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Vital for communities to share in renewables riches, says Sturgeon

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon (above) called on renewables developers at All-Energy 2019 to do more to support Scotland's supply chain. **p2**

Climate change challenge calls for policymakers to show courage

Policymakers will need to exhibit huge ambition if the UK is to meet the Committee on Climate Change 2050 net zero emissions target, All-Energy 2019 has heard. **p3**

THE INTERVIEW reNEWS

Today, Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy UK director Clark MacFarlane. **p4**

Rumbles over FiT replacement plans

UK renewables groups have expressed concern over the design of the Smart Export Guarantee, the government's replacement for the feed-in tariff regime supporting small-scale projects that is due to come into force this year. **p5**

Tear down the UK onshore wind wall

The UK government must re-establish price support for onshore wind to allow the technology to play its part in the expansion of renewables required to meet potential new 2050 targets, All-Energy 2019 has heard.

ScottishPower chief executive Keith Anderson told delegates in Glasgow on Wednesday the sector will be needed if policymakers commit to a quadrupling of new green electricity as recommended in this month's Committee on Climate Change report.

He said: "We know it's cheap, we know it's fast, we know we can build it and we know it can deliver jobs and benefits to communities. So why are we not doing it?"

Anderson pointed to a "tipping point" that has been reached in the public debate on climate change recently following a series of high-profile environmental reports as well as the extinction rebellion protests and other demonstrations.

"Who is going to stand up in front of the school children and say we would have loved



NO BIGGER PRIZE: Keith Anderson

Photo: renews

to have done it but we didn't like the way it (onshore wind) looked?

"It is time for us to get real and have and drive those conversations forward."

Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon endorsed Anderson's comment on onshore wind and said Holyrood is "vigorously" making the case for the sector with London.

"It makes no sense to see

the UK dragging its feet. You have the complete and total support of the Scottish government," she told delegates.

The CCC call for a massive boost in renewables capacity is an "incredible challenge", added Anderson, but the technology exists to meet it.

"There is no need for us to wait. We are not looking for a new invention... we can do it all now. There is absolutely nothing to stop us from taking this action that is incredibly important," he said.

"The prize is the future of the planet. It is clean air, healthy lives, delivering a world-leading all-electricity economy and all-electricity future that we can be proud of."

Anderson said the UK government's forthcoming energy White Paper must provide a clear roadmap for delivering net zero carbon emissions.

"Everyone in the room needs to put pressure on the delivery of that White Paper. It is the most critical... White Paper that will ever be written around energy."

THURSDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Meet the Minister

A keynote address by Scottish Energy Minister Paul Wheelhouse kicks off the plenary session on the second day of All-Energy.

Lomond auditorium, 09:00-10:30

Floating agenda

Equinor, Ideol, Atkins, DNV GL, Kincardine Offshore Wind and others take delegates along the road to commercialisation for floating wind.

Lomond auditorium, 11:00-12:30

Hydro a go-go

Organised with the British Hydropower Association, this session runs the gamut of the technology from small hydro to pumped storage.

Alsh 2, 11:00-12:30

Empowering women

The POWERful Women networking lunch sponsored by ScottishPower discusses the current state of gender diversity in the energy sector and the importance of having a career strategy.

Room M1, 12:30-14:00

Whose line is it anyway?

Organised by SP Energy Networks, this panel sessions looks at trends in the transmission grid and future network requirements.

M4, 14:00-15:30

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Vital for communities to share in renewables riches, says Sturgeon

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has called on renewables developers to do more to support Scotland's supply chain. All-Energy 2019 delegates

were told 46,000 jobs are currently supported by green energy in the country but there is potential for many more. Decarbonisation

of the Scottish economy must be handled "better and more fairly" than the de-industrialisation period in the 1970s and 1980s when

there was a pervasive fear of unemployment, she said.

It is vital that communities see the benefits of the expansion of renewables.

Scottish supply chain companies need to play their part by making the required investments to secure contracts, she added.

Iberdrola offshore managing director Jonathan Cole said Scottish authorities must allow projects in the country's waters to be competitive with other UK wind farms in order to give the local supply chain a chance to grow.

Several barriers for Scottish offshore projects, including higher grid costs, put sites at an unfair disadvantage, he said.

Cole called on Holyrood, Marine Scotland and Crown Estate Scotland to be as "ambitious as they dare" to support the industry.

'Keep the CfD beyond 2030'

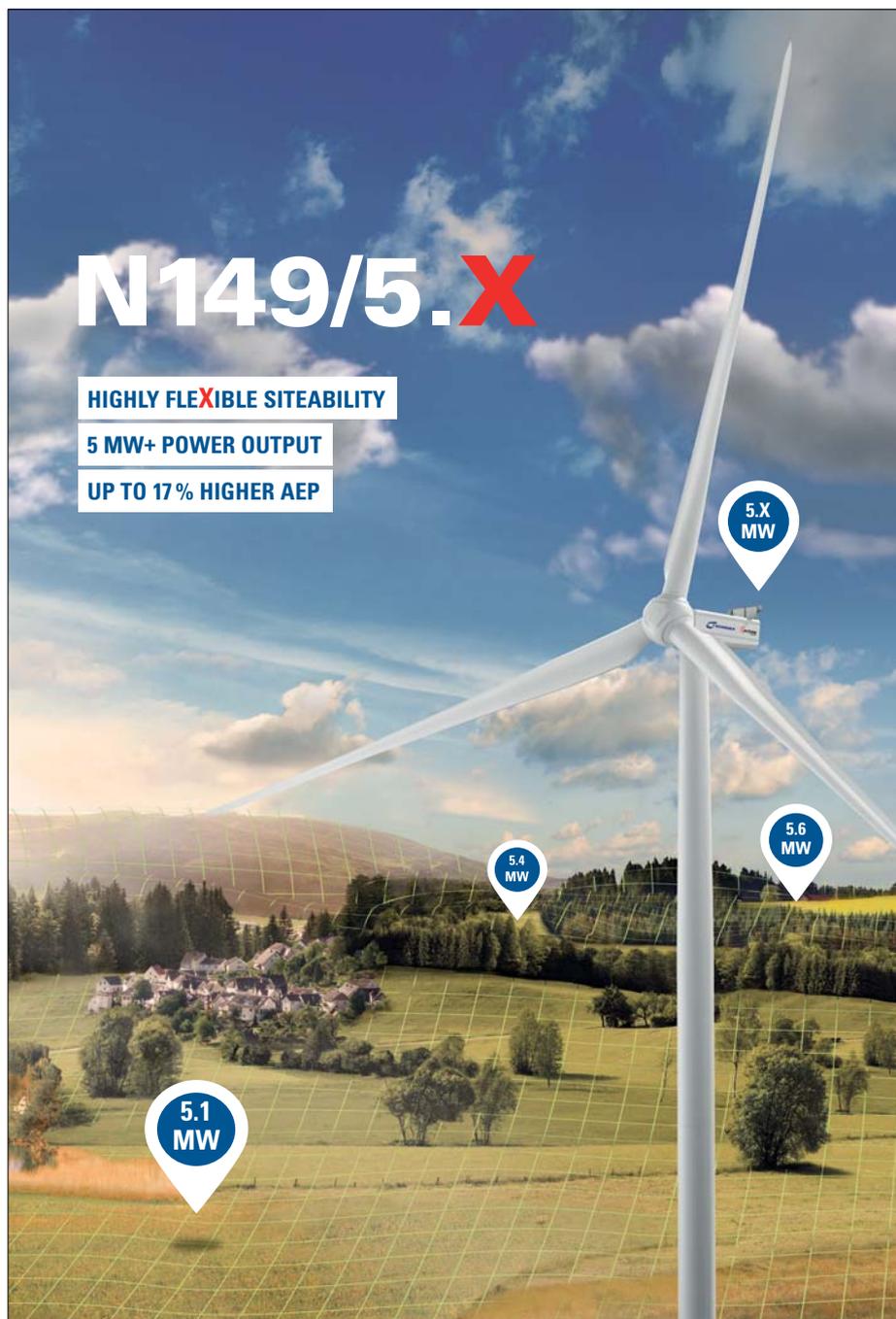
The UK offshore wind industry needs the current Contracts for Difference support regime to continue beyond 2030 in order to meet a potential 75GW installed capacity target by 2050.

Julia King, the sector champion and member of the House of Lords, told delegates there is already "strong political will" for the goal, which was recommended in the recent Committee on Climate Change report.

Legislators, however, need to be challenged to ensure policy will be put in place to provide long-term investor confidence, she added.

"We will be working hard to make sure that the politicians deliver on their enthusiastic support for it," she said

Offshore Wind Industry Council co-chair Benj Sykes meanwhile said offshore wind can "undoubtedly" ramp up to meet the target, which goes well beyond the 30GW by 2030 goal in the recently-agreed sector deal.



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Thursday highlights

Quick-fire double

The Energy Storage and Hydrogen Hub show floor seminar theatre offers delegates the chance to hear the latest on the two technologies in a series of short presentations.

Energy Storage and Hydrogen Hub show floor seminar theatre, 10:30-14:30

Prospering from the energy revolution

Learn how UK industry, supported by the government's industrial strategy, is developing smart local energy systems.

UK Innovation and Research Innovation show floor seminar theatre, 10:30-16:00

Speed dating developers

All-Energy hosts a series of one-to-one speed dating meetings with renewables developers in the dedicated Share Fair area located across the exhibition hall above the Central Boulevard.

Mezzanine, 11:00-12:45 and 13:00-15:00

Dragons den

Six semi-finalists in the UK-Canada Power Forward challenge on smart energy systems innovation pitch their proposals to BEIS representatives.

Alsh 2, 13:00-16:00

Transition tales

This session, a first for All-Energy and Dcarbonise, showcases some of the major projects supported by Scotland's Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme.

Hall 1, 14:00-15:30

Note: Winergy is on stand G30 and not F11 as in the catalogue

Climate change challenge calls for policymakers to show courage

Policymakers will need to exhibit huge ambition if the UK is to meet the Committee on Climate Change 2050 net zero emissions target, All-Energy 2019 has heard.

Setting a course for a series of major changes, including a quadrupling of renewables over the next four decades, will require "courage" from politicians, according to CCC chief executive Chris Stark.

Governments and officials must rise to the challenges now while a "bold response" from industry is also needed, he told delegates on day one in Glasgow.

Stark said existing UK and Scottish energy policies must be delivered in full as a starting point.

A "proper strategy" to decarbonise heat and work on carbon capture and storage, which will be an "essential component" to cutting emissions, are among the new efforts required, he said.

Stark said no "unicorns" are needed to meet the challenges laid out in the report as the technology

already exists. The dramatic and ongoing cost reductions across the energy and transport sectors also mean that the targets are within reach, he added.

Scotland First Minister Nicola Sturgeon meanwhile called on London to accept the CCC's advice on achieving net zero emissions and is "optimistic" that will happen.

The Holyrood government has already accepted the recommendations that the country hit the goal by 2045, five years earlier than the rest of the UK.

"Scotland is not just maintaining its status as a world leader in climate change, it is redefining what it means to be a world leader," she said.

"My pledge is that Scotland will fully play our part to do everything we can to support the low carbon and renewables sector.

"Working with you we will take the action to make Scotland a net zero emissions country and ensure Scotland remains at the forefront of the climate change fight."

Glasgow to go all out for net zero

ScottishPower and Glasgow City Council have unveiled plans at All-Energy to transform the city into the UK's first to deliver net zero carbon emissions.

The company and the local authority will now start work on a range of programmes to ensure Scotland's largest city reaches the Holyrood government's net-zero-by-2045 target.

Areas to be decarbonised include transport and heating, and continued investment will be made in the electricity grid to support the low carbon city, the partners said. Another area of focus over the next 10 years will be electric vehicles.

ScottishPower chief executive Keith Anderson said: "Scotland has rightly put itself at the top of the race to become net zero quicker than other places round the world.

"To succeed, our biggest city has to be the most ambitious and progressive in removing carbon emissions," he added.

RES swoops in for O&M package deal

RES has taken over operations and maintenance contracts for six onshore wind farms from Ainscough Wind Energy Services.

The agreement covers the 26MW Althullion, 11.7MW Althullion 2 and 7.8MW Lough Hill in Northern Ireland, the 5.5MW Dyffryn Brodyn in Wales, and 4.5MW Four Burrows and 230kW Beaufort Court in England.

RES, which announced the deal at All-Energy 2019, said the agreement would secure nine rural jobs.

Support services director Ian Hunter said: "We plan to use this acquisition as a springboard to significantly grow our O&M business.

"Along with these five-year contracts we have acquired an excellent team of skilled technicians based in key areas around the UK."



BELLE OF THE BALL: SSE Renewables' newly-completed 588MW Beatrice offshore wind farm (above) has helped secure new jobs and growth for the Scottish and UK economies, according to managing director Jim Smith. The last of 84 Siemens Gamesa 7MW turbines was commissioned 13km off Caithness on day one of All-Energy. "Contracts were placed... across the supply chain resulting in a £1.1bn-plus construction spend in the UK with around half of this in Scotland," said Smith. Photo: BOWL

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Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy UK director Clark MacFarlane (*left*) on the country's offshore wind sector deal, onshore wind politics and more

Q How is Siemens Gamesa working to achieve UK industrial strategy benefits as set out in the offshore wind sector deal?

A The sector deal is a hugely important step for the industry. It gives supply chain companies the confidence in the pipeline to make investments, as SGRE did, and the process of getting the sector deal done has brought an enormous amount of collaboration across the industry. It feels like the industry has come of age.

Through the Offshore Wind Industry Council we are already working on supporting clusters, developing skills and training with our training centre in Hull.

We are also improving diversity, helping companies with their export plans and looking at potential future UK content development to make sure the industrial benefits and growth can be delivered in the UK.

Q What other measures could the government introduce to support the UK offshore wind sector over the coming years?

A The sector deal is a huge step but as last week's Committee on Climate Change report highlights, the UK still needs to do much more

to decarbonise heat and transport and I am convinced that offshore wind could play an even bigger role in underpinning that transition.

Consistent and co-ordinated support in the coming years is the key to making this happen. With the regular auctions, fair budgets and new development zones, we can make a big difference to the UK.

Q Could energy storage, hydrogen or other low carbon technologies be incorporated in future renewables projects featuring Siemens Gamesa?

A The high levels of renewables deployment on the system we are now talking about will require accompanying technology developments in storage and new technologies.

Rather than there being a specific winner, I think a mix of a number of solutions will need to be deployed. Siemens Gamesa is developing an interesting technology using a 'hot rocks' electric thermal energy storage solution for long-term storage and we have a pilot plant already.

Q What would Siemens Gamesa like to see from the UK government in terms of revenue support for onshore wind?

A The government's position is entrenched on direct support but we remain convinced that, in the right locations and with the right technology, onshore projects could already be delivered at zero net cost to consumers.

That would require a number of enabling actions, for example looking at planning restrictions around maximum tip heights in suitable locations.

I don't know what the government is waiting for as many communities want to start now and reap the benefits.

Q How would Brexit affect Siemens Gamesa's UK business if and when it happens?

A Like all sensible businesses we have extensive contingency plans for all Brexit scenarios. The good news is that we do not see any fundamental changes to the environment in which we operate. The UK has the Climate Change Act enshrined in law and the fundamental economics of why offshore wind is so successful will not change.

Our plans obviously seek to minimise any potential short-term issues that may occur around the time of Brexit being concluded.

Photo: Siemens Gamesa

QUICK CONNECTION SYSTEM

WES has issued a Prior Information Notice (PIN) on Public Contracts Scotland alerting the market to potential future contract opportunities with WES, allowing parties to research and start to prepare for any arising tender exercise. It relates to two potential procurement exercises:

A call for proposals to develop technology or methods to fulfil the quick connection operation, particularly focussed on the connection between a WEC and its associated electrical infrastructure and mooring lines,

The appointment of suitably qualified individuals to act as external experts during the selection process for the project proposals.

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Rumbles over FiT replacement plans

Industry wants BEIS to nail down contract details in new Smart Export Guarantee, writes Sian Crampsie

UK renewables groups have expressed concern over the design of the government's replacement for the feed-in tariff regime supporting small-scale projects.

According to energy department BEIS, the Smart Export Guarantee (SEG), due to come into force this year, will ensure generators of projects up to 5MW are compensated for the value of power exported to the grid.

However, trade associations fear the lack of contract structure in the proposals could inhibit development. Under the SEG plans, off-takers of exported power only have to offer tariffs greater than zero and there are no pre-determined contract lengths.

"If you are going to get your project built and secure finance, you will need a fixed-term contract and a price that you know you will be able to achieve and which reflects the value of the power," said Renewable Energy Association

policy head Frank Gordon. "Our suggestion is they index the SEG price to the system imbalance price to allay BEIS's concerns over having a fixed price while at the same time reducing generators' fears they will not get a fair price for their energy."

REA also called for the SEG to support standalone energy storage platforms as well as vehicle-to-grid devices, especially if they are charged with renewable power.

"It is a chance to go beyond a set number of renewable technologies to forging that transition to a more flexible energy system," said Gordon.

Community Energy England said renewables schemes are being left "in limbo" while the government completes the design and implementation of the SEG. BEIS has yet to publish a response to a consultation on its proposals that closed in March, the same month as the FIT closed to new entrants.

Developers are being

"forced to return surplus energy supplies to the grid without any compensation while government determines its next policy", said CEE chief executive Emma Bridge.

She is also sceptical about the level of support the SEG will provide for community energy projects, which are not necessarily designed to export power. "The SEG will only impact part of the sector because community projects try to maximise efficiency by getting (on-site buildings), for example, to use as much of the energy as possible," she added.

The CEE wants government to develop specific measures to enable community energy projects, which tend to take longer to develop than other small-scale renewables.

The trade association sees more positive signs from the likes of Co-op Energy, which this month announced plans to offer a route to market for community schemes and ensure a market-

reflective rate for the power it purchases from them.

Octopus Energy meanwhile has developed a "smart tariff" to enable homes with solar and battery storage to control when they export power to the grid to benefit from higher rates.

The move was praised by the Solar Trade Association, which has compiled a league table of available tariffs. ■

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