

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

Product Development

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

Energy: The Crown Estate deadline to receive applications for seabed leases from the developers is May 15th. We have been approached by a number of developers for help with local supply chain information.

The Developers Information Day held in Inverness on 8th April was very successful. 30 of the 38 developers who have made a pre-application for a seabed lease attended and were assured of Scottish Government support for the Pentland Firth Marine Energy project.

Marketing Material: Proposition document on offshore wind completed and will be sent to prospective inward investors. Issue 2 of CNSRP newsletter is available online www.cnsrp.org.uk. Latest version of our marine energy brochure sent to SDI Boston for the Global Marine Energy conference in Washington, DC in April. Tourism proposition document in early planning. Meeting with SDI/HIE Financial Services team and SDI's Marketing Director for Inward Investment in Inverness. Both meetings are in May and will ensure a joined up approach to marketing our area.

Prospects

Energy: Ongoing discussions with tidal and wave device developers on investing in the area, and their specific requirements for infrastructure, supply chain, skills set going forward.

Grid study and Data Collection study available at www.hie.co.uk.

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 will hopefully encourage developers to invest in the North of Scotland.
- Atlantis Resources Corporation who plan to build a 'blue' data centre in Caithness have formed a strategic alliance with Statkraft, the state owned Norwegian energy company, who will part fund the project.
- Photographer Mike McCartney's exhibition arrived in St Fergus gallery, Wick Saturday 25th April. The book will be published shortly.