

Date: 18th December 2003

UK Network businesses ready to connect Offshore Wind Energy

The Minister for Energy Stephen Timms announced today a large programme of Offshore Wind Generation. This is part of the Government's goal of achieving a 10% share of all generation originating from renewable energy by 2010. The Government has laid down a challenge to Members of the Energy Networks Association who operate the Distribution and Transmission Networks and are ready to deliver on this commitment.

We are at the heart of the Government's objective to achieve this goal and we are ready to deliver but we need the framework and incentives to do so. The Electricity Networks industry will engage with the Regulator and other key stakeholders to develop a structured and co-ordinated work plan to make the Government's objective a reality.

Commenting on the announcement Professor Robin MacLaren, Chairman of the Energy Networks Association said "We have the expertise, the vision and the commitment to deliver on the Government's objective but we need to see a suitable regulatory framework coupled with rewards for our investors put in place so that this can be achieved."

NOTE TO EDITORS:

1. The Energy Networks Association came into existence on 1 October 2003. It was formed by the Gas and Electricity Transmission and Distribution Licence holders who were members of the now defunct Electricity Association.

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