

Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership
Inward Investment Progress Report - March 2009

Product Development

Tourism Contact made with national hotel chain in connection with possible future development in Caithness, feasibility study to be carried out. Contact with SDI Boston re possible golf resort development.

Energy The Crown Estate has announced that the first stage of the process to allocate sites for wave and tidal renewable energy in the Pentland Firth strategic area is complete and 38 companies/consortia have been invited to tender. Tenders will be received by mid May.

Developers Information day on 8th April. Objective is to give confidence to the developers that the Scottish Government is 100% behind the developments in the Pentland Firth.

Marketing Material Proposition document on offshore wind in final draft. Issue 2 of CNSRP newsletter is available on www.cnsrp.org.uk Latest version of marine energy brochure has been sent to SDI Boston for Global Marine Energy conference in Washington.

Prospects

Energy Ongoing discussions with tidal device developers on investing in the area. Opportunity at Inverness Developer's Day to get feedback from each developer on specific requirements.

The joint "Meet the Developer Event" with the NSIG in March was very successful and highlighted the combined strengths of both Caithness and Orkney.

Grid study is available on www.hie.co.uk.

Inward Investment Progress Report - January 2009 (continued)

Leads

We are currently in discussion with 12 companies. These include companies involved in tourism, business services and renewable energy.

Successes

- The Xero Energy grid study funded by HIE highlights connectivity solutions that might encourage developers to invest in the North of Scotland.
- Atlantis Resources Corporation who plan to build a 'blue' data centre in Caithness has formed a strategic alliance with Statkraft.
- Photographer Mike McCartney's exhibition is to highlight the North's beauty and diversity as a place in which to live, work and visit. Throughout 2009 the exhibition will tour galleries around Scotland. The book will be published shortly.