

Horizon Nuclear Power announces backing for North Wales Apprentice Agency

Training and skills development for young people in Anglesey and North Wales have received a significant boost with a funding pledge for a regional apprenticeship scheme. Horizon Nuclear Power will be joining Coleg Menai and the Energy Island Skills Group to provide funding for the new North Wales Apprentice Agency (NWAA).

The Agency will provide training and professional development to help young people gain the skills they need to make the most of the employment opportunities presented by the growing energy industry across North Wales – which is expected to create around 2,500 jobs by 2025.

Horizon will be investing around £90k to support 30 apprentices who start their training in September. As part of the programme, the apprentices will gain first hand experience with local employers to complete their training.

In announcing support for the NWAA, **Alan Smith, Head of Site Development at Horizon Nuclear Power**, said: “Our proposals to build a new nuclear power station at Wylfa could create a range of opportunities for local businesses employing home grown talent. This programme can help create a highly skilled workforce on our doorstep and help cement the region’s reputation as a centre of excellence.”

Dafydd Evans, Principal at Coleg Menai, added: “The energy industry is growing at pace right across Wales but it offers young people an opportunity to start a career that could take them anywhere in the world. I’m confident that the North Wales Apprentice Agency will equip our young people with the practical, vocational and relevant experience they need to access a wide range of exciting careers and I’m pleased that Horizon Nuclear Power has recognised the value of the programme and offered its support.”

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John Idris Jones, of the Energy Island Skills Group, welcomed the investment announcement: “The support will prove invaluable in ensuring a continuation of apprentice training placements that have been steadily reducing as a direct result of a decline in employment opportunities in Anglesey and North West Wales. Horizon will be helping us increase the supply of training opportunities and trained individuals in the area.”

Clive McGregor, the Leader of the Isle Of Anglesey County Council commented: “This is great news. It’s a real sign of commitment to the area and recognises the need to sustain and further develop the skills base in anticipation of the future requirements association with new nuclear build at Wylfa.”

The first intake of apprentices will start their three year courses in September 2011. Recruitment will begin in the coming weeks.

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For further information, please contact the Horizon Nuclear Power press office on 01242 713677 or email leon.flexman@horizonnuclearpower.com

Notes to editors

Horizon Nuclear Power Ltd. 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. Our shareholders have interests in 23 nuclear power stations in Germany and Sweden and jointly own three stations in Germany. For more information visit: www.horizonnuclearpower.com



Energy Island is a Partnership which aims to maximise the local economic and employment benefits from any new low carbon energy project in Anglesey and North West Wales. Current partners include the Welsh Assembly Government, Isle of Anglesey County Council, Gwynedd Council, Conwy County Borough Council, Horizon Nuclear Power, National Grid PLC, National Skills Academy for Nuclear, Energy Solutions, Magnox, Coleg Menai, Bangor University