

Horizon owners visit Anglesey

Horizon Nuclear Power today introduced its new owners to Anglesey's political and community leaders, during a special event hosted at the Coleg Menai skills centre in Llangefni.

Horizon Chief Operating Officer Alan Raymant, alongside Tatsuro Ishizuka, Vice President and Executive Officer President & CEO Power Systems Company of Hitachi, attended a meeting hosted by Council leader Bryan Owen to meet leading local and national Welsh political figures, before outlining their plans to the media.

Alan Raymant commented: "We were delighted to be able to introduce our new owners to local stakeholders, who have been so supportive of Horizon over recent months. The ongoing support of local communities and their representatives has played a critical role in helping Horizon secure new ownership.

"Hitachi has clearly laid out their initial approach to engaging local suppliers and training local workers, working with Horizon to deliver a lasting economic legacy in North Wales. We look forward to outlining more detail on our approach at an appropriate point following completion of the sale process.

Secretary of State for Wales, David Jones said: "I have seen first-hand the many advantages Anglesey already has to offer in relation to new nuclear build – both in terms of the excellent skills set which already exists amongst the Wylfa workforce, and how we're investing in our young people through Coleg Menai's Energy Centre.

"Today, the investors and I have seen how the centre is making its own important contribution to the growing energy sector. It provides important learning opportunities for young people that will help meet the future skills needs of not only the new development at Wylfa, but also of other low carbon energy projects which we hope will be established on Anglesey.

"Hitachi's investment will come as very welcome news to these students and to the North Wales community as a whole."

Business Minister Edwina Hart welcomed the announcement of the sale of the Horizon Project to Hitachi. She said: "This is great news for Anglesey and the rest of North Wales and will provide a massive long-term economic boost for the region.

"The Wylfa project once started will create thousands of construction jobs and provide quality, well paid employment for many hundreds of highly skilled workers on the Island for decades to come. Plans for the Oldbury site in South Gloucestershire will also offer huge supply chain and employment opportunities for Welsh companies.

"Wales already has a strong proven capability in the nuclear supply industry and a long history of involvement with Hitachi. As this project gets underway, the Welsh Government will work closely with Hitachi, the UK Government and local authorities to ensure Wales gains the maximum benefits from the massive opportunities presented by this announcement, including training for workers and supply chain contracts for our local companies in Wales."

The Isle of Anglesey County Council's Leader, Councillor Bryan Owen, said: "Today's meeting provided us with a welcome opportunity to meet senior representatives from Hitachi and hear first-hand about their proposals.

The County Council, through its Energy Island Programme, looks forward to building on its close ties with Horizon, and forging a strong and positive working relationship with Hitachi and its partners, to ensure that new build maximises local benefits for Anglesey and its communities."

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Notes to editors

- Horizon Nuclear Power was formed in 2009 as a 50:50 joint venture between E.ON UK and RWE npower. The shareholders announced an intention to sell their stakes in Horizon on 29 March 2012.
- E.ON and RWE reached agreement on 30 October 2012 for the sale of Horizon to Hitachi, which is likely to be complete by the end of November.
- The company holds grid connection agreements and owns land suitable for the development of new nuclear power stations at Wylfa on the Isle of Anglesey and Oldbury-on-Severn in South Gloucestershire. Both sites are nominated for nuclear development under the National Policy Statement for Nuclear (EN-6).

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