



NPT INNOVATION EXCHANGE (2)

30/03/2022 | 1:00 - 3:00PM | Online

Event Overview

Associated British Ports (ABP) have major expansion plans for the port, which they would like to share with local businesses. Andrew Clarke, Group Head of Master Planning at ABP will be updating members on their "Future Ports" vision for Port Talbot, followed by a Q&A session.

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

Growth Opportunities

- Becoming more aware of businesses on our doorstep - great to see what potential exists.
- Discover the opportunities to collaborate and buy more from each other.
- Diversity across different products and sectors.
- Finding adaptability and resilience in challenging situations.
- Sharing of facilities, machinery and knowledge.
- Identify where businesses can advertise opportunities, regionally and locally
- Creation of a working party to enter schools and colleges.
- Find ways to use disruption to shake up systems and create new mindsets.
- New developments in the region that utilise emerging technology and renewables provide growth opportunities.
- Creating shared visions with the community to crowdsource opportunities.

Challenges

- Retaining staff is a challenge.
- Less people entering the engineering and manufacturing industry.
- Encouraging the younger generation to consider the industry.
- The educational and industry divide needs to be addressed.
- Opportunities collectively need to be amplified and promoted.
- Getting ourselves into a strong position to confidently go forward.
- Trade Embargoes
- Access and the costs involved with expanded space and premises.
- The future wants something new: what is it?

What support would be helpful?

- Linking up with local educational institutions to promote opportunities.
- A forum to demonstrate what's going on locally; Reignite aspirations.
- Identify role models - make the industry engaging for young people in schools and colleges.
- Signposting to what advice and support is available.
- Be a strong voice to express what is needed if the support isn't available.
- Commitments to local sourcing.

General Comments

Brian Calo, ATT Engineering: What surprised me is what's on our doorstep that we don't know about. I was pleasantly surprised by the potential of what's out there.

Chris Weirman, Director of Technology at Wall Colmonoy shared the growth behind his business, from its roots in Detroit, USA to Pontardawe, where the European Headquarters operates.

Established in 1969, the Pontardawe branch employs circa. 200 employees, creating opportunities for many across Neath Port Talbot. Chris noted that when one product/service, others pick up.

Simon Watkins, Weldlec: Struggles with calibrating the type of skills that enter the industry. Not as many people coming through as there used to be.

Chris Weirman: What advertising is there in education to share what's out there? It would be good to advertise locally.

Andrew Beer: The new curriculum will help, but it will take time for it to embed. Careers teachers are nonexistent today.

Brian Calo, ATT Engineering: Listening to the comments makes me realise how lucky we are to have retained staff throughout their careers.

Ian AV Coatings: The expense of new premises and expanding makes things challenging

Andrew Beer: Worth looking into Globalwelsh.com for diaspora around the world who may be interested in collaborations, investment, etc.

ABP Future Ports: Port Talbot



Andrew Clarke, Group Head of Master Planning at ABP updated members on their "Future Ports" vision for Port Talbot. Find the vision for the port on their website: [ABP - Future Ports: Port Talbot](#)

- Floating offshore wind opportunities provide huge opportunities for industry.

Contact Andrew for info on joining supplier frameworks, etc:
andrew.clarke@abports.co.uk

ABP: Questions and Answers

Brian Calo, ATT Engineering: The statistic of the amount of power generation, what was it?

A: 28 gigawatts in the floating offshore winds from the Celtic Sea.

Brian Calo, ATT Engineering: Every wind turbine that exists in the UK so far, produces less than 5% of the energy needed. That amazed me considering the amount of these you see everywhere. How can we satisfy the power consumption needs of industry?

Simon Watkins: Is there a potential to rehome local talent?

Andrew Clarke: We don't want to make these changes and lose these clients.

Zoe Antrobus: How connected are you to other ports in our region?

Andrew Clarke: We're subject to collusion to engage with other ports. We're working alongside the Welsh Government to identify what the best for Wales may be.

Represented Organisations

- **ATT Engineering** - Brian Calo
- **ABP** - Ffion Davies, Andrew Clarke
- **AJB Business Solutions** - Andrew Beer
- **Armadillo Metal Coatings** - John Lockett
- **AV Coatings** - Ian
- **Fairwood Engineering** - Gherold Davies
- **HypeBound** - Gareth Evans
- **ION Leadership** - Adam Fairbank
- **IUK Edge** - Stephen O'Leary
- **MeeCreative** - Liam Mee
- **NPT Council** - Steve Grey, Sian Wyndham, Adil Pirmohamed
- **Swansea University, ASTUTE2020** - Fawzi Belblidia
- **Wall Colmonroy Ltd** - Chris Weirman
- **Weldlec** - Simon Watkins
- **UWTSD** - Joanne Walker
- Rhys P
- Ashley Pullen

Links, References & Resources

- [4theRegion - NPT Innovation Exchange Project Page](#)
- [ABP - Future Ports: Port Talbot](#)
- [Eventbrite - NPT Innovation Exchange Events](#)
- [Eventbrite - SWIC Week 2](#)
- [GlobalWelsh](#)
- [Gridwatch](#)
- [South Wales Industrial Cluster \(SWIC\)](#)

Upcoming Meetings - Dates for your diary

Wed 13th April	10am-12pm	RD&Innovation: Support and funding	Zoom
Fri 29th April	10am-12pm	Collaboration and open discussion	Zoom
Wed 4th May	1pm-3pm	Funding for Skills & Training	In Person
Wed 18th May	1pm-3pm	Supplying into the MOD	Zoom