

**MINUTES OF STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL CHAMBER, COURTHOUSE, CAVAN
Monday 29th February 2016**

Present: Cllr. John Paul Feeley, Chairperson
Mr. Kevin Reilly, A/Director of Service
Mr. Jim Fox, A/ Head of Enterprise
Ms. Caroline Brady, Administrative Officer
Mr. John Donohoe, Chief Officer
Cllr. Eugene Greenan, Cavan County Council
Ms. Nikki McGoohan, Cavan Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Chris Kirk, Cavan PPN

In Attendance: Mr Darren Sherry, Director Galetech Energy Developments

At the outset of the meeting Cllr John Paul Feeley welcomed Darren Sherry, Director Gaeltech Energy Developments to the meeting.

1. Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr Eugene Greenan, seconded by Ms Nikki Mc Goohan minutes of meeting held on 26th January 2016 were approved

2. Presentation from Mr Darren Sherry, Director Galetech Energy Developments

Mr Sherry gave a detailed presentation to the members on the work which his company are currently engaged in.



Group Companies



Galetech Energy Developments Ltd, a renewable energy development company.



Galetech Energy Services (Formerly IWCM) - est 2004, is an Wind consultancy firm, from green field to Construction management.



Optinergy Ltd – is a dedicated wind farm operation and maintenance provider.

Galetech Group

Group Profile



Group Turnover 2014:	€5.6m
Group Turnover 2015:	€10.4m
Projected Turnover 2016:	€14m

Employees July 2014:	40
Employees July 2015:	45
Employees Dec 2015:	51
Employees End 2016:	60 (proj)

Galetech Energy Developments

Who We Are:



- ✓ Optinergy are an independent O & M provider based in Co. Cavan Ireland
- ✓ Formed as a result of principals frustrations with the service offered by OEM's and lack of strong independent O & M providers in the market
- ✓ Strive to fill the gap between OEM's and traditional "nuts & bolts" O & M providers

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Key Clients/Partners of Group:



Galetech Energy Developments

What We Offer:



- ✓ Level 1: Services at a fixed price and call outs as you decide
- ✓ Level 2: Services, call outs, & minor spares in a fixed price, major component work as you need it
- ✓ Level 3: All in mechanical warranty
- ✓ Other services, EOW Inspections, Insurance tests, Spares Supply, Blade Repairs, Major Component Overhaul...

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Current Contracts



- ✓ Operation, Scheduled & Unscheduled Maintenance GE1.5
- ✓ Scheduled and Unscheduled Maintenance Vestas V42s
- ✓ Operations, Scheduled & Unscheduled Maintenance V52s
- ✓ Scheduled and Unscheduled Maintenance V39s
- ✓ Scheduled and Unscheduled Maintenance V27's
- ✓ Scheduled and Unscheduled Maintenance B37's
- ✓ Scheduled and Unscheduled Maintenance Z40's
- ✓ Insurance related testing Gamesa G52, V42s
- ✓ Troubleshooting Supporting multiple Vestas sites
- ✓ Various Pre-Warranty Completion Inspections

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Other Work

- ✓ Spare Parts Provision
- ✓ Major Component Overhaul
- ✓ Site General Operations Support
- ✓ Staff have performed or managed O&M on sites with GE1.5, GE 3.6, V27, FL250, B37 V47, V52, V66, V80, V90, N80, Siemens 1.3 and 2.3
- ✓ Staff have participated in all aspects of field work, site assembly, commissioning, inspection, operations and maintenance
- ✓ Asset management /engineering /supply chain services available

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Re-Manufactured Turbines

- Repowering Programmes – Denmark, Germany, Netherlands (& Others)
- Generally come from low wind sites in continental Europe where new large turbines provide greater return
- Used Turbines acquisition is case by case - key importance:
 - Quality of long-term service on original site
 - Wind resource of original site – turbulence/wake
 - Has the turbine already been decommissioned
 - Storage measures employed since decommissioning

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Overhauling



- **Transmission** – Recondition or Replace with New
- **Generator** – Recondition or Replace with New
- **Controller** – Test & Recondition
- **Brakes** – Test & Recondition/Replace wearing parts
- **Hydraulics** – Test & Recondition
- **Yaw** – Test & Recondition/replace wearing parts
- **Cabling** – Test, case by case replacement
- **Blades** – Recondition, replace wearing parts
- **General** – Overhaul, recondition & replace any faulty components

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Drung Facility



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Galetech Energy Services



Galetech Energy Services

Services

Development Services

- Project Management of Development Process
- Planning & Planning Appeal Management
- Project Design & Optimisation
- Planning & EIS preparation
- Visual Impact
- Transport Studies
- Noise Studies
- Shadow Flicker Studies



Galetech Energy Services

Safety: CDM/PSCS
Owners/Lenders/Client Engineer
Project Management
Contracts & Site Management
Grid Connection Management
Project Risk Management
Inspections & Auditing



Pre-Construction Operations Planning
Operations Strategy Development
Project Optimisation
Project Risk Management
Contract Management
Fault Analysis
Inspections, Reporting & Auditing





Manufacture & Supply Met Masts:

- *30m, 50m, 60m, 70m Guyed Monopole*
- *60m, 80m, 90m, 100m & Custom, Guyed Lattice*
- *10m – 120m Custom Designed Freestanding Lattice*
- *Custom designed masts*
- *Temporary & Permanent*
- *Ongoing Operations & Maintenance*
- *Met Mast Rental*



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Galetech Energy Projects

Ireland – Feb 2015



Proposed Wind Farm	County	Approx. Capacity MWh	Status
Carrickallen	Cavan	20.5	Planning Granted
Old Mill	Monaghan	17.1	In Construction
Coolberria/Mountain Waters	Monaghan	25	Planning Fully Granted
Taghart	Cavan	22.4	Planning Fully Granted - Increased planning sought
Seven Hills	Roscommon	105.4 (44.8+60.8)	Planning Granted awaiting outcome of JR
Cloaghan	Offaly	28.8	In Planning
Long Oak	Offaly	19.2	Due to go to planning Q4 2016
Pinewoods	Laois	35.2	Due to go to planning Q2 2016
Valley View	Carlow	38.85	Due to go to planning Q3 2016
Butter Mountain	Wicklow	25.6	Due to go to planning Q4 2016
Cullahull Mountain	Laois	22.5	Due to go to planning Q4 2016
Little Meadows	Clare	38.4	Due to go to planning Q4 2016
Totals		398.95	



Galetech Energy Developments

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Irish Project Investment Plan



Proposed Wind Farm	County	Approx. Capacity MWh	Approx. Total Capex (€m)	Likely Construction Start
Carrickallen	Cavan	20.5	€28.7	2016
Old Mill	Monaghan	17.1	€26.5	In Construction
Coolberria/Mountain Waters	Monaghan	25	€38.8	2016/2017
Taghart	Cavan	22.4	€35.8	2016/2017
Seven Hills	Roscommon	105.4 (44.8+60.8)	€158.1	2017/2018
Cloaghan	Offaly	28.8	€46.1	2018/2019
Long Oak	Offaly	19.2	€30.7	2018/2019
Pinewoods	Laois	35.2	€56.3	2018/2019
Valley View	Carlow	38.85	€62.2	2019/2020
Butter Mountain	Wicklow	25.6	€41.0	2019/2020
Cullahull Mountain	Laois	22.5	€36.0	2020/2021
Little Meadows	Clare	38.4	€61.4	2020/2021
Totals		398.95	€621.58	

Galetech Energy Developments

County Cavan Based Projects

- **Edrans - Operational**
- **Mt Lodge - Operational**
- **Carrickallen – Construction 2016**
- **Taghart – Construction 2016/2017**

Galetech Energy Developments

Q & A



Following on from the presentation Mr Sherry acknowledged the support which he had received from Cavan Local Enterprise Office particularly in the early days of establishing his company. Mr Jim Fox said that Gaeltech Energy Developments was a great success story and wished them every success in the future.

Cllr John Paul Feeley said it was heartening to see such a great local success story. Cllr Eugene Greenan asked whether or not the company had difficulty in accessing the required broadband speeds and also whether or not company employees travelled from outside the county to work from their base in Stradone. In response to the broadband issue Mr Sherry confirmed that they had significant issues in accessing broadband but that they had invested in an 'over the air' broadband system. While this was expensive, in the long term it would deliver value for money and address their broadband issues. He also confirmed that staff members do travel from neighbouring counties to work for his company.

Mr Chris Kirk congratulated Mr Sherry on his achievements. He said it was notable that a company such as Galetch Energy Developments had to 'move outside their comfort zone' in order to meet their full potential. He also queried whether or not it was viable to use wind energy to pump water from our many rivers and lakes into reservoirs (pump storage) and to in turn, use this water to generate power. Mr Sherry said that this is possible however it can be difficult - there are a number of environmental issues, including flooding that need to be fully explored before embarking on this type of project.

Ms Caroline Brady asked whether or not the company had difficulty acquiring the appropriate skills set for this particular type of work, were there shortage in any particular areas? Mr Sherry said that there was a shortage of mechatronic engineers - while Dundalk and Sligo were doing some work in this area finding the appropriate skill set was sometimes difficult. Ms Nikki Mc Goohan asked if they had forged linkages with some of the German companies which they worked with, Mr Sherry said while there were opportunities for training with some internationally based companies most of their training took place within their own company.

Finally Mr Kevin Reilly asked if there was potential spin off for local companies. Mr Sherry confirmed that there were opportunities for local companies particularly in the area of electronic repairs, metal work, to tie in with their 'met mast' operations and he advised the committee that a company in Butlersbridge had recently commenced work in the blade industry.

In conclusion Cllr John Paul Feeley again thanked Mr Sherry for his presentation. He said it was encouraging to see a local company with a global reach and wished Mr Sherry every success on behalf of the committee members.

3. Update on Regional Skills and Enterprise Week

Mr Jim Fox advised the committee that in January 2016 the Government had launched 'Irelands National Skills Strategy 2025 – Irelands Future'. This would be complimented by the setting up of a Regional Skills Fora to support increased employer engagement with education and training providers to meet the skills needs

of the region. The next meeting of the fora was scheduled for 1st March and Mr Fox agreed to provide an update to the committee at the next SPC meeting.

Regarding Enterprise week Mr Fox advised the committee that Local Enterprise Week was scheduled from 7th – 13th March. He circulated the schedule of events for the week to the committee. He referred in particular to the Student Enterprise awards and the difficulties sometimes encountered in getting schools involved as it didn't form part of their curriculum. He gave mention also to the Nuffield conference scheduled from Thursday 3rd March to Saturday 12th March – in excess of 100 delegates from all over the world were coming to Cavan to attend the Nuffield Contemporary Scholars Conference. This was a huge boost for the county and the Local Enterprise Office would be supporting a 'local business exhibition' at the conference on 5th March.

Mr Chris Kirk asked what the biggest challenge was in dealing with small businesses. Mr Fox said that getting the balance right between the business idea and the 'person' was often challenging, he referred to the fact that there were very few successful 'under 30' starter business and that family succession businesses and those over 30 were generally speaking the most successful in business.

4. Global Geoparks Annual Seminar – Update Mr Chris Kirk

Mr Chris Kirk advised the committee that he had attended the Global Geoparks Annual Seminar in Clare in November 2015. Killeshandra was now part of the Geopark and there would be an opportunity to learn from the experience of the Geopark in Co Clare. He referred to the fact that the Cliffs of Moher has in excess of 1.2million visitors annually, mostly from Dublin. This had the potential for huge spin off for local towns and businesses. He referred to the fact that a number of the smaller town and villages had come together to form a network and they would work together to improve their businesses and their sustainability. Those within the network contributed to a fund which was in turn used to market and raise the profile of their area. Mr Kirk also referred to the fact that the caves close down for a portion of the year and we need to look at ways of sustaining them as an attraction and the

surrounding area all year round. He suggested that any future Tourism Strategy for the County must examine how we promote and develop the Geopark. Mr John Donohoe advised him that the Council were shortly embarking on the preparation of a new Tourism Strategy for the County and this would certainly be taken into consideration.

5. A.O.B.

None

6. Date and time for next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday 25th April at 10am in the Council Chamber

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____

Signed: _____
Secretary

Date: _____