



## Green Port Growth Programme Management Board – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014

### Strand Update Report

#### Skills Strand

**Engineering Apprenticeships** – The 2014-15 target for engineering apprenticeship starts is 225. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, we have had 29 applications approved with a further 23 pending offer / acceptance. This figure will continue to rise as we progress with the programme.

**Engineering Up-Skilling** – The 2014-15 target for upskilling is currently 70. Since the start 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 we have 86 applications of which 67 have been approved. There are a further 19 currently pending approval/payment. We expect that this will continue to increase as we have had considerable interest in this strand.

**Specific Skills** – There have been no new applications on this strand since the last update, although an organisation who have already received funding are considering further training packages and the results of their internal discussions are awaited.

**Additional activity – Renewables Pathway Project Disadvantaged Groups** - Tendering and procurement of this project which was approved by the Board in April 2014, is scheduled to commence in October with part 1 of the invitation to tender, followed by part 2 in November/December. Delivery will commence in April 2015.

#### Business Support Strand

To date the project has:

- 129 enquiries
- 92 enrolled
- 62 reviews completed
- 17 companies financial assistance awarded
- 20 f/t 2 p/t Jobs created

Grants and Consultancy Support (to date)

- Grants and consultancy support processed for payment - £48,000
- Committed grants and consultancy support costs - £113,500
- 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.

**Marketing** - Success stories (as referenced in April/May's report) are now featuring on the Green Port Growth website. A local marketing company, Mapa PR, wrote a press release on Precision Drilling and contacted DH for quote. Subsequently the story was picked up by local media, including Hull Daily Mail, Yorkshire Post, Business Link Magazine, Look North and Estuary TV.

The success story on Pearlgreen / MMS was released by Bluestorm and has also been picked up by Hull Daily Mail and due to feature on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**Work with other strands** - Have supported R&D strand with finance application for Greenstick Ltd.



**Workshops** - Dates and venues are being finalised for Business Support workshops which will be marketed during October for delivery starting 4<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Site Assembly Strand – no change to September report**

The Homes and Communities Agency are looking to move forward with the development of Burma Drive, Hull with marketing of the site due to commence mid September, with a joint press release being issued soon after.

As might have been noted from the press Marfleet Environmental Technology Park has now been completed.

Note of caution, since March 14 there has been a significant increase in activity in relation to land and property, and we have now reached a position that there are no available workshop units around Hedon Road, within the boundary of Hull of any size 20,000 sq +. In terms of the available sites, we have Burma Drive which is due to come forward and Kingston Parklands (formerly the Maternity Hospital Site), other sites which may be coming forward include Wykeworks, although this will be dependent upon a bespoke end user for the site.

Beyond this we have a limited number of opportunities to assemble sites of 2 hectares + which the market are likely to seek. Due to the level of property market failure our ability to assemble these types of sites without the availability of grant funding is likely to be very limited.

Detailed costings are awaited to establish how the GPGP can contribute resource to the enhancement works at the re-routed footpath around the Green Port Dock site as well as part of the works required to develop the Northern Gateway Roundabout to allow movement along the haul road.

### **Inward Investment Strand**

Inward Investment Strand Activity - Detailed meetings continue to take place with Siemens regarding supply chain engagement and their skills and employment requirements.

Chamber Activity - Continued engagement with the renewable energy sector in Denmark. Working towards agreed objectives with regard to establishing Green Port representation in Denmark in order to engage with potential inward investors. The Board will be asked to agree final objectives prior to commencement of activity.

### **Research and Development Strand**

**General** - Relationships continue to be strengthened between the R&D strand and THMA with attendance at a number of events during the month and increased sharing of insights. The opportunity to work with the Bremerhaven inward mission on EU R&D initiatives is one such benefit arising which could positively impact SME's in the region.



The recent activities in support of Greenstick Energy have highlighted the need for a more widespread understanding by all stakeholders of the 'concept to commercialisation' journey that the developer of any new product or service must embark upon, itself the raison d'être of the R&D strand of GPGP. To this end, AL has produced a strategy paper which sets out the 'concept to commercialisation' journey. The paper is to be used as the basis of an awareness session at the November Board, taking Greenstick Energy as the live case study.

Working with Fred Mead, AL is to widen the contact network to include institutions in the wider NE region, including Narec, CPI, Durham, Newcastle, Teesside universities, as well as Ports of Blyth and Tyne, etc. This was actioned at the August GPGP Supply Chain meeting in Hull.

The R&D strand is to input directly to the Business Support workshop programme in Q3 and Q4 2014 via subject areas like, 'Protection of Intellectual Property' and 'Product Development'. AL continues to work with DH on the scope and scheduling of such inputs.

Relationship with the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult continues to be strengthened with a view to a strategic initiative being launched between GPGP and OREC targeted at SME's in the Hull and East Riding area. Logistics, O&M, Safety and Simulation (LOMASS) provide the GPGP differentiators.

**Observations** - The Greenstick Energy project has highlighted the importance of all stakeholders understanding the 'concept to commercialisation' process as it will arise in every company which is developing new technology or new services within the region and is key to ensuring that future value is not lost to the GPGP economic area.

C4DI offers the region a superb facility around which to fashion an offshore wind big data and analytics function. AL to pursue as a potential source of IP-rich, spin-out companies.

The involvement of the R&D strand in the Business Support workshop series will further promote the awareness of both GPGP and the R&D theme and help de-mystify where support to the developers of new products and services can be gained.

#### **Business Grants Strand – no change to September report**

In the last month there has been no further interest which is largely put down to the holiday period, one party is currently working up a grant application. Two other parties have been directed to the last tranche of the Humber LEP grants, reflecting the condensed timeframe for decisions.

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2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014