

COMMUNICATION HUB FOR THE WIND ENERGY INDUSTRY

WindEnergy

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NETWORK

**HUMBER
REVISITED**
REGIONAL UPDATE

**MARINE
OPERATIONS**
OFFSHORE SERVICES

**SAFETY
AT WORK**
VITAL FOCUS

**OPERATIONS &
MAINTENANCE**
ONGOING NECESSITY

MEETING OF THE MINDS...

Glasgow was the location of the 12th Quo Vadis Conference, the annual gathering of windfarm owners and operators, hosted by Sigrid and Kevin Donovan of WRS GmbH Windpower Renewable Solutions



UNIQUE EVENT

The event, which was first held with a small group in Luton in 2007, is unique in the industry as it is only for invited guests and excludes the turbine manufacturers, which in turn provides a great opportunity for owners and operators to share their knowledge and experience. We were honoured to be invited to help with that focus and intent.

The conference has been a feature of this magazine since its inception way back in 2007. We will continue to feature the Quo Vadis conference and focus on some of the companies who regularly attend this event in future editions.

QUO VADIS CONFERENCE

Previous Quo Vadis venues have included Belfast, Northern Ireland; Leeds Castle in Kent, UK; Berlin followed by Hamburg, both in Germany; Barcelona, Spain and Prague, in Czech Republic.

The conference has really grown over the years and takes on a very varied and international feel.

SEMI-SOCIAL EVENTS

Quo Vadis has always made use of the interesting surroundings and facilities of the venues visited and Glasgow was no exception. The Crowne Plaza Hotel is situated adjacent to the Glasgow Science Centre just across the river Clyde where we were treated to a tour of interactive attractions.

The attendance of Quo Vadis is free for invited guests and this was only possible because of the support of the sponsors and exhibitors who set up stands adjacent to the main conference.

CO-HOST/PLATINUM SPONSORS

- Natural Power (Co-Host)
- SKF
- DNV GL

EXHIBITORS

- GasTOPS
- Hove
- Ingeteam
- Schunk UK
- Barton
- Renewable Advice
- Winergy
- ZF Services UK

“Excellent initiative and fantastic atmosphere. Great opportunity to share experience and work together.”

Valerio Scupola,
Cubico Sustainable Investments

QUO VADIS CONFERENCE AND SPEAKERS

Welcome and introduction – Sigi Donovan from WRS GmbH Windpower Renewable Solutions, acting Chair for the day welcomed all present, explained why we were assembled and congratulated everyone for making it safely (the weather was atrocious, thanks to Storm Ali, with flights and rail travel in disarray). Although Kevin was available to assist if required, Sigrid led the way. (For information Kevin is making a concerted effort to retire so that he can get his Golf Handicap down – so far he is succeeding!)

Sigrid then introduced the first speaker – Huw Smallwood, Director at Tegni who explained the principles

in the correct use of concrete within the industry and explained: “Treated correctly, concrete is a dream to work with, but if simple rules are not followed it can easily become a nightmare.”

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

“Many thanks for another great event.”

Robert Wylie, Fred.Olsen Renewables Ltd

SPEAKERS

- Stuart Egan, Natural Power – ‘Windfarm Performance Optimisation’
- Keir Harman, DNV GL – ‘Operating in a Subsidy Free Market – the Age of Flexible and Dynamic windfarm Operation’ (Ed’s Note – see also Keir’s article ‘A New Lease of Life’ on page 72)
- Jon Beresford – ‘HV Cable Faults – Be Prepared , a Fleet Approach’
- Paul Sheldon, Innogy – ‘Tower and Blade Fasteners’
- Fabrice Drommi, SKF – ‘Insight on



How to Improve Wind Turbine Drive Reliability’

- Sally Shenton, Generating Better – ‘Threats and opportunities to the 3rd Party Supply Chain from the CfD Auction Process’

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 ample 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

“First time at Quo Vadis after hearing so much about it and it has delivered.”

Pablo Hernandez, Greencoat Capital

providing information on their relevant products and services.

SUMMARY

Sigrid, ably assisted by Kevin when called upon, summarised the day and both were complimented by all attendees on the professional way the conference was organised and kept lively throughout the day.

WHAT NEXT?

The biggest compliment which can be given to Sigrid and Kevin is that those present came forward during the day to offer their support for the future of the event. Sigrid announced that next year’s conference would be held in Lisbon, Portugal on 16th/17th October 2019 and already had sponsor support to make this happen.

Quo Vadis

SCAN/CLICK



“Fantastic event as always. Roll on next year.”

John Gates, Jacobs