

# The Speakers



**Sinead Hickey, Environmental & Planning Manager, Bord Gáis Energy**

Sinead has worked in the wind industry since 2001 and, as Environmental and Planning Manager in Bord Gáis Energy is responsible for delivery of all planning and environmental compliance requirements within BGE Assets Division. Sinead's previous experience is in Environmental Health and Safety in the pharmaceutical industry and she also worked for 4 years in environmental management in the mining industry. Sinead holds a M.Sc. in Environmental Science and Chairs IWEA's Environmental and Planning committee.



**Noel Thompson, Presenter, BBC Northern Ireland**

Noel Thompson is the presenter of BBC Radio Ulster's Good Morning Ulster programme. He also anchors the popular Spotlight Special discussion programme on BBC1NI. He is a two time winner of the Royal Television Society's Presenter of the Year Award, and is the recipient of an honorary Master's degree from the Open University. He was educated at Campbell College in Belfast and St Catharine's College Cambridge.



**Maf Smith, Deputy Chief Executive, RenewableUK**

Maf Smith is the Deputy Chief Executive of Renewable UK - the trade and professional body for the UK wind and marine renewables industries. Formed in 1978, and with 664 corporate members, RenewableUK is the leading renewable energy trade association in the UK. Prior to joining RenewableUK Maf worked at grid and regulatory consultancy Xero Energy, and for much of this time was seconded to the Department of Energy and Climate Change to work on Electricity Market Reform. Between 2006 and 2011, Maf worked as Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Scotland for the Sustainable Development Commission, acting as advisor and scrutiny body to the Scottish Government. Between 2002 and 2006 Maf was Chief Executive of Scottish Renewables, Scotland's leading renewable trade association.



**Kenneth Matthews, Chief Executive, IWEA Ltd**

Kenneth joined IWEA as CEO in September 2011. He has over 14 years experience in the energy industry in Ireland having worked with Intel, EirGrid and ESB. He worked in power system operation, protection and transmission access planning in EirGrid. Kenneth has also worked in ESB Power Generation holding numerous management roles including Production Manager Poolbeg Power Station and Station Manager Ardnacrusha Power Station. He has been involved in delivering numerous projects across power generation from safety to power plant overhauls, most recently he has developed and led a stakeholder management and engagement programme for ESB's hydro portfolio. A BEng Hons graduate from University of Ulster, he holds a diploma in Industrial studies.



**Fintan Slye, Chief Executive, EirGrid**

Fintan Slye was appointed Chief Executive of EirGrid on 1 October, 2012. He had previously held the position of Director of Operations of EirGrid, in which he had responsibility for the operation of the power system in Ireland and Northern Ireland, as well as for managing EirGrid and SONI's programme of work to facilitate the integration of world-leading levels of renewables on the power system. Before his appointment to that position, Fintan worked for McKinsey & Co in their Dublin office, supporting companies across Ireland, UK and Europe. Prior to that, he held a number of project and management roles in ESB National Grid and ESB International. Fintan completed a Masters in Business Administration from UCD in 2001 and a Masters in Engineering Science in 1993.



**Seamus Hegarty, Senior Development and Project Manager, Viridian**

Seamus Hegarty joined Viridian Power and Energy in 2005 from NIE where he had over 20 years experience in planning, construction and commissioning of electrical infrastructure. He is currently responsible for delivering Energia's Northern Ireland wind generation portfolio. Prior to his appointment as Senior Development and Project Manager he held the position of Renewables Development Manager, securing off-take supply contracts from renewable generators on the island of Ireland. In NIE he has held the senior positions of Network Operations Manager, NIE Infrastructure and Six Sigma Black Belt, Business Improvement, NIE. Seamus is the current Markets Group chair of the Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group (NIRIG).

## Exhibiting Companies



Planning Online



TURLEYASSOCIATES



# "NI Wind Energy - the Scale of the Opportunity"

NIRIG 2013 Policy Workshop

31st January 2013

Hilton Hotel, 4 Lanyon Place, Belfast

Main Sponsor:



Supporting Sponsors:



# “NI Wind Energy - the Scale of the Opportunity”

## NIRIG 2013 Policy Workshop

Main Sponsor: Carson McDowell

Thursday 31 January 2013 - Hilton Hotel, Belfast

8:00am Registration & Coffee, Exhibition Viewing

Sponsor: 

### Session 1 NI Wind Energy - the Scale of the Opportunity

Chair: Gary Connolly, NIRIG Chairman & NI Development Manager, ESB Wind Development

09:00 Gary Connolly, NIRIG Chairman & NI Development Manager, ESB Wind Development

"Welcome Address"

09:10 Shane Lynch, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation

"Regulatory Framework for Development of Generation and Networks"

09:30 Minister Alex Attwood, MLA, Department of the Environment

"Ministerial Address"

10:00 Mark Ennis, Chairman, Invest NI

"Ready to do Business"

10:25 Questions & Answers

10:45 Tea, Coffee & Exhibition Viewing

Sponsor: 

### Session 2 Scale of the Opportunity - Offshore Wind Energy and Supply Chain

Chair: Richard Murphy, Head of Energy & Natural Resources, NI, Pinsent Masons LLP

11:15 Dr. Michael Shaw, Director for Maritime Infrastructure, RPS Group

"Realising the Offshore Wind Energy and Supply Chain Opportunity"

11:35 Jesper Krarup Holst, Director, First Flight Wind

"The Opportunity - a Project Developer's Viewpoint"

11:55 Seán MacCann, Associate, Carson McDowell

"What Needs to be Done to Realise This Opportunity - Legal Aspects"

12:15 Questions & Answers

12:30 Lunch

Sponsor: 

### Session 3 Planning and Environment Policy Perspectives

Chair: Gordon Kyle, NI Planning Manager, SSE Renewables

14:00 Mary MacIntyre, Director of Strategic Planning, DoE

"Planning Perspectives in Moving Towards 2020"

14:20 Terry A'Hearn, Chief Executive, NIEA

"21st Century Environmental Success"

14:40 Sinead Hickey, Environmental & Planning Manager, Bord Gáis Energy

"Planning and Environment Policies - a Project Developer's Perspective"

15:00 Questions & Answers

15:15 Tea, Coffee & Exhibition Viewing

Sponsor: 

### Session 4 Panel Session: Market and Grid Development Challenges and Directions

Moderator: Noel Thompson, Presenter, BBC Northern Ireland

15.45 Maf Smith, Deputy Chief Executive, RenewableUK

Kenneth Matthews, Chief Executive, IWEA Ltd

Michael Atkinson, Head of Generation Connections, NIE

Fintan Slye, Chief Executive, EirGrid

Seamus Hegarty, Senior Development and Project Manager, Viridian

16:45 Workshop Close

## The Speakers



**Gary Connolly, NI Development Manager, ESB Wind Development**

Gary Connolly has worked with ESB Wind Development for over five years managing the development of wind projects in Northern Ireland. In addition to his projects role, Gary has worked to represent opinions and concerns of the renewable electricity industry in Northern Ireland. Gary obtained a degree in Agricultural Engineering in 1992 from Cranfield Institute of Technology. He spent 15 years working for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) in engineering education and technology transfer. Farm scale renewable energy technologies became the focus of his attention in the latter stages of his time with DARD.



**Shane Lynch, Chief Executive, Utility Regulator**

Shane Lynch took up the position of Chief Executive of the Utility Regulator on 4 January 2011, before which he had been the Director of Electricity since September 2009. He has worked in the electricity industry for 27 years. This included various engineering positions with Northern Ireland Electricity from 1983 until 1992. He then worked for the AES Corporation as Managing Director for both Belfast West and Kilroot power plants and as Development Director for Ireland. He has a BSc. with honours in Mechanical Engineering from Queens University, Belfast and a MSc. with distinction in Finance and Investment from the University of Ulster.



**Minister Alex Attwood, MLA, Department of the Environment**

Alex Attwood MLA took up his post as Minister of the Environment in May 2011. Alex Attwood was first elected as an MLA for West Belfast in 1998 and on three occasions since. He was Minister for Social Development in the last Northern Ireland Executive and a Belfast City Councillor 1985-2005. A native of Belfast, he graduated from Queen's University in 1987, and was Vice President and President of the Student Union (1981 - 1983). He worked as a solicitor before becoming a full-time politician. A member of Belfast City Council 1985 - 2005, he led the negotiations for the first Nationalist Mayor of the City. Involved in various all-party negotiations, including the Good Friday agreement he was the SDLP Policing Spokesman from 1997 to 2007, and was centrally involved in the implementation of policing change through the Patten Commission Report



**Mark Ennis, Chairman, Invest NI**

Mark Ennis is the Chairman of Invest Northern Ireland and the Executive Chairman of SSE Ireland. SSE Ireland operates four businesses across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland including Airtricity, Ireland's fastest-growing energy supply utility; Airtricity Utility Solutions, Ireland's leading street lighting contractor; SSE Renewables, the largest renewable energy developer in Ireland; and SSE Wind Generation, the largest renewable energy generator in Ireland. He was appointed CEO of Airtricity NI Ltd in 2003 in addition to heading up the company's Retail Business in Ireland until 2007. An Economic Honours Graduate of Queens University of Belfast, with an Open University MBA, Mark has specific responsibility for SSE's Public and Regulatory Affairs in Ireland.



**Dr Michael Shaw, Director for Maritime Infrastructure in RPS**

Dr Michael Shaw, Director for Maritime Infrastructure in RPS, has some 30 years experience in Port and Harbour design, coastal defence structures, waterfront development and is responsible for the design and implementation of offshore wind, wave and tidal power devices. In addition, Michael is Regional MD for RPS Scotland, and is Chair of the Marine Energy Group within the Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group (NIRIG), Michael has been involved with numerous wave, tidal and offshore wind projects, including the design of foundation structures for Openhydro and Minesto, the structural design of Limpet wave energy device, and wind, wave and tidal resource studies.



**Jesper Krarup Holst, Director, First Flight Wind**

Jesper Holst is a Director and Head of Markets and Pipeline Management in DONG Energy's Wind Power business unit. He is responsible for commercial aspects of DONG Energy's development projects including the UK and German markets. He is also responsible for originating new projects in new markets as well as managing the pipeline of offshore wind projects in

DONG Energy's portfolio. Jesper has been based in the UK working with offshore wind since 2004 with the London Array and Gunfleet Sands projects and in the recent years overseeing the company's portfolio of development projects in the UK. He was responsible for DONG Energy's tender submission to The Crown Estate together with joint Venture partners RES and B9 which led to successful award of the 600MW First Flight Wind project. He is a board member of the JV company established to oversee the development, construction and operation of the First Flight Wind Project. His educational background includes an MSc in Environmental Engineering from the Technical University of Denmark and an MBA from Henley Business School.



**Seán MacCann, Associate, Carson McDowell**

Seán is a business lawyer, admitted in England & Wales and in Ireland. In London, he was a commercial litigator with a City firm before moving in-house to Shell U.K.'s upstream and downstream departments and then to Burberry Limited where he was responsible for their IP enforcement and commercial contracts in 26 territories. In Dublin, Seán was IT/IP

lawyer with a corporate law firm before joining ComReg, the Irish telecommunications regulator, as their Market Operations lawyer. In early 2000, he co-founded Vordel, an Intel-funded security / authentication software company. Between 2003 and 2008, he was head of legal at Airtricity. Between 2008 and 2009, he was sole in-house legal adviser to OpenHydro. Between 2009 and 2012, he was head of legal at Mainstream Renewable Power.



**Gordon Kyle, NI Planning Manager, SSE Renewables**

Gordon Kyle is Planning Manager, Northern Ireland for SSE Renewables with overall responsibility for the development through Planning/EIA stages of over 400MW of onshore projects. He has over 10 years Project Management, Planning and EIA experience in the Northern Ireland Renewables sector with SSER and formerly Airtricity, having been involved in the delivery of the company's Northern Ireland portfolio to date. Prior to joining Airtricity, he worked in private consultancy and with DOE's Planning NI. Gordon is a graduate of the University Ulster Coleraine (MSc Dip Environmental Business Admin), and University of Dundee (BSc Environmental Management).



**Mary MacIntyre, Director of Strategic Planning, DoE**

Mary MacIntyre is a Chartered Town Planner and since September 2011 has been the Director of Strategic Planning Division in the Department of Environment (DOE). Mary began her career in Manchester with Salford City Council before returning to Northern Ireland where she worked in private practice before joining DOE in 1991. Her current responsibilities include the Strategic Projects Team dealing with major planning applications throughout Northern Ireland as well as waste, minerals and renewable energy developments.



**Terry A'Hearn, Chief Executive, NIEA**

Terry A'Hearn joined the Northern Ireland Environment Agency as its new Chief Executive in November 2012. Terry spent the last two years in London working for international consulting firm, WSP Environment & Energy. Prior to that, he worked in his home country Australia where he held a number of senior roles in the Environment Protection Authority in the State of

Victoria. Terry has a background in regulatory reform, policy development, business and community partnerships and compliance programmes. In all this work, he has a strong focus on aligning environment and heritage management with economic and social prosperity.