

## **Offshore wind awareness raising event 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2010**

Thank you to everyone for attending the inaugural meeting of the Whitby and Scarborough Off-Shore Wind Network. The day was a great success with almost 200 people attending from a variety of different businesses and organisations from across the region and beyond. See the attached delegate list for more details.

We were particularly pleased to see over 20 companies from North Yorkshire interested in finding out more about how off-shore wind developments could benefit their business, and welcomed those from outside the area to see the unique potential which the ports in Whitby and Scarborough can provide the industry.

Special thanks to the speakers, and apologies for the initial technical difficulties with the sound. For those which gave us permission, the presentations can be accessed here.

Robert Goodwill, Member of Parliament for Scarborough and Whitby, gave the opening address and stressed the potential local and national opportunities resulting from the development of wind farms in the North Sea.

Dr Mark Legerton and Mark Thomas from Forewind then gave a fascinating and wide ranging presentation. This covered a number of topics, including an overview of the development of off-shore wind energy in the UK, in particular the Dogger Bank Scheme, and the supply chain requirements of Forewind.

Emily Marshall and Ferdinando Giammichele, from Dong Energy, then covered similar ground focussing on the Westernmost Rough Scheme.

Andrew Fox of Yorkshire Forward presented a regional perspective of how Yorkshire and the Humber could meet the requirements of the off-shore wind energy industry, what the potential opportunities are, and how Whitby and Scarborough add value to this regional offer.

Sam Pick, from Team Humber Marine Alliance, highlighted the opportunities for SME's and gave an overview of how THMA could support local companies to win business in the off-shore wind sector. We encourage local businesses with an interested in benefitting from this growth sector to become members, particularly as membership is currently free for a limited period.

The weather was perfect for an extended lunch and a trip on a local cruise boat, the Esk Belle, to have a look at the facilities provided by Whitby Harbour.

Professor Jack Hardisty of Hull University then gave the final presentation of the day, looking at the skills needed to provide operations and maintenance support for the sector. This was taken from a report commissioned by Scarborough Borough Council.

Thanks again to everyone for coming, the day has certainly generated a lot of interest from the energy industry, and we believe the Borough has both the infrastructure the aspiration to deliver O&M support for the sector. Keep up to date with upcoming events and information [here](#).