



NPT INNOVATION EXCHANGE

Manufacturing & Supply Chain Opportunities

18/05/2022 | 1:00 - 3:00PM | Online

Event Overview

Join businesses from the construction, digital, technology, engineering and manufacturing sectors in Neath Port Talbot, to discuss the benefits, challenges and opportunities relating to collaboration.

This session we will be looking at manufacturing and supply chain opportunities, joining us for this discussion will be:

- **Marine Energy Wales** - Jay Sheppard , Marine Energy Project Manager
- **ORE Catapult, Marine Energy Engineering Centre of Excellence (MEECE)** - Magnus Harrold, Innovation Manager & Paul Ellsmore, Programme Manager.

This event will also include an open discussion with local firms about collaborating for business growth in Neath Port Talbot. Contact Helen Bowden for more information, to suggest themes and topics, and to register your interest, by emailing helen@4theRegion.org.uk

We are looking to get feedback from businesses on the forum and events. This forms feedback to the UK Government meeting next week. Could you email your feedback via email a.pirmohamed@npt.gov.uk or business@npt.gov.uk

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

A key aspect going forward is to constantly have feedback and guidance from businesses to what you would like to see as your key requirements going forward. We would like to hear feedback about business support relating to key issues around innovation and development.

We would like to set up a series of events surrounding the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for businesses to feed in. We would also like to explore the possibility of forming focus groups.

What works? What support has worked for you?

Jon Walter, Rhino Systems: We'd like to get in touch with people who would be likely to use our products or services. There's a lot of UK gov stuff being tendered, we'd like to get first shout in it, especially if it's in Wales.

We would like support in finding specialist suppliers, for example: a stablist steel polisher. Skills are always a concern, in particular welding. The lack of suitable premises. With the deindustrialization of Wales, we're seeing a lot of factory sites disappearing, such as those with overhead craning.

Paul Ellsmore, MEECE & ORE Catapult: I'll mention the potential opportunities in floating wind in the Celtic Sea in my presentation, but this is a link that can help all supply chain companies to engage: <https://celticseacluster.com/>

One of the things we may lose from funds such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is sector specific funding. WEFO allocated 100 million euros for marine energy. The lack of a sector specific funding pot is something that everyone needs to work on.

Adil, NPTCBC: UK government was looking to channel development opportunities. There needs to be a stronger representation from businesses to say that funding will be needed.

Ian, AV Coatings: A lot of our manufacture surrounds the military and offshore. Most of the companies we work with are based up the North of England. We struggle with getting local organisations to speak to. We would like to expand and become bigger. We have 2 ½ acres of land and would like to install cranes but it's looking to take a few years. If there's anyone locally who would like to get in contact and see how we can work together on projects, please contact me.

Simon Ripton: The Business Wales Property Database offers a platform to advertise/find industrial and commercial property throughout Wales:
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/property-database>

Adil, NPTCBC The MOD has confirmed that they would like to come and present at a future meeting. I believe that may be of interest to you, Ian.

Jon, What key issues do you need to address to help your business grow? People and skills, is it about getting the right people, funding growth, or build of the property of investment into capital?

Jon Walter, Rhino Systems: It's very good to have support, but connecting with markets is a problem. We are such a niche that unless we're aware a project is happening, we can't go and bid on it. We've used our website as a portfolio, but we'd like to get more proactive and identify more projects as they come out. We always deal with a contractor or subcontractor rather than the end user. We would like more insight into market intelligence.

Themes:

- Understanding what contracts are out there from an early stage.
- Visibility of different capabilities and market sectors of local firms.
- Understanding how people look for suppliers.
- What are the constraints on your growth as a business?

Paul Ellsmore, MEECE & ORE Catapult

[MEECE & Ore Catapult](#)

The Offshore renewable energy catapult is the leading technology innovation and research centre for offshore renewable energy. Our key aims are to grow the UK economy within our sector and to lead the transition to renewable energy. We encourage businesses in this forum to sign up and get involved with the [Celtic Sea Cluster](#), which helps drive market creation in this sector.

Contact Paul at: paul.ellsmore@ore.catapult.org.uk

KEY FOCUS AREAS IN SOUTH WALES

SME INNOVATION SUPPORT

- MEECE
 - Testing in META
 - Collaborations with Universities
- Wider Catapult Programmes:
 - OWGP
 - Fit4OR
 - Launch Academy
 - WEST

FLOATING WIND

- Celtic Sea Cluster
- Celtic Sea Developers Alliance
- Ports
- Grid
- Floating Offshore Wind Centre of Excellence

GREEN HYDROGEN

- Milford Haven Energy Kingdom (MH:EK)
- South Wales Industrial Cluster
- Energy Systems Catapult
- UK-wide projects

Magnus Harold, MEECE & ORE Catapult

The MEECE project is designed to support businesses in Wales to develop new products and services for the marine sector through research and innovation, run in partnership with 4 Welsh universities at the forefront of marine energy research. MEECE aims to place Welsh companies at the heart of the UK's growing offshore renewable energy sector.

Part funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Swansea Bay City Deal through the Pembroke Dock Marine (PDM) project. PDM aims to establish a world class marine energy and engine fabrication, test and deployment hub in Pembrokeshire.

MEECE can:

- Support the design of products and components,
- Fund the build of prototypes and subsequent testing, verification and validation.
- Evaluate the technical feasibility, economic viability and market potential of new technologies.
- Fund access to other university expertise not necessarily working in the marine energy sector.
- Eligibility: The company does not need to make any financial contribution to the project, but must have an address in the West Wales & Valleys region. Alternatively, there must be a clear benefit to WW&V if the company is out of area. Out of area companies can also be part of a consortium, as long as one company is in WW&V.

MEECE supports Intelligent Moorings in the development of their Intelligent Mooring System (IMS), a technology that aims to reduce floating offshore wind costs by minimising mooring peak loads. MEECE is supporting the company in the sea testing of a prototype, by real world testing and eventually advancing the technology to TRL 7.

Contact Magnus at: magnus.harrold@ore.catapult.org.uk

Jay Shepard, Marine Energy Wales

[Marine Energy Wales](#) is a membership organisation that brings together technology developers, the supply chain, academia and the public sector to establish Wales as a global leader in sustainable marine energy generation, making a significant contribution to a low carbon economy. They focus on four emerging sectors: Tidal stream, floating offshore wind, wave energy and tidal range energy.

Marine Energy Wales (MEW) is the representative body of organisations with interests in marine renewable energy in Wales. Our aim is to create a thriving and diverse marine energy industry in Wales, working with a broad range of industry stakeholders to maintain Wales's place as a global leader in sustainable marine energy generation, all while making a significant contribution to the low carbon economy.

Marine Energy Wales facilitates business to business networking. Throughout the year they host a range of industry specific workshops, supply chain networking events, working group meetings, roundtables and even an annual conference.

Beyond informing the government and political leaders, Marine Energy Wales aims to more widely inform the general population about the benefits and opportunities associated with marine renewable energy.

For more information, contact jay.sheppard@marineenergywales.co.uk

Our Technologies

WHAT IS EMERGING OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY?
We can deploy all these technologies in Wales and provide an offshore renewable power station for the UK. Our strength is in the combination of technologies and skills.

- TIDAL STREAM ENERGY
- WAVE ENERGY
- TIDAL RANGE ENERGY
- FLOATING OFFSHORE WIND

Represented Organisations

- **ABP** - Ffion Davies
- **AJB Business Solutions** - Andrew Beer
- **AV Coatings** - Ian Rigden
- **Campas Technology Ltd** - Anthony Williams
- **CROPIQ** - Hatem Elmahy
- **Gower Gas & Oil** - Julie Jones
- **Hybrisan** - Catherine Glaznieks
- **HypeBound** - Gareth Evans
- **MeeCreative** - Liam Mee
- **Marine Energy Wales** - Jay Shepard
- **MEECE & ORE Catapult** - Paul Ellsmore
- **MEECE & ORE Catapult** - Magnus Harold
- **NPT Council** - Steve Grey, Adil Pirmohamed, Claire Roach, Sarah Fowler, Julie Davies
- **Qualitek Engineering Ltd** - Leyton Thomas
- **Rhino Systems**- Jon Walter
- **TownSq** - Alison Lavelle
- **Welsh Government** - Simon Ripton

Links, References & Resources

- [4theRegion - NPT Innovation Exchange Project Page](#)
- [Eventbrite - NPT Innovation Exchange Events](#)
- [Business Wales Property Database](#)
- [Celtic Sea Cluster](#)

Upcoming Meetings - Dates for your diary

Wed 8th June

[Property & Business Growth in Neath Port Talbot](#)

13:00 – 14:30