



WindEnergy

NETWORK

COMMUNICATION HUB FOR THE WIND ENERGY INDUSTRY

SPOTLIGHT ON ENERGI COAST

Community Engagement

**MONEY MATTERS
OFFSHORE SUPPORT SERVICES**



QUO VADIS CONFERENCE BERLIN 2013

CONFERENCE AND SPEAKERS

Kevin Donovan used this platform to announce a major change to his company Windpower Renewable Solutions (WRS): This event was to be the official launch of the new venture GWA Supplies with WRS becoming fully integrated into the new company. Kevin also introduced his partner in GWA Supplies, Clifford McSpadden.

With many of the delegates being regular attendees at Quo Vadis this has created a real feeling of community at the annual gatherings. This reflects the nature of our industry which is young and closely knit. Indeed, the presentation from Chris Smith (RES) highlighted the development that our industry is undergoing – from its early pioneering, non-conformist beginnings, to an industry that is maturing with improved capabilities but also increasing challenges to incorporate professional standards and practices into everyday business.

NETWORKING AND EXHIBITION

Quo Vadis followed again the successful format of previous years with short presentations and Q&A sessions and long breaks for networking in the adjoining exhibition area where the host (GWA Supplies) and co-host (SKF) as well as the other main sponsors showed their products and services: GL Garrad Hassan (now DNV GL), GasTOPS Canada, Hove A/S, KK Electronics, Morgan A&M, Winergy, and ZF. David Morgan, Business Manager Wind Service from ZF Services UK Ltd was again very pleased with Quo Vadis and voiced his opinion: *“It is a fantastic opportunity for us to meet our customers, some of whom we haven’t seen in a while. As mentioned before ZF Services think this is a very worthwhile conference and we will continue to support it through sponsorship in 2014.”*

QUO VADIS CONFERENCE, THE ANNUAL CONVENTION FOR WIND FARM OWNERS AND OPERATORS HOSTED BY KEVIN AND SIGRID DONOVAN OF GWA SUPPLIES, WAS HELD IN BERLIN THIS YEAR.

BY INVITATION ONLY CONFERENCE

Now in its 7th year, this by-invitation-only conference has grown to become a key event for the industry and an attraction for regular attendees. 86 delegates came to Berlin, including some 40 representatives from 23 utility companies. GWA Supplies are members of the Global Wind Alliance which was well represented with 7 member companies attending, and with Clifford McSpadden who is Chairman of the GWA, moderating the conference as he has done for the past few years.



Chairman Clifford McSpadden ensures the conference delegates are awake!



THE PRE EVENT DINNER GOES SKY HIGH

Quo Vadis is so much more than just a conference. The two day event began with a tour of Berlin with a very knowledgeable, enthusiastic and amusing tour guide. For the evening meal everybody had high expectations, even more so as they were dining 207m above the Berlin skyline in the rotating restaurant of the 220m high TV Tower. This all provided a relaxed environment to network within the group. So by the time the conference started on day two, there was already a strong sense of community.

The conference was then officially opened by Daniel Rutstein, Director General of UK Trade & Investment based in Berlin. This was followed by a number of professional presentations from leaders in their field and from executives of the major utility companies...

- Paul Meaney, SKF – Upgrading Versus Replacing
- Thomas Stalin, Vattenfall – Converter Failures
- Chis Smith, RES – Adding Value to Wind O&M
- Brian Darrell, GL Garrad Hassan – Performance Monitoring
- Olivier Gaget, Offshore Wind Power Consulting – From Offshore Wind Farm Construction to O&M
- Stephan Diedrich, KK Electronics – How to Increase the Energy Output of Older Wind Turbines

OFFICIAL CONFERENCE HALL OF FAME

The sense of community was reinforced with the introduction of the ‘Hall of Fame’. Sigrud Donovan inducted three people into this place of honour for having attended every one of the 7 Quo Vadis Conferences. They are Huw Smallwood (Tegni), Jon Beresford (E.ON), and Steve Higman (REG). As well as getting their faces up on the screen – for which they will or will not be eternally grateful – they received a silver plated model wind turbine. Michael Bermingham (ESB) and Steve Clarke (devCo) were appointed to the Anteroom of Fame for participating in 6 of the 7 Quo Vadis Conferences.

SUMMARY

Feedback has been excellent with many delegates choosing Quo Vadis Conference as their number one event in the year. Kevin Donovan commented: *“As always, we have tried to make everything as interesting and special as we can. This industry is unique and the people involved are equally unique. As more and more people come and spend two days of their precious time with us we have to deliver and make it*

worth their while. This year we have set a new milestone with 3 delegates travelling all the way from New Zealand. We are fortunate that our loyal sponsors and new ones help us to finance the event as this is and will always be for invited guests only.”

Global Wind Alliance