work: for example, local knowledge of the marine environment has proven invaluable in the EIA, and local supervision and monitoring has been facilitated by the employment of a local development officer. Local support for the project has been assisted by the presence of a local office and the contracting of local services wherever possible.

IET strongly believes that early and continued engagement between Government, Crown Estate, developers and local communities is an imperative for the success of marine projects as it provides developers with high quality local experience whilst enabling the community to maximise the potential benefits.

Infrastructure

Islay has two ferry terminals (Port Askaig and Port Ellen) capable of handling vessels of 80 metre length. There are also smaller harbours at Portnahaven and Bowmore. Whilst these locations do not have large onshore facilities they are busy working ports; Port Askaig was recently redeveloped and there are development plans in place to substantially expand Port Ellen.

Recommendation

The Islay Energy Trust strongly supports the inclusion of the areas to the west and south of Islay and to the west of Colonsay in the next round of leasing for tidal and wave energy development. With a rapidly growing experience of marine projects and strong community support, Islay has both the natural energy resource and the capability to become a major centre for marine renewables in Scotland.