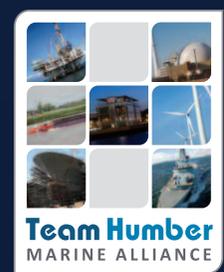


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**ACCESS
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ISSUE 4 MARCH 2011

THMAIL

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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM TEAM HUMBER MARINE ALLIANCE

**Armour plated
contract**

[Click here for full story](#)



**Supporting
the boom**

THMA in funding bid

**Our Region,
Our Future**

Network on March 25

HOTA aims high

Training is changing
for new opportunities

Expertise wanted

Neptune units under construction





Point doors can take the pressure

➔ Point Engineering has launched a new door product in its range of fire and gas resistant units.

The door is designed to resist an overpressure of 800 millibars for 120 milliseconds, specifically for use in blast resistant modules and other applicable blast resistance projects, offshore and onshore.

Point has previously manufactured units for lower pressure blast resistance, and the company now has certification for higher pressures following further product development.



Construction is in mild or stainless steel using the company's successful rebated door and Z-section frame for welding or bolting in to position.

A three-point latching system with optional escape equipment is fitted.

"We have been manufacturing and developing fire resistant doors and hatches for many years and this latest development fills a gap at the top of our product range," said Jonathan Rollison, sales and marketing director.

The company is developing the product range further to include ballistic resistant standards for security and defence.

Right place, right time

Siemens' decision really sets things moving

Team Humber Marine Alliance provides a comprehensive supply chain offer to the renewables industry.

The Humber is one of the great seaways of Europe and home to highly experienced specialist engineering companies, and others, employing industry leading technology and training.

The Alliance acts as a single access point to the broad range of skills these firms have developed, and by focusing and channelling their combined capabilities can offer customers a seamless supply of first-rate products and services.

These include fabrication, assembly and maintenance of turbines, for which the existing port infrastructure on both banks of the Humber is set to grow substantially, and tried and tested logistics.

The Humber, so advantageously placed for the North Sea wind power development grounds, is also seeing progress in biomass and biofuel developments and in the growing technologies of tidal and wave power.

"Siemens' decision to build a wind turbine factory in Hull has really set

things moving," says Graham Billany, the Alliance's director and project manager.

"Potentially there are several hundred companies in the region that can benefit as the Humber becomes the prime location for renewables."

The Alliance, through the power of its members who have gained respect in their individual fields, is equally able to serve commercial shipping, provide support for offshore oil and gas installations, develop the potential of inland waterways and provide services to the Ministry of Defence and nuclear sectors.

The Humber, a trading partner with Continental Europe and Scandinavia for hundreds of years, is the UK's top trading estuary, based on the business going through the main ports of Goole, Grimsby, Hull and Immingham.

"It is safe to say that it has never seen such rapid progress as is happening now and, arguably, there has never been such an exciting time for the region's businesses," Graham added.



Highlighting huge potential

➔ THMA was an associate sponsor of the Renewing the Humber conference in Hull in February, which highlighted the huge potential of the region as the leading centre for renewable energy development.

The Alliance's expert panel of speakers at the conference included:

Eric Collis

General manager of HETA (Humber Engineering Training Association)

Matt Jukes

Associated British Ports, port director for Hull and Goole

Sam Pick

Director of the Renewables Network

Winston Philips

Chief executive of Cosalt's Renewables Division

Mark O'Reilly

Co-founder and director of Square 5

Boosting skills

➔ The Alliance is a prominent advocate of training to help raise skills standards to support the growth of the renewables industry in the region. This includes close involvement with the Yorkshire and Humber Wind Skills Planning Group, HETA (Humber Engineering Training Association) and HOTA, which offers nationally approved onshore and offshore training courses.

Team Humber is a collaboration of companies from around the Humber region – be part of it.

Bidding to support boom

Team Humber Marine Alliance is gearing up to support the Humber's renewable energy boom with a £1.8m bid to the Regional Growth Fund (RGF).

The bid has gained the backing of the region's four local authorities, as well as business support agencies and private companies, who are working with THMA to capture a share of a potential market in excess of £500m per year in offshore wind manufacturing.

It is for the period from this March to January 2014 and would also support the Alliance's promotion of other key sectors: commercial shipping, oil and gas, nuclear, defence and inland waterways.

THMA, an associate sponsor of the recent Renewing the Humber conference, has already provided hundreds of business opportunities to its member companies, including hosting visits from Siemens, E.ON and Mainstream.

The Alliance is now a not-for-profit limited company and is planning to double its membership over the next few months to comprehensively engage the regional supply chain and form a green industries cluster.

Graham Billany, THMA director and project manager, said that the intention was to generate new wealth in the Humber by creating further opportunities for members following

the announcement that Siemens had chosen Hull for its wind turbine factory. "We are the region's renewable energy supply chain hub, with the majority of Alliance members actively, or potentially, involved in the sector. Members have given us tremendous support over the years and, in particular more recently, in our efforts



'We want to enhance the promotion of our strength in numbers and ability to offer seamless supply chain services'

Graham Billany

to strengthen the Alliance in order to achieve sustainability.

"However, we estimate that there are a further 400 companies based in the Humber region that could benefit from participation.

"We want to enhance the promotion of our strength in numbers and ability to offer seamless supply chain services, to ensure that the Humber is considered a prime location for inward investors looking to set up manufacturing facilities in the offshore wind market."

The bid, entitled The Future of the Humber – Exploiting its Assets, Raising its Profile and Generating Growth in

Prosperity and Jobs, was made to the government's Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. A decision is expected on April 8.

Mark Jones, head of economic development and regeneration at Hull City Council said: "THMA has played a key role in raising the profile of the Humber's marine industry across a number of sectors, especially the newly emerging renewable sector, and the council fully supports its future development."

Marcus Walker, director of Strategic Regeneration, Housing and Development at North Lincolnshire

Council, said: "The council believes the work of Team Humber Marine Alliance strengthens our offer to the offshore wind industry – one of the most important future areas of growth."

THMA's activities include representing members at national and international exhibitions and conferences, developing skills, collaborating on tenders for large contracts and attracting global players in appropriate industries to visit the region.

It is well placed to continue its role as a leading player in the Humber renaissance by ensuring that regional firms are positioned to benefit from the immense opportunity now before them.

Pulling out stops to increase market share

➔ Further increasing its profile in the most important market sectors is the first objective of Team Humber Marine Alliance.

With member companies being predominantly SMEs, and therefore having only limited resources to promote their capabilities, THMA plans to pull out all the stops on their behalf.

To achieve this, the Alliance plans to build on the role of the current sector champions, who work on a part-time consultancy basis, by engaging a business development team to promote its capabilities to a wider market and to further assist members in developing their skills and gaining contracts.

It is estimated that the enhanced marketing effort would result in an increase in the value of the contribution THMA companies make to the region from £200m to £500m.

In addition, the aim is to launch a recruitment drive among the estimated further 400 companies in the region who could benefit from membership.

This would strengthen the Alliance's supply chain still further in all of its sectors as opportunities beckon in renewable energies and associated developments.

Directors of the new not-for-profit THMA company, based at World Trade Centre Hull & Humber, are:

Graham Billany

THMA's project manager

Frank Butterfield

Managing director of Best Service

Iain Butterworth

Solicitor at Myton Law

Andrew Fairburn

Former managing director of Fairburns

Mark O'Reilly

Co-founder and director of Square 5

Jonathan Rollison

Finance and sales director of Point Engineering



Message to big business

➔ Large investors to the Humber are being kept fully in the picture about the vast range of relevant skills on offer in the region.

In addition to THMA's direct promotion of members, experience and abilities, Yorkshire Forward is helping to spread the message with companies such as Siemens, Mitsubishi, GE Power and E.ON and others who are interested in coming to the Humber.

The Alliance is following up two enquiries from British Waterways for biomass transportation on the Humber canal system.

Middle eastern promise

ProtEX, which provides safety-related systems for the oil, gas and petrochemical industries, is delivering a new training project for existing client Rashpetco, in Egypt.

Currently, Egypt has no certified facilities to provide the specialist training Rashpetco requires for its operations at the gas hub at Idku on the Mediterranean coast, and the costs and visa problems associated with sending staff to the UK are prohibitive.

Instead, ProtEX has taken the training to Egypt after creating a special mobile unit for the job, which began in January for 20 members of the client's maintenance team.

Derek Green, ProtEX managing director, said team members were being trained to the well-regarded CompEx standard, and that the training unit would meet the needs of companies around the globe.

Peter Wem, director, said that 'exciting times' were ahead. "North Africa and the Middle East have a vast array of facilities where CompEx training would be beneficial."

Coatings firm sees potential

➔ Teal and Mackrill is targeting the offshore wind and renewable energy market with its protective and safety coatings.

The THMA member supplies offshore support companies, including WindCat Workboats, with most of its products provided via distributors and agents.

"We see our potential in supplying the support industries, including specific problem-solving products to the main contractors," said Geoff Mackrill, managing director of the Hull-based company.

Products include safety coatings, specific functional finishes, floor systems and anti-climb security coatings.

MTL wins contract to armour Foxhounds

New vehicles will offer greater protection for British forces

Steel engineers MTL Group have won a contract to provide armour for the next generation of Army patrol vehicles.

The THMA member is to manufacture V-shaped hulls for the new Foxhound that will be able to withstand serious mine blasts.

As well as giving ground forces in Afghanistan greater protection against roadside bombs, the eight-tonne vehicle, which is in the lightweight class, is also designed to be highly manoeuvrable, with crew members cocooned in a pod, similar to those used in Formula 1 cars.

Around 200 Foxhounds are to be built at a cost of £180m to replace the current fleet of Land Rover-based vehicles.

The contract has been awarded by Force Protection Europe, which the Ministry of Defence named as the preferred bidder for its light protected patrol vehicle programme.

MTL will fabricate the hulls at its new factory in Rotherham where its equipment includes a 640-tonne robotic press, the world's biggest.

Last year, MTL became the first UK manufacturer to be approved by the German army, the BWB. When the firm subsequently moved from Sheffield to



the 300,000sq ft Rotherham site, managing director, Dr Henry Shirman, said it would provide room for expansion.

A new high definition bevel plasma cutter and a robotic tube cutter have been commissioned, both designed to support the growth in orders from the offshore renewable energy sector.

Heavy industry: Dr Henry Shirman, left, with Ryan Sorby of Lloyds Bank



Business event to reveal more on region's exciting future

Our Region, Our Future, March 25...

The coming wave of new opportunities for marine associated businesses will go under the spotlight at a special Team Humber Marine Alliance networking event on Friday (March 25).

A key aim of the Our Region, Our Future event, being organised with Humber Chemicals Focus's Humber Renewables Network and World Trade Centre Hull & Humber, is to help firms prepare for the renewables age.

And it will also promote opportunities in other market sectors, including offshore oil and gas commercial shipping, inland waterways, ports and logistics, defence and nuclear power.

Following Siemens' decision in January to choose Hull as the site for the UK's first offshore wind turbine plant, there will be updates on the renewables timeline for the Humber and on how the region will develop into the country's premier centre

for green energy. There will be discussions on promoting products and services in all the sectors.

THMA now wants to extend membership to a wider area, geographically and in terms of skills. Over the last few years it has enabled regional marine engineering firms and associated businesses to combine forces through a 'strength in numbers' approach, to deliver high quality projects to national and international markets that, otherwise, would have been out of reach.

"The THMA supply chain is a significant pull to inward investors and we are widening membership," says board member Iain Butterworth, pictured.

"Given the high level of opportunity, we are spreading the word far afield and believe there are several hundred companies that could benefit from joining us."

Our Region, Our Future

Open to members and non-members, takes place at THMA's offices at World Trade Centre Hull & Humber, Queen Street, Hull, on March 25 from 4pm to 6pm.

Attendance is free but a donation of £10 will assist towards the costs. Parking is available for up to two hours

Contact Mary Green to book your place: admin@thma.co.uk (01482) 485271

"We are keyed up and excited about the future and are looking for more opportunities that will benefit new and existing members,

"The event is an opportunity to meet with the new board, to gain a better understanding of the benefits of membership and what we are doing as an organisation in the short and medium term and what has been achieved over the last two years."



Australian firm buys Marine Rescue Technologies Ltd

Mobilarm pays £1.3m for safety beacon market leaders

Marine Rescue Technologies Ltd, developer of the market leading Sea Marshall Man Overboard Systems, has been sold to an Australian company.

Mobilarm, of Perth, has agreed to pay £1.3m for MRT, based at Middleton-on-the Wolds, East Yorkshire, plus an unspecified number of shares, depending on future performance.

The deal, subject to due diligence, will go through in the 50th anniversary year since MRT founder, David Marshall, went overboard from a small yacht in the South Pacific – inspiring his lifelong quest to invent a safety beacon for those in peril in the sea.

Over the years he has been involved in creating a number of award-winning

products, culminating in the widely used Sea Marshall equipment.

The acquisition will create the world's largest 'man overboard' safety and technology company with a strong presence in the defence, oil and gas and commercial marine sectors.

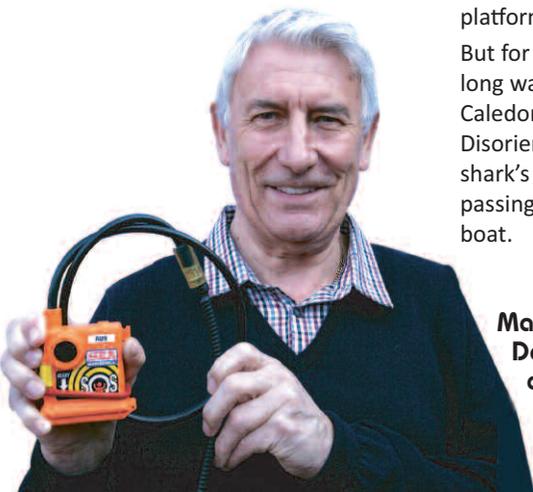
Lindsay Lyon, chief executive of Mobilarm, said David Marshall and his team would play an active role in the growth and development of the combined company.

"This transaction also gives Mobilarm a solid foundation to expand its presence in the European marine safety market," he added.

MRT was founded in 1975 and has made a huge contribution to marine safety by vastly increasing the chances of rescuing seamen and offshore platform workers from the waves.

But for David Marshall in 1961 it was a long wait as his ordeal off New Caledonia lasted for several hours. Disoriented and fearing he would be a shark's next meal, he hung on until a passing barge spotted his upturned boat.

Market leader:
David Marshall with a personal locator beacon



➔ GBA Group, based at Alexandra Dock North, Grimsby, has established a new company, G.B. Renewables Logistics Limited, to serve the requirements of onshore and offshore wind farm construction companies and energy suppliers.

GBA says it is well positioned to meet the diverse and challenging needs of the wind energy sector and, in particular, the Round 3 developments of Dogger Bank, Hornsea and Norfolk Bank.

The company is also part of a consortium formed by Wind-Ships Logistics A/S, which is offering ro-ro vessels for short sea work. Wind-ships, like the one pictured here, run on 100 per cent LNG.

Safe pair of hands cuts Rix ribbon

Rix Petroleum called on the services of former Norwich City goalkeeping stalwart Bryan Gunn to perform the ribbon cutting duties at a new fuel storage facility.

The THMA member has invested £750,000 in creating a 300,000-litre fuel storage facility at Attleborough, Norfolk, after a five-mile move from its old facility at Besthorpe.

The depot will serve as a distribution point for commercial diesel and residential heating oil across Norfolk and Suffolk.

The investment safeguards 16 jobs and will create further jobs as the site becomes fully operational.

Mr Gunn, who played for Scotland six times and was also Norwich City



manager, said: "East Anglia needs great businesses like Rix Petroleum to invest in its people and drive its economy forward, particularly after the last few years of economic turbulence."

Bryan Gunn, centre, is shown around the storage tanks and loading gantry after officially opening the new storage facility. With him are manager Chris Trenerry, right, and Tim Rix, managing director

Business in numbers

The UK's marine industries contribute **£3.7bn** to the UK economy each year, reports the Marine Industries Leadership Council.

The sector employs around **120,000** people in more than 5,000 companies with a combined turnover of **£10bn**.

There was more than **20 per cent** growth in shipbuilding and marine leisure between 2006 and 2008, and there will be billions of pounds of future growth in expanding international markets and marine renewable energy.

There has been a **91 per cent** increase in wind energy jobs between 2008 and 2010, according to RenewableUK.

The trade body's survey of 253 companies with business activities in the wind and marine energy sectors found that the sectors currently employ the equivalent of around **10,800** full-time jobs.

More than **6,000** of these are in work associated with onshore wind farms, the study revealed, around 3,100 are in the offshore wind sector and nearly 900 in other marine energy projects.

A similar survey undertaken by RenewableUK in 2008 showed **4,800** full time equivalent employees were working in the sectors,

Figures from the Carbon Trust suggest that the offshore windenergy sector could create up to **70,000** jobs by 2020.

A new report has forecast that **£740m** will be spent on global wave and tidal power projects over the next five years, with the UK setting the pace.

The energy business analysts, Douglas-Westwood, estimate that annual capital expenditure in the UK will rise from **£32m** in 2010 to **£310m** in 2015.

The World Wave & Tidal Market Report 2011-2015 predicts that a total of **150MW** of wave and tidal current stream capacity will be installed in the five-year period. The UK leads the way with 110MW capacity forecast, followed by Canada and the US.

HOTA's vital step

Teaching turbine skills for the future

Offshore and Marine training organisation, HOTA, is setting its sights high as it makes its first move into the renewable energy sector.

HOTA's one-stop training shop at Malmo Road, Hull will be ready to take its first delegates in June. In collaboration with the UK's leading provider of height safety training, Total Access (UK) Ltd, HOTA will also be offering training for the other extreme of working in confined spaces.

At its other site, on Albert Dock, HOTA is refurbishing a 22m high tower to provide working at heights and rescue training, delivered by Total Access, and is hoping to increase the level of realism with the possible addition of a turbine on the edge of the quay wall.

"Our facilities, particularly at our Albert



Aiming high: the site at Albert Dock

Dock site, will place us in a perfect position to service the needs of renewable energy companies as the Humber gains more and more prominence in the sector" said Linda Ellis, HOTA's general manager.

"This is a vital step in equipping people who will be working in the renewable industry with the required training."

HOTA already trains more than 5,000 delegates a year and plans to increase this figure substantially.

Total Access will provide training approved by IRATA (Industrial Rope Access Trade Association) and, with the addition of a 15m high telecommunications tower to be erected on the Malmo Road site, will be offering further height related training for a variety of industries.

Lawyer's warning on engine failure

➔ Engine failures could become an increasing problem for ship owners, Hull lawyer Iain Butterworth cautioned at an international shipping event.

In a presentation to the 2011 Marine Propulsion Conference in London Iain drew on his experience of being instructed in engine-failure related legal cases.

He said that the consequences of engine failure were obvious, but sometimes the causes were less so and could often only be established by detailed investigation.

The rapid advance in engine development, brought about by legislation to deal with emissions levels, was one of the key factors in the number of failures.

"The rate of technological advancement appears to be increasing to meet the deadlines imposed by the legislation so I anticipate that the increase in failure of engines will follow – time will tell."

Iain, whose firm is Myton Law, is a qualified ship's engineer and the only UK lawyer to speak at the two-day conference held in March in conjunction with Rolls-Royce

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Can you build it?

Call out for members' services on Neptune tidal device construction

The chance to be involved in the construction and deployment of 35 new Neptune Proteus tidal stream power devices is being offered to THMA members.

Neptune has revealed it will deploy the first of three tidal arrays of its advanced 0.25MW devices in the Humber, either later this year or in 2012.

The first array of five devices, to be installed off The Deep, will be followed by a further array of 10 at a site still to be determined in the Humber, in 2012-13, and an array of 20 near Blakeney on the Severn estuary in 2013-14.

Glen Aitken, financial director at Neptune Renewable Energy, pictured, said: "Any THMA members who want to become involved in the manufacture and deployment of

these tidal arrays should get in touch with Neptune. We hope they will be made in Hull."

Neptune is looking specifically for the provision of fabrication and quayside assembly services for the 14m x 16m x 8m production devices.

This news follows the continued dock trials of the NP1000 prototype tidal stream device, which had been constructed on Wearside and barged to the Humber.

This demonstrator unit is expected to be deployed, commissioned and generating power by June at a new jetty off The Deep.

The first tidal array will be attached to the demonstrator unit.



North Ferriby-based Neptune can be contacted at: enquiries@neptunerenewableenergy.com

Emu calls on Smith again

Arthur Smith (Grimsby) Ltd has been appointed by the survey division of Emu to represent their vessels calling in the Humber.

Southampton-based Emu, a marine consultancy, survey and laboratory testing specialist, has already been helped by the THMA member with port agency, ships stores, crane hire and engineering services and the consolidation of equipment and supplies. This includes services for offshore wind farms.

There at the big events

THMA has been promoting the Humber's capabilities at a number of major events, and there are more to come.

But, first of all, to remind you that March 25 is the date for 'THMA – The Future!' networking event at THMA's offices in World Trade Centre Hull & Humber.

The Alliance was most recently at the **European Wind Energy Association** exhibition in Brussels from March 14 –17.

Around 7,000 visitors and 400 exhibitors, including business leaders and decision makers from across Europe, the US and Asia, attended.

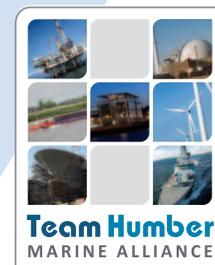
The event coincided with THMA also having a stand at the Manufacturing Convention in Sheffield, part of the Global Manufacturing Festival.

Next on the show calendar is **All Energy 2011 in Aberdeen** on May 18 and 19. It is the UK's leading renewables event and is for businesses involved in all forms of clean, green energy. All Energy is expected to attract 500 trade stands, including THMA's where you will find Alliance staff and representatives of member companies.

Seawork International in Southampton from June 14 16 will see THMA take a stand in the Renewable Energy Pavilion and Showcase. Seawork covers every sector of the commercial marine industry and there will be a strong focus on renewables.

Offshore Europe in Aberdeen from September 6 to 8 is a major event for the oil and gas sector with THMA in a prime spot. Limited accommodation is available.

If you need further information about these events call **Mary Green** on (01482) 485271 or email admin@thma.co.uk



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