



## Press Release

Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2012

### **E.ON looks to find new owner for Horizon Nuclear Power**

- UK Investments focussed on Renewables, Distributed Energy and Energy Efficiency

E.ON has today (THURS) announced that following a strategic review it will not proceed with plans to develop its 50-50 joint-venture, Horizon Nuclear Power.

It will instead look to find a new owner for Horizon, and, in the UK, it will focus on other strategic projects that will deliver earlier benefit for customers and the company. The other partner in Horizon, RWE npower, has simultaneously made the same announcement. The decision means that alternative investors will now be sought to advance the work of Horizon Nuclear Power.

The decision has been made following a full review and against the backdrop of the wider E.ON group's financial constraints. Commenting on the announcement Dr Tony Cocker, Chief Executive of E.ON UK said: "E.ON has decided to focus its investment in the UK on other strategic projects that will allow us to deliver earlier benefit for customers and our company, rather than the very long term and large investment new nuclear power calls for.

"Our commitment to the UK remains as strong as ever and as our track record shows, with over £1bn of investment in the last year alone, we will continue to select the right projects in which to invest."

Senior figures from E.ON, RWE and Horizon informed Horizon staff of the decision at its headquarters near Gloucester this morning.



Dr. Cocker continued: “Today we informed staff of our decision and we will now make sure that, as we seek investors to take over the running of this project, we will provide all affected colleagues with the necessary help and support they require.

“We believe that for the right company Horizon remains an attractive project – but sadly, at this time, not for us. It is a very well run company and I’d like to thank both the dedicated team that has advanced plans for new nuclear development at both Wylfa and Oldbury for their commitment and achievements to date, and the local communities and our business partners for their support.”

E.ON continues to invest in projects across the UK and the company’s wider UK plans will be unaffected by the decision not to advance Horizon Nuclear Power.

In the last year alone E.ON invested over £1bn in projects including; a new super-efficient gas-fired power station at Grain in Kent that can power up to 750,000 homes, development of the UK’s most flexible underground gas storage facility at Holford in Cheshire, the continued development of the world’s largest offshore wind farm, London Array and its ongoing programme to install over one million smart meters by 2014.

In 2012, in addition to many other projects, E.ON will continue to develop its £736 million Humber Gateway offshore wind farm project with an expected completion date of 2015. Work will also continue on its new biomass plant, Blackburn Meadows, in Sheffield. The £120 million development will generate power for around 40,000 homes.

**Ends**

**Notes to editors:**

**About Horizon Nuclear Power**

- Horizon Nuclear Power is a joint venture established in 2009 by E.ON UK and RWE npower. The company is developing proposals for new nuclear power stations at Wylfa on the Isle of Anglesey and at Oldbury-on-Severn in Gloucestershire.

**About E.ON**

- E.ON is one of the UK’s leading power and gas companies - generating electricity, retailing power and gas, developing gas storage and undertaking gas and oil exploration and production, it is part of the E.ON group, one of



the world's largest investor-owned power and gas companies. E.ON employs around 12,000 people in the UK and more than 79,000 worldwide;

- In the UK, E.ON supplies power and gas to around five million domestic, small and medium-sized enterprise and industrial customers – meaning the company has to buy approximately 122.7 billion kWh of power and gas each year to meet their needs. E.ON also offers innovative energy services and technologies tailored to meet its customers' needs, and is helping customers become energy fit by encouraging them to insulate their homes, moderate their energy usage and even generate their own power;
- In an industry first, E.ON has launched its Reset Review - a process that will examine every aspect of E.ON's relationship with its customers. It will look at tariffs and bills, at how customers pay, at how products are sold, and how support is offered to customers. To do this E.ON will work with its independent Customer Council, directly with its customers and engage with consumer advocacy groups and other interested parties to undertake the Reset Review. As a result, E.ON will put customers back in control of their energy, which will be simply communicated and transparently fair;
- E.ON's generation portfolio includes world-class gas-, coal- and oil-fired power stations. E.ON is a market leader in combined heat and power (CHP), and is one of the UK's leading green generators with 21 wind farms and the UK's first wave power generator, with another 1,500MW of renewable capacity under development.
- One of the many ways E.ON leads the energy industry is through its commitment to market liquidity and transparency as evidenced by its actions on the day-ahead UK power markets including the N2EX auction. E.ON was the first company to sign a gross-bidding agreement with N2EX and leads the market with a volume equivalent to some 50% of E.ON UK's generation activity being traded so far this year.

**For more information contact:**

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