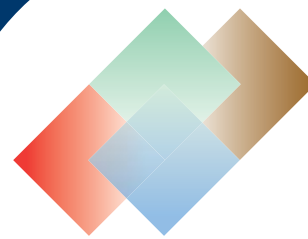


Renewables East Newsletter

March 2008



RENEWABLES
EAST

Cutting the cost of cleaner driving

Renewables East employees and company members can enjoy big savings when purchasing a brand new Saab at Cox of Ipswich through the GM Partners benefits programme, which also offers discounts to immediate family members.

The Saab range includes the latest BioPower models available in the LinearSE and VectorSport range. Saab BioPower cars can be run on renewable, plant-based bioethanol (E85) or petrol, or any mix of the two. The technology offers more power and more torque with substantially reduced emissions of CO₂.

The East of England is already leading the way on biofuels with the UK's first bioethanol plant opening at Wissington, Norfolk, last year. Bioethanol is available to the public on forecourts in Norwich, Dereham, Ipswich, Diss and Lowestoft.

In addition, Norfolk-based Lotus Engineering has developed the world's first high-performance biofuel car, demonstrating that the technology is ready to meet customer demands.

Offers change quarterly and the current GM Partners deals available at Cox of Ipswich run until 1 April, with discounts of between 7% and 16% on offer (dependant on the model chosen), or the chance to use a subsidised Saab personal contract

purchase agreement. Regardless of how the car is purchased, a finance deposit allowance of between £1000 and £1250 is available for all customers using the Partners scheme. This bonus will more than offset the extra cost normally applied to biofuel models.

Under the agreement between Renewables East and Cox of Ipswich,



More torque, less emissions: the Saab BioPower range

the terms are available to RE employees or to named individuals who are RE company members, based in the East of England.

The following family members can also enjoy the discounts: spouse/partner, parents and step parents, brothers and sisters, children and step children.

Being a Partner also means generous discounts are available on Vauxhall or Chevrolet models. Partners can also enjoy savings on factory-fitted

options and delivery charges, and redeem their GM Card Rebate Points to save even more.

All the offers on the entire range of vehicles can be viewed in the Partners brochure, or by visiting www.partnersprogramme.co.uk. Those interested in the scheme should contact RE and Saab dealer Cox of Ipswich or call 0870 444 5678. They can then register on-line using the personal password provided.

Steve Clarke, RE's development director for offshore renewables, has been driving a Saab biofuel car for more than a year. He said: "The Saab BioPower VectorSport shows excellent performance and we at RE will continue to press for improved tax reductions on the cost of bioethanol to provide greater financial incentives and further enhance the attraction of biofuel vehicles."

James Beal said: "Renewables East is keen to support partnerships with local companies to drive the renewables agenda forward by creating both supply and demand in the market.

"This offer from Cox of Ipswich helps support the demand for biofuel and provides a tangible benefit to RE members in the East of England. It is a small but significant step to encourage the appropriate development of biofuel."

weatherquest Temperature rising...

Onshore and offshore forecaster based in Norwich looking to expand its client base to include renewable energy companies

As a company involved in weather forecasting for the onshore and offshore environment, Norwich-based weatherquest is well placed to offer renewable energy businesses analysis of the resources in the East of England region, both from a climatological and prediction perspective.

Dr Steve Dorling is director of communications in the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia, a London Technology Network (LTN) Business Fellow and founding director of weatherquest. The company was set up in 2000 and is wholly owned by directors and staff.

Weatherquest is looking to expand its client base to include renewable energy companies. At present, its main clients are in media, insurance and agricultural sectors, as well as port authorities and construction companies. Steve says: "We also provide bespoke services for individuals such as sailors and other weather-sensitive hobbyists."

Fourteen staff work at weatherquest, mainly based at UEA but with some personnel working from other locations in the UK and abroad. Steve adds: "Weatherquest benefits from having a mix of experienced weather forecasters and new recruits who are being trained.

"It is important to have a balance of new and old blood so we have taken on graduates and placement students to be trained by our senior staff who themselves have been based all over the world during their forecasting careers, including the UK, Germany, Middle East, Canada, United States, Bermuda, Iceland and even Antarctica."

He suggests that this expertise and the experience developed at weatherquest means the company is well placed to help renewable energy

companies, particularly those offshore. "The wind, solar and wave sectors of the renewable energy industry are strongly dependent upon the vagaries of weather and climate. The industry needs to identify sites and areas with good resource potential using historical data that could be based on station records or on gridded model data. Ideally, such data should be available over a number of years to allow for natural variability and any trends."

Commercial services are already available from weatherquest, backed by academic knowledge at UEA. "Both weatherquest and UEA have access



Lightning rod: renewable energy and the weather go hand in hand

Photo courtesy of Eastern Counties Newspapers

to historical station data, the former on a commercial basis, the latter for academic research purposes," says Steve.

Weatherquest's services could also provide valuable support in the upkeep and maintenance of renewable energy infrastructure. Such work can be made more difficult by inclement weather conditions. Downtime also needs to be scheduled

to minimise loss of energy output and is also therefore a function of weather.

By providing forecasting services, weatherquest would be able to assist with the planning of maintenance work as it applies to offshore structures. Steve says: "We provide operational forecast services, via e-mail, fax subscription or via a premium rate telephone service on which callers speak directly to a forecaster."

Steve suggests weatherquest also has a role in assisting companies involved in setting the price associated with electricity exported to the grid. "Electricity pricing is set in advance and can therefore benefit from weather forecast information, hours or days ahead," he says.

Longer term, UEA can advise on how the changing climate may impact the industry. Investment decisions need to make due reference to the latest thinking in relation to climate change, particularly with regard to levels of uncertainty.

UEA staff have experience in using output from regional climate models, including both the UK land surface and surrounding waters.

Companies working within the renewable energy industry and those who wish to become involved may benefit from a better understanding of the science behind harnessing wind, solar and wave power, Steve believes.

He says: "We have excellent facilities for training at UEA or we can visit a client if required. Weatherquest offers climate and meteorology training courses for those involved in the media and in sailing, and these programmes could be expanded into the energy sector."

The company has received enquiries about such an option and Steve already works with students on placement at wind power companies.

He is also interested in how weatherquest can provide services for companies involved in the insurance of

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Featured Company



weatherquest

...an umbrella for your business

Continued from Page 2

renewable energy projects. "We need to look at how companies can protect their investment in projects when adverse weather conditions can cause major problems," he says.

Weatherquest and UEA are very keen to promote collaboration with the offshore renewables industry, either through services provided by weatherquest, or via knowledge transfer schemes involving business and academia. "It is not just about the services we can offer already but what we can offer in the future by working with other agencies or businesses."

Steve is particularly interested in looking at the overall picture to see how our energy needs can be met by the combined resources of wind, wave, tidal and solar power.

"As the UK climate fluctuates so much, we need to look at the issues of intermittency and how the different energy resources can be combined to improve overall reliability."

He suggests weatherquest and

UEA could further enhance their role in the renewable energy industry through collaboration with bodies such as Renewables East or with other academic institutions.

RE is currently gathering information about the research and development capabilities of higher education institutions interested in the emerging offshore renewables sector with a view to commissioning future research projects.

Similarly, Steve suggests a Knowledge Transfer grant administered by, for example, the Natural Environment Research Council would support knowledge held at academic institutions to be transferred via collaboration. "The government is anxious to promote more examples of such knowledge transfer," he says.

While there may be mileage in pursuing such research projects, Steve does not dismiss the value of direct



Senior forecaster Jim Bacon

Photo: weatherquest

partnerships between businesses. "Flexibility is vital. With my positions at both weatherquest and UEA I can see the importance of looking at all business and academic opportunities." He also welcomes the role of Renewables East in helping companies such as weatherquest reach wider audiences in the ever-growing renewable sector.

Gateway to the offshore wind market

Siemens operation and maintenance event, North Lincolnshire, 6 March

With planning consents already granted for projects worth up to £15 billion and government support for more developments to come, the operation and maintenance of offshore wind farms is a rapidly growing business with an urgent need for more entrants into the market.

On 6 March, Renewables East is bringing together Siemens and other key offshore businesses to discuss the issues and requirements for those businesses planning to enter the sector.

Areas that will be covered include access to developments both by

sea and air, and achieving high operational reliability of turbines and offshore infrastructure.

The offshore wind industry requires skilled and experienced electrical and mechanical engineers and other support services. There are still many opportunities for new entrants to the market as well as expansion opportunities for those already engaged.

The event has grown from initial discussions with Martyn Boyers and Roger Smith of Grimsby Fish Market, who realised the potential for diversifying into the offshore renewable energy industry, making use of their knowledge, facilities and experience.

Grimsby Fish Market has been successful in making the city a key

base for industry leaders Siemens and Centrica. "Diversification is good for the offshore renewables industry, good for us and good for Grimsby, bringing with it jobs and encouraging further investment from others," said Martyn.

Siemens has also established a dockside base at Grimsby. The city is one of several key locations on the east coast; others include Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth and Felixstowe.

Delegates at the conference will be offered a unique opportunity not only to learn about the industry from experienced operators but also to pre-book one-to-one meetings with all of the speakers.

More information, including booking details, can be found at <http://renewableeast.eventhq.co.uk>.

Featured Company

2Cs spreading the message

Renewable energy companies turn to marketing specialist that can handle everything from web development to film production

Suffolk-based creative and strategic marketing company 2Cs aims to help its expanding portfolio of renewable energy customers achieve clearer communications.

The company provides a range of marketing services, specialising in property and retail businesses as well as renewable energy projects. 2Cs managing director Bob Woolliams says: "Around one third of our business is now focused on renewable energy and environmental issues."

2Cs Communications was set up in 1986 and in September last year the company joined forces with Newmarket-based events and publishing specialists R&W Communication. Bob says: "R&W has a strong reputation in scientific and technical communications and event management. We hope to take this expertise forward into the energy sector."

The company now employs 30 people with offices in Martlesham Heath, Newmarket and London.

2Cs' clients include OrbisEnergy, the flagship enterprise hub for offshore renewable energy in Lowestoft. The company is providing the lead marketing activity, following a competitive tendering process.

An interactive website has been established, including a "fly-through" facility, allowing visitors to tour the state-of-the-art building. Marketing literature highlights the business opportunities available to companies interested in taking a tenancy in the building.

Bob says: "2Cs managed the entire process for the campaign including copywriting, design, web development and film production."

He adds: "We are working with a number of companies and institutions in the East of England to help renewable businesses improve communications."

2Cs is working with Enecsys at Cambridge University to help promote

its work on solar panels, and similarly with another university-based company Wind Technologies which is developing electrical generator systems for the wind turbine industry.

"We are also involved with the campaign by Suffolk County Council to promote green behavioural changes, for example in methods of transport," Bob adds. "In addition, we are working with Aylesford Newsprint in Kent which uses recycled newsprint."

At SLP, 2Cs has developed new-look websites for two divisions of the contract and wind farm development group, which allows the company's staff to update the content themselves. Renewables East

and 2Cs are currently working on a promotional DVD that will explain why the East of England is the primary region for renewable energy businesses.

Bob says: "Looking at the success of institutions such as Cambridge University and innovative projects such as OrbisEnergy, the DVD will be sent to interested parties around the world to encourage further investment in renewable energy technologies."

Again, 2Cs is taking a full service approach; creating the script, filming the companies and carrying out all post-production work, including designing and producing the DVD covers.



Wider wind farm picture: the on-line Open Debate forum in action

Web-based consultation a winner for wind farms

With tough existing and proposed local, national and EU targets to increase the supply of energy from renewable sources, a difficult balancing act must be struck with the concerns of communities living close to proposed developments such as wind farms.

Effective and wide-reaching public consultation is vital at all stages. Consense, the fast-growing division of 2Cs, offers web-based consultation

systems for wind farm and property planning.

Consense has developed its Open Debate software that enables the community and stakeholders to take part on-line in the consultation process for wind farm developments. "We now have around 20 wind farm online consultation websites running across the UK, using our Open Debate

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system," reports 2Cs managing director Bob Woolliams.

Open Debate allows visitors to look through full information on a wind farm development, including environmental impact assessments, interactive maps and photomontages, planning information and company details; then complete a detailed consultation questionnaire.

With the consultation process coming on-line, this means that information can be updated and added at any time, and visitor statistics and feedback can be reported on instantly. "We have found that the Open Debate on-line system encourages those people who would not normally attend more traditional consultation meetings to put forward their views.

"Visitors to the website are able to see the wider picture and we have had a very positive response in general from the public to specific wind farm proposals," says Bob.

Wind farm clients include Infinergy, which appointed Consense to develop the Open Debate system for its proposed seven to 10-turbine scheme at Thacksons Well in Lincolnshire. Consense has since developed on-line consultations for a further four Infinergy projects.

Its first ever wind farm on-line consultation was for Your Energy's Milton Keynes project near Emberton, which received planning approval in December 2007. The Open Debate for the scheme ended 76% in favour of the company's proposals, assisting in permission being granted.

Broadview Energy and Wind Energy have both adopted Open Debate across multiple proposed wind farms, and npower renewables asked Consense to attach the map, questionnaire and reporting functions of the system to its existing website for the developer's proposed 20MW Ballindalloch Muir project.

Viking Energy is hoping to move forward with its plans for a 600MW wind farm in the Shetland Isles following huge public response to its Open Debate website, which is due to be updated with feedback in March.

MEP Richard Howitt and EU Commissioner for Regional Policy Danuta Hübner at the OrbisEnergy building



Commissioner Hübner tops out OrbisEnergy

EU Commissioner for Regional Policy Danuta Hübner officially 'topped out' the OrbisEnergy building as part of a visit to the region on 28 January.

The commissioner visited Lowestoft, at the heart of the region's existing offshore industries, leading the OrbisEnergy topping out ceremony by unveiling a plaque on the building.

The landmark OrbisEnergy building is Britain's newest renewable energy hub and has been supported by significant funding from the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) and ERDF Objective 2.

The project is on schedule for completion this summer with the first tenants due to move in come July.

The commissioner was on her first visit to the region to launch the East of England's new ERDF programme. The £80 million programme will be managed by the EEDA.

The commissioner and Richard Ellis, chair of EEDA, officially opened the first bidding round for this new funding.

At Lowestoft College she signed and presented Richard with the new ERDF Programme decision letter.

During the launch, Commissioner Hübner also toured the college's internationally recognised offshore training facility.

Richard said: "The southern North Sea is currently emerging as the worldwide focal point for strategic development and deployment of new offshore and renewable energy technologies.

"This means businesses in the East of England are ideally situated to benefit from the growing supply chain and service opportunities presented by wind, wave and tidal technologies."

He added: "The new ERDF programme, along with projects like OrbisEnergy, is key to enabling the East of England to capitalise on its vast natural energy resources and assist the region's businesses to seize new opportunities in this sector and respond to the economic challenges of climate change.

"The ERDF programme has been shaped by the region and responds to an agenda of huge economic significance to the East of England as one of the fastest growing regions in the UK."

Filling in the radio blackspots

Lowestoft-based Fern Communications has developed a waterproof and buoyant portable two-way radio repeater, which eliminates radio blackspots and extends transmission range.

The FRW device will allow personnel working at sites offshore such as wind farms to communicate when carrying out construction or maintenance work, by 'bending' radio signals around solid structures. The lightweight all-weather unit enables workers on offshore wind farms to communicate freely in situations where conventional communications do not work.

"The unit is the only waterproof



'Bending' radio signals: the FRW radio repeater

device of its kind and will help renewable businesses reduce downtime caused by maintenance and repairs," said Clive Cushion, technical director at Fern Communications.

"The repeater also provides valuable health and safety benefits for engineers working in

difficult situations offshore," he added. Clive said the FRW will go into full production in March and will be assembled in Lowestoft.

"A grant from Renewables East enabled us to get the FRW from concept to pre-production prototype within one year. We are now planning a global marketing campaign and will expand from our current workforce of five to respond to demand as the product takes off," said Clive.

Fern Communications is talking to a number of offshore maintenance players about the value of the FRW. The company was also short-listed for the Carbon Connections Low Carbon Innovation Awards.



In at the deep end: Siemens staff brush up on their safety skills at Petans

Photo: Petans

Siemens opts for Petans offshore safety training

Siemens has chosen Petans Ltd to provide offshore safety training for members of staff. The contract came about as the result of a Renewables East visit organised for Siemens personnel to the region on 20 November 2007.

The event included a visit to Petans, where the delegation was shown around the Norwich site and facility. This is unique in the UK in that it can offer training in MCA Marine Survival, fire-fighting, confined space and OPITO Helicopter Underwater Escape, all from a single location, just outside Norwich International Airport.

At the time of the visit, David Hughes, Siemens offshore operations manager, asked Petans general manager Michael Wilder to create a specialist course to meet the legal and operational requirements for training that Siemens staff need to work safely in the offshore environment.

A proposal based on these multiple facilities was sent to Siemens in December 2007. In early January

David confirmed a booking for two initial courses in February, with nine personnel on each course.

The three-day course provides training in offshore personal survival techniques, including use of life rafts, helicopter rescue and fire-fighting techniques, both in theory and in practice.

It also examines the safety management systems operating in the offshore industry and relevant legislation. Delegates successfully completing the course elements are awarded a certificate, accredited by MCA, OPITO and Petans, valid for four years.

Comments received from the Siemens delegates on the first course were all highly positive about the practical bias this training offers, calling it both "excellent" and "enjoyable".

Petans has been asked for an additional series of six dates (through to June), which will allow up to a further 72 trainees to benefit from training in these essential offshore skills.

Onshore wind news round-up

Call to keep the faith despite MoD objections

James Beal of Renewables East is urging wind developers in the region not to be discouraged by Ministry of Defence objections to projects on the basis of radar integrity.

While he conceded that "the MoD is perhaps not as receptive as it should be" to developers' concerns, James said the region needs to continue to build on its record year in 2007.

Wind power developers in the East of England have set up a lobby group to highlight what they see as MoD efforts to impose a blanket ban on projects in the region.

Wind Power Renewables, SLP Energy, Enertrag UK and Mellinus Renewables are hoping to gather support from other regional players to increase pressure on local and central government to overcome MoD

objections, which have become more frequent following concerns about radar installations.

Ecotricity's six-turbine wind farm at Swaffham in Norfolk, close to the two existing Swaffham turbines and Enertrag's North Pickenham project, was recently refused permission by councillors after objections from the Defence Estates over the impact of the proposals on air traffic control radar.

The MoD has expressed support for renewable energy policies and maintains it only raises objections when absolutely necessary and on a case-by-case basis.

- SLP Energy has withdrawn its original application for a four-turbine, up to 10MW wind farm at Hemsby in Norfolk. Planning officials had recommended refusal of the scheme and the company was denied a request for an extension from Great Yarmouth

Borough Council to address concerns with the application.

The developer is expected to file a new application as it still believes the Hemsby wind farm is a robust project.

The company also has plans for a project at Pulham St Mary in Norfolk with seven turbines of 1.5MW to 2.5MW, giving a potential output of 17.5MW.

- Npower is at the very early stages of planning for a large-scale wind farm just south of the Humber Estuary.

Local authority planning officials at North Lincolnshire Council have prepared a scoping report for a 23-turbine project next to the Viking Way walking route.

With the potential for up to 69MW, the fate of the wind farm would be determined by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform under Section 36 legislation.

Offshore wind

- Secretary of State John Hutton has claimed the UK could install a total of 33GW of offshore wind by 2020.

Launching a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of UK seas late last year, he surprised the industry with a suggestion that "companies could develop up to 25GW of offshore wind by 2020, in addition to the 8GW already planned, subject to the outcome of the SEA process".

The figure far surpasses the 20GW suggested by the British Wind Energy Association.

- Scottish & Southern Energy has acquired Irish developer Airtricity in a 1.455 billion euro deal, giving the company scope to develop substantial offshore wind farm capability.

Airtricity's portfolio of offshore assets includes a 50% stake in the 504MW consented Greater Gabbard wind farm, together with significant operating or planned onshore developments in the UK, Ireland, mainland Europe and China.

The purchase gives SSE a new wind development portfolio of almost

10,000MW, reinforcing its position as a major global renewable energy player.

- Centrica is targeting new suppliers for its next project, the 250MW Lincolnshire wind farm close to the Lynn and Inner Dowsing development. The company is awaiting a decision



on the new project and construction could start in 2009 with commissioning in 2010/2011. It is keen to identify future suppliers at an early stage in the light of current constraints on wind farm supplies.

Centrica has also extended its charter of the MPI installation vessel Resolution (*pictured*) until at least

2009. The vessel is expected to begin turbine installation at Lynn and Inner Dowsing in March. The 54-turbine job is timetabled to run until around mid-July.

- The Carbon Trust and Energy Technologies Institute have launched a £40 million initiative aimed at cost reduction and accelerated deployment in the offshore wind sector.

Organisations involved in offshore wind, wave and tidal projects, as well as those with relevant experience in the oil and gas industries, will be invited to contribute to the initiative.

The Carbon Trust said: "Working closely with manufacturers, developers and companies throughout the supply chain, we aim to catalyse innovation and push down costs."

- Dong Energy's board has sanctioned investment in two UK offshore wind farms, including Gunfleet Sands II. The 64MW farm is due on stream in 2010 but still needs government approval. Costs for Gunfleet II are put at Dkr1.4 billion.

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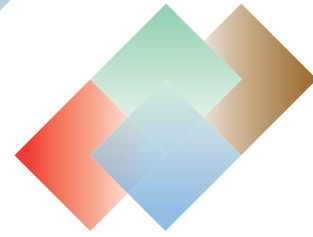
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Your news is important to us! Please send to:

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RENEWABLES EAST

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

6 March 2008 Siemens Offshore Maintenance and Service Event, Forest Pines Hotel, North Lincolnshire.

This Renewables East event will see one of the market leaders in offshore wind energy, Siemens, outline its aims to deliver high operational reliability for its offshore assets. Specific industry opportunities will be highlighted, including the need for skilled electrical (and mechanical) engineers, services vessels and shore-side and dock-side services. Delegates will also have the opportunity to pre-book 1-2-1 meetings with all speakers.

<http://renewableseast.eventhq.co.uk>

13 March 2008 BWEA Connect, London

This event is one of the key benefits of membership and the evening is free of charge. BWEA Connect events are designed to provide an opportunity to meet new people, conduct business or expand your knowledge of the industry. Prior to the drinks reception there will be a workshop on Current Trends in European Renewables Policy.

www.bwea.com/BWEAConnect/index.html

18 March 2008 Anaerobic Digestion Conference and Exhibition, London

By bringing together technology providers and clients, this event will show that anaerobic digestion is a solution offering both environmental and financial opportunities to provide energy from organic materials.

<http://renewableseast.eventhq.co.uk>

19 March 2008 Understanding ESCOs: Ford Dunton Centre, Essex

With the target of all new housing being zero carbon by 2016, decentralised energy generation will be an important tool in meeting government targets. Energy Services Companies (ESCOs) have a vital role in energy saving and generation. This event is run in partnership with Renewables East as part of Inspire East's Local Delivery Vehicle (LDV) network.

www.renewableseast.org.uk/Documents/2008-3-19_UnderstandingESCOsEvent.pdf

31 March to 3 April 2008 EWEC, Belgium

The 2008 event is expected to attract 4000 professional visitors from 50 countries from all relevant parts of the decision-making chain — from engineers to purchasers to analysts. Local attendance at this event is organised by GYMI.

www.ewea.org or contact Stephanie Pimlott on 01493 846108 or gymi@gymi.co.uk

21-22 May 2008 All-Energy, Aberdeen

All-Energy is the UK's largest renewable energy exhibition and conference. Well over a hundred companies and organisations have already booked their space. This year, EEEGr are co-ordinating the representations for the Energy Region stand.

www.renewableseast.org.uk/Documents/2008-5-20_All%20Energy%2008%20Brochure.pdf

Double plus for anaerobic digestion

Anaerobic digestion is an effective technology for treating agricultural slurries that could otherwise give rise to methane emissions. It has the additional benefit that it can utilise grown energy crops, with the end byproduct providing a valuable nutrient and soil conditioner.

The process uses bacteria to break down organic residues producing a biogas, consisting of around 60% methane and 40% carbon. The Energy White Paper proposes 'double ROCs' for anaerobic digestion.

On 18 March, Renewables East is hosting a conference and exhibition at the Institute of Civil Engineers, London, to highlight the opportunities that anaerobic digestion technology can offer.

The conference and exhibition will provide an opportunity for project developers to learn more about the technology and to meet a range of plant providers offering varying solutions to meet a variety of situations. Full details at <http://renewableseast.eventhq.co.uk>

New faces on RE board

Renewables East is delighted to welcome two new directors to the board. Paula Jennings is finance director at BDO Stoy Hayward. She is involved with financing large-scale renewable energy projects across the world. Chris Hill is UK offshore development manager for Airtricity and has been in the wind energy industry for more than six years.

Would you like to become a member of Renewables East?

Corporate Membership

Join Renewables East as a company member for free and enjoy a number of benefits such as entry to one event each year free of charge, newsletters and an invitation to the company's AGM. Call us now for further details.