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WIND TURBINES START ARRIVING AT HILL OF TOWIE WIND FARM

Turbines arrived at Aberdeen Harbour's Commercial Quay following a £4 million refurbishment

The first wind turbine components will arrive today at RES's Hill of Towie Wind Farm, near Keith in Moray. The first consignment of blades arrived by ship last week into Aberdeen Harbour's Commercial Quay, which has recently been the subject of a £4 million refurbishment. Their delivery to site marks another major milestone for the 48MW project, which is RES's largest wind farm in the UK to date.

Construction started on the wind farm in December 2009 and it is expected to be fully commissioned by spring 2012. Once completed, Hill of Towie Wind Farm will consist of 21 Siemens 2.3MW turbines. Following the initial delivery, a further five vessels carrying the wind turbine components - blades, two tower sections, hubs and nacelles - will arrive at the harbour over the next two months.

The deliveries to the wind farm will travel to the site with a police escort in a convoy, made up of four vehicles. Each convoy will leave Aberdeen at 9:30am and arrive at the site at 11:45am. Transportation of the turbine components has been carefully timed to avoid the rush hour traffic in Aberdeen to help minimise disruption. The deliveries are expected to take place Monday to Friday with the occasional delivery on a Saturday. RES has taken every precaution to minimise disruption to other road users and the delivery route has been agreed following detailed consultation with Aberdeenshire Council, the police and the relevant highways authorities.

Ted Picken, RES Construction Director, commented: *"We have recently finished improvement works to the Mounthooly roundabout, enabling us to use Aberdeen Harbour for the safe delivery of the wind turbines for Hill of Towie. The significant investment in the harbour will help Aberdeen confirm its position as a hub for renewable energy and reap the associated economic benefits."*

Harbour Master and Operations Director of Aberdeen Harbour, Ray Shaw, said: *"Recognising the growing importance of the renewables sector, Aberdeen Harbour has invested heavily in the creation of stronger, deeper quays and additional operational space to ensure that we have the facilities required to accommodate cargo of this nature. The turbine shipments that we are welcoming over the next few months are a testament to the continued development of the port's infrastructure and we are confident that Aberdeen*



Page 2 of 2 / RES / Wind Turbines Start Arriving at Hill of Towie Wind Farm / 17 August 2011

Harbour is well-placed to play a significant role in attracting future business from not only the onshore wind sector, but also the offshore wind, wave and tidal sectors too. We are delighted to be involved with projects that will help with the country's future energy requirements."

Amir Farzad Farokhzad, Siemens Onshore Project Manager, commented *"Siemens is delighted to be working with RES and Aberdeen Harbour on the Hill of Towie Wind Farm project. This latest project is part of Scotland's commitment to providing low carbon energy and will deliver significant benefits to the community"*

ENDS

Notes to editors:

1. RES is one of the world's leading independent renewable project developers with operations across Europe, North America and Asia-Pacific. At the forefront of wind energy development since the 1970s, RES has developed and/or built more than 5 GW of wind energy capacity worldwide including around 10% of the UK's wind energy. In Scotland, RES has developed and/or owns seven wind farm projects. The RES Group is active in a range of renewable energy technologies (biomass, solar, onshore and offshore wind, wave and tidal). For more information, visit www.res-group.com
2. RES submitted an application for Hill of Towie Wind Farm (formerly known as Drummuir) to Moray Council in 2002. The application was refused by Moray Council and RES subsequently appealed. A planning inquiry took place in 2004 and in February 2005 the Scottish Executive approved the project. Moray Council appealed to the Court of Session under section 239 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. The Court of Session refused the appeal in 2006. The project was originally given a grid connection date of 2018; this was brought forward to 2011 as part of the National Grid's queue advancement process. The community fund for Hill of Towie Wind Farm will be launched once the wind farm is commissioned in spring 2012 and will see more than £78,000 per annum available to the local community. For more information, visit www.hilloftowie-windfarm.co.uk

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