



WIND ENERGY NETWORK TV CHANNEL AND ONLINE LIBRARY

As you will read in more detail within our events and update progress pages, we have introduced an online video library and we believe this will be another great resource for the wind energy industry.

We have also progressed with our online library, so please give the team a call and find out how to get involved in both.

Remember they are free to contribute and free to access

This strengthens our position of being the communication hub for the industry and so the effort given by our contributors, with assistance from ourselves, is very worthwhile.

QUO VADIS CONFERENCE

Events laid on within the industry are always a bone of contention and we make no excuses for giving our opinions on their individual worth. We feature within this edition a number of events but would like to draw your attention to the Quo Vadis conference held this year in Northern Ireland.

Seldom have we experienced a more relevant event which is not only informative and worthwhile, but brings together industry leaders for the sole purpose of helping the industry progress. It is free to attend, so no issues there about making money out of the industry.

The prestige event has now reached its 5th year - read more on page 32.

THEMES

We continue to expand our themes for each edition and now feature 'Lubricants', as well as our regular 'Spotlight On' featuring 'an area of excellence in wind energy throughout Europe and beyond'.

Please feel free to contact us if you wish to highlight any specific area within the industry and we will endeavour to encourage debate and feature the issue within our publication.



Duncan McGilvray

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Editor | **Wind Energy Network**

Quo Vadis Conference

Belfast, Northern Ireland

Quite some time ago we heard about the Quo Vadis conference and the work of Kevin Donovan and his team at Windpower Renewable Solutions. This is a 'by invitation only event', has no cost involved and is limited to windfarm owners and O&M providers. The reasoning is quite clear – concerns can be raised, discussed and solutions sought for the good of the industry as a whole.

We were honoured to be invited to help with that focus and intent.

For the moment we will concentrate on the conference itself and why Belfast in Northern Ireland was chosen as the venue for this prestigious event, however there was so much information which could help the industry progress, that we will be featuring the Quo Vadis vision in future editions.

QUO VADIS CONFERENCE

This was the fifth year of the Quo Vadis Conference. Previous Quo Vadis venues were Luton, Lowestoft, Crawley, and last year the Met Office in Exeter where the delegates were treated to a guided tour of the facilities, during which delegates were shown reporting systems that could help them determine the best time to undertake maintenance.

This year Kevin and his team were looking for a venue that would do justice to the previous years' events and encompass both an area of expanding business within the renewable energy world, but also have some historic background that would be the backbone of the supporting programme – Belfast fitted the bill exactly.



THE IDEAL VENUE

Belfast Harbour is now heavily involved in the renewable energy sector, has a history of 'big engineering' and innovation and 2012 sees the 100th anniversary of the launch of the Titanic.

Through membership of the Global Wind Alliance they were fortunate to be invited to hold the conference and pre event dinner at the historic Harbour Commissioners Office. The building and its furnishings are truly amazing and provided the perfect setting for Quo Vadis.

SEMI SOCIAL EVENTS

Quo Vadis has always made use of the interesting surroundings and facilities of the venues visited and Belfast was no exception. We enjoyed a stay at the Stormont Hotel (opposite the magnificent Stormont Castle – home to the Northern Ireland Government), a tour of the extensive Belfast Harbour and Titanic Quarter, and a pre-event dinner within the sumptuous Harbour Commissioners Office, the evening prior to the conference.

MAIN SPONSORS

The attendance of Quo Vadis is free for invited guests, and that is another reason why Belfast was a very attractive venue – the main sponsor this year was Invest Northern Ireland who paid for the Pre Event Dinner. Other sponsors were GL Garrad Hassan, SKF, and the Global Wind Alliance have now become regular supporters of the event.

QUO VADIS CONFERENCE AND SPEAKERS

Welcome and introduction – Kevin Donovan from Windpower Renewable Solutions welcomed all present, explained why we were assembled and introduced our chairman for the day.

Chairman – Clifford McSpadden, Chairman of the Global Wind Alliance was our very able and active chairman, who started us off in the morning of the one day conference. Clifford not only made sure that the speakers were kept in line and on time, but also ensured that the delegates were suitably enlivened by



means of physical exercises at relevant times throughout the day – a must for any gathering of professionals who had previously enjoyed an evening of Irish hospitality!

Keynote Address – was presented by the Northern Ireland Government's Investment Minister, Arlene Foster who gave us an insight into what Northern Ireland, and Belfast in particular, can offer companies and organisations looking to locate and invest in the area.

There then followed various presentations from leaders in their field of expertise which proved to be interesting, informative and above all professionally and delivered with the right amount of appropriate humour.

- **Oliver Gadget, RES Group** – 'Making sense of your SCADA data'
- **Gert Korbijn, Stork Gears & Services** – 'A unique insight into gearbox failures'
- **John Beresford, Eon** – 'Delivering maintenance and maximising production – how to have your cake and eat it!'
- **Carsten L. Andersen, Danish Windpower Academy** – 'Dynamic OMS of wind turbines – we need generation mindset'
- **Michael Wilkinson, GL Garrad Hassan** – 'Measuring real wind turbine reliability – avoid anecdotal evidence and focus on the real sources of poor reliability'
- **Clive Newhall, Global Wind Alliance** – 'Spares Club – how a strategic spares strategy accessing OEM parts is viable and available'
- **Benn Faulkner, Renewable Advice Ltd** – 'Blades: Looking after your most important asset – how to keep your world turning'
- **Maurice Henderson, SKF (UK) Ltd** – 'The risks of O&M – asset management: process not concept'
- **Brent van der Merwe, Swales Skills Centre** – 'Training and education in the renewables sector'

QUESTIONS, DISCUSSION AND NETWORKING BREAKS

Yet again we experienced a well thought out format featuring relatively short presentations broken up by question and answer sessions, comfort breaks and networking opportunities.

ADJOINING EXHIBITION

The opportunity for relevant organisations and companies to exhibit was given and the stands were extremely busy, both in offering more detailed valuable advice, highlighted in the conference proper, as well as providing information on their relevant products and services.

EVENT CRITERIA AND REASONING

The event is solely for wind turbine owners and operators – presentations must

contain relevant, interesting and helpful information and cannot be used as a sales pitch.

Kevin and his team are trying to give something back to the industry and the people who are involved in it. The growing number of industry specific and influential delegates shows that this is appreciated.

SUMMARY

With 17 major utility companies represented, Quo Vadis 2011 was the most successful event yet.

We can certainly report that many of the delegates made their feelings known to us personally that the efforts made by Kevin and his team was very much appreciated by the industry generally, as well as what has been achieved in setting in train something which helps the industry as a whole.

FUTURE PUBLICATION INTEREST

Because of Kevin and his team's efforts to help the industry as a whole and the work of Windpower Renewable Solutions, and the Quo Vadis conference in particular, we will be featuring their progress within future editions.

'SPOTLIGHT ON' FEATURE

Our now very popular regional focus featuring '*an area of excellence in the wind energy industry throughout Europe and beyond*' will centre on Northern Ireland in a future edition and we look forward to the region's contributions. This will also include the Northern Ireland Science Park and Titanic Quarter because of the general similarities to the wind energy industry in 'big engineering' and 'green technologies'

GLOBAL WIND ALLIANCE

We will also be featuring the work of the Global Wind Alliance, a membership association which was set up to help overcome some of the issues and problems encountered in the wind energy industry.

Windpower Renewable Solutions
www.windpower-renewable-solutions.com