

The Right Time The Right Place The Right People



Wick airport



Wick harbour (aerial view)



Scrabster harbour



Quayside loading/ unloading



Students at Engineering, Technology & Energy Centre

The Right Time

- The successful Pentland Firth & Orkney Waters leasing programme awarded 11 wave or tidal sites for development, with an overall potential generating capacity of 1.6GW.
- Moray Offshore Renewables Ltd and Beatrice Offshore Windfarm Ltd are developing proposals to generate a combined 2.3GW of power from two major offshore wind sites in the Moray Firth.
- Scottish & Southern Energy has announced investment of almost £1bn over the next ten years to upgrade the electricity grid in the north of Scotland.
- Around £100M of investment in key local projects has been spent or committed since 2008.

The Right Place

- Caithness ports such as Wick, Gills and Scrabster are close to wave and tidal sites in the Pentland Firth and Orkney waters, and to the Moray Offshore and Beatrice Offshore Wind sites in the Moray Firth.
- Daily scheduled flight connections from Wick Airport to hubs at Aberdeen/ Edinburgh and excellent 24/7 support/ refuelling facilities for charter and helicopter traffic.
- Good Trunk Road connections to Inverness, Aberdeen and Edinburgh.
- Excellent range of business space and industrial sites, including the renewables-focused Enterprise Area at Scrabster.
- State-of-the-art training facilities, developed in partnership with industry, at Thurso's Engineering, Technology & Energy Centre offer apprentice-to degree-level opportunities.
- The Centre for Energy & the Environment – part of the University of the Highlands & Islands - is home to the internationally-recognised Environmental Research Institute, and the research-led "Marine Renewable Energy & the Environment" programme.

The Right People

- Experienced supply chain of local, national and international companies with over 50 years' innovative working in controlled and hazardous environments, providing engineering, project support, manufacturing, fabrication. Almost one third of the area's working population is in a technical, professional or skilled trades occupation.
- £2.3M "Make The Right Connections" skills transition programme, led by Caithness Chamber of Commerce, to support re-skilling of businesses and individuals focussing on opportunities in new and emerging sectors such as renewables.
- The decommissioning of the Dounreay Nuclear site will reach its conclusion around 2020, but staff numbers will reduce over the next eight years, creating a unique "pipeline" of available skilled personnel.
- A structured programme of work with schools aims to boost the teaching and learning of STEM subjects, and to boost understanding of opportunities in the energy sector for students.