



## Green Port Growth Programme Management Board – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015

### Strand Update Report

#### Skills Strand

**Engineering Apprenticeships** - The 2014-15 target for engineering apprenticeship starts is 150. Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, 86 applications have been approved with a further 24 pending offer / acceptance – a total of 110.

**Engineering Up-Skilling** - The 2014-15 target for upskilling is currently 200. Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, 93 applications for up-skilling funding have been approved. A further 28 are pending, giving a total of 121.

**Specific Skills** - Although there is a 2014-15 target of 100 specific skills packages, this was on the understanding that Siemens and their Tier 1 suppliers would be in production by this time. Although there has been occasional demand for this type of training current demand seems weak and is unlikely to improve before 2015-16.

#### Business Support Strand

To date the project has:

- 224 enquiries
- 143 businesses enrolled
- 74 businesses supported
- 19 companies financial assistance awarded
- 20 f/t 2 p/t Jobs created (21 FTE)

Grants and Consultancy Support (to date)

- Grants and consultancy support processed for payment - £93k
- Committed grants and consultancy support costs - £68.5k
- Percentage of grant spent by purchasing through local businesses - 79% Hull and East Riding, 16% rest of Yorkshire & Humber, 5% outside of Yorkshire and Humber.

**Workshops** - 7 workshops have taken place (3 more organised for January), all with positive feedback and capacity numbers reached for many of the sessions. Each workshop has been monitored by a member of the team and this has been discussed with the deliverer, with an agreed action plan going forward in the planning of future sessions.

**Links to other programmes** – promotion of the Green Port Growth programme was delivered in conjunction with supporting Business in the Community at their Access the Buyer event at Hull University in November.

#### Site Assembly Strand

Discussions are ongoing to explore potential options for the Paull site.



## **Inward Investment Strand**

Job Opportunities - The first phase of the Siemens recruitment process started in December with 14 positions being advertised via Siemens, JCP and GPH websites.

The jobs were split between six land based stores and servicing jobs and eight offshore wind turbine commissioning technician positions. The roles of site stores manager and five stores operatives will support Siemens existing onshore and offshore wind turbine projects in the UK. They will be based at an interim warehouse facility in Hull until they relocate to a service logistics and warehouse centre at Alexandra Dock. The wind turbine commissioning technicians will be based in Hull and work on Siemens wind projects in the UK and Europe bringing turbines in to operation.

With a closing date of 23<sup>rd</sup> December, Siemens included a caveat within the advertisement that applicants must live within a 40 minute radius of Hull or be willing to relocate to the city.

Siemens reported that they received an overwhelming response, with 80% of applications passing the first screening exercise. Going forward applicants will have to complete online tests with the final stage of recruitment involving attendance at an assessment centre at the beginning of February 15.

Applications received for each position:  
450 x Wind Turbines Commissioning Technician  
253 x Site Stores Operatives  
57 x Site Manager

Graham/Lagan JV had also advertised a Safety Boat Operative vacancy via JCP and GPH websites and had received 27 applications, seven of which are expected to go forward to interview.

## **Research and Development Strand**

**General** - A quieter month than usual given the Christmas holiday period.

Follow-up telecoms and Skype call planned for January with the Lulea University of Technology trade delegation to discuss possibilities for joint research and innovation collaboration in the renewables area, including possibilities for Humber-based SME and micro-business involvement in EU Horizon 2020 projects already in the planning.

Further discussions held with Grow Offshore Wind (Fred Mead, Alan Whittaker) around the East Coast strategic supply chain initiative; more to follow in January.

A very successful workshop was held on 2/12/14 entitled, 'Concept to Commercialisation'. A follow-up event will be discussed with the Business Support strand.

Linda Love and AL have spent a number of hours inputting data into Evolutive such that the significantly increased levels of contact and support emanating from the R&D strand. Work is still required to formalise a Service Level Agreement (SLA; now written in draft) between the UoH and Hull City Council for back office support for the administration of the Knowledge Fund. To this end, options for greater administration support based within the R&D strand have been assessed, majoring on the creation of the appropriate R&D strand interface with Hull City Council.



Excellent interaction was had with the UKTI delegation in late November, whereby its R&D experts gained a better insight into the working of the GPGP R&D strand. Follow-up meetings are planned with the R&D Sector Specialists.

Conversations have continued with **GSPS, Simultech and Maintenance TV**. Momentum will increase in terms of formal support during Q1 2015.

**Greenstick Energy Ltd.** has now filed patents in all of the agreed territories. Support has been given to locate a screw-pile expert from Sheffield University which will form the first stage of the formalisation of an R&D programme, for potential public support. To this end, a meeting has been scheduled with InnovateUK in relation to its Energy Catalyst Competition. AL continues to monitor the progress, intervening where necessary.

A meeting between AL and Finbarr Dowling has been arranged for 20/1/15 to discuss research, development and innovation and how GPGP can align with the **Siemens** strategy for the Humber. AL will produce a short briefing note alongside the next update for the GPGP Board.

**Observations** - The administration and interfaces around Evolutive have been reviewed. As a result, a part-time resource will be appointed at zero additional cost to the programme as it will eliminate AL's need to spend time covering administration tasks.

### **Business Grants Strand**

There are currently two interested parties who may in time submit grant applications.

### **Programme level update**

BIS have approved the contract variation request in order to re-profile the original output and expenditure targets, as well as extend the end date of the Programme to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. The contract variation is with the Council's legal team prior to sign off.

Sarah Clark  
Programmes Manager  
7<sup>th</sup> January 2015