



Able UK Ltd

Head Office: Able House  
Billingham Reach Industrial Estate  
BILLINGHAM  
Teesside TS23 1PX  
United Kingdom

01642 806080  
Fax 01642 655655  
Email [info@ableuk.com](mailto:info@ableuk.com)  
Web [www.ableuk.com](http://www.ableuk.com)

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**PLEASE NOTE THE CONTENTS OF THIS RELEASE ARE STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 00.01 JULY 8<sup>th</sup>**

### **ABLE ANNOUNCES £400MILLION PLAN FOR HUMBER MARINE ENERGY PARK**

Plans for what would be one of the biggest environmental and port developments in the UK for decades—transforming the South Bank of the Humber into an international centre for renewable energy industries—have been revealed today.

Able UK, which last year announced proposals for a major logistics centre and business park at its massive Able Humber Port facility north of Immingham, today unveiled its £400million vision for the creation of what would be the UK's leading Marine Energy Park, including the construction of quayside facilities purpose-built for the construction and installation of wind turbines, and the development of biomass energy generation.

Taken together, the Able projects would deliver around ten thousand on-site jobs with a further 17,000 in North Lincolnshire and the wider region and would, says Able UK founder and executive Chairman Peter Stephenson 'create the best and most sustainable Multi-User Ports Facility in Europe.'

Covering an area of 1,987 acres and with river frontage of over two and a half miles, Able Humber Port is the largest site available for port-related developments in the UK. Over £50million has already been invested in the development which is currently used for vehicle import, storage and distribution activities.

A decision by North Lincolnshire Council on the proposals for the logistics and business park proposals is expected shortly. Meanwhile the Marine Energy Park proposals will be considered by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) set up to decide on nationally significant projects. Today's announcement marks the start of an informal consultation process with a wide range of interests, to be followed later in the year with the formal consultation before the application is submitted to the IPC next year.





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Said Peter Stephenson “It is entirely correct that this is recognised as a proposal with national significance—indeed we believe it is internationally important because Able Humber Port offers an opportunity, unique in Europe, to provide all the facilities required for the manufacture, commissioning and installation base for offshore wind turbines—and what’s more within close proximity to the massive wind farms which will developed in the North Sea.

“Our plans envisage new quays 1,630 metres long, specifically tailored to the needs of the wind turbine offshore companies with whom we have been in detailed discussion in drawing up our proposals.

“The potential demand is huge—for instance the three offshore wind areas of Dogger, Bank, Hornsea and Norfolk Bank will require around 5,000 turbines to deliver their full capacity. If these are to be delivered by 2020, and shipping starts in 2015, it will require 19 to be shipped each and every week. What’s more comparisons demonstrate that the costs of delivering from AHP will be significantly lower than other parts of the UK and Europe.

“Alongside the wind turbine operations there is the potential for the development of a biomass power plant, capable of supplying electricity for half a million homes—and, of course, we will be able to bring in the fuel supplies for the plant via the quay facilities.

“Quite rightly the potential for the UK in becoming an international leader in the renewable energy sector has been compared to the impact of North Sea oil and the Marine Energy Park offer the chance for the Humber to become the key centre in the UK and Europe. It is an opportunity which has already been recognised by both the local authority and the regional development agency Yorkshire Forward who see that it can transform the economy of the area for decades to come.

“It is also very much in line with Government policy—earlier this month the new Energy Minister Charles Hendry, setting out case for Marine Energy Parks, stressed that, with the UK having 40 per cent of the EU’s wind resource, we should be leading the world in these technologies. This is the chance for us to do just that.”

The Able plans have already attracted strong interest from major companies involved in the renewable energy sector, including Mainstream Renewable Power, one of the world’s leading developers of offshore wind farms.





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Commented Andy Kinsella, Mainstream Director and CEO Offshore ‘We have long since advocated the advantages of a SuperCluster to serve the needs of the fantastic opportunity afforded by the much needed growth in renewable energy sources and by offshore wind in particular. A Marine Energy Park that provides both the scale and the right location for a purpose-built facility to fully enable the maximum economic benefits for both the sector itself and the UK economy as a whole is an essential stepping stone towards a SuperCluster.’”

**INFORMATION FOR EDITORS:** Able UK is a privately-owned, ambitious and successful organisation operating in a variety of existing and challenging areas. From being a leading and innovative specialist in complex demolition processes, the company has developed into a major player across fields including full site reclamation and associated property development into regenerating new from old.

At the same time Able has established itself as the market leader in the decommissioning and recycling of marine structures, including oil and gas platforms and ships and also operates a number of riverside facilities on the Tees.

Recently its founder and Executive Chairman Peter Stephenson was named as the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year for the North and Midlands and he will now go forward to the national competition in October.

The South Humber Bank is the last remaining strategic development site fronting a deep water estuary in the UK and the largest employment land allocation in Yorkshire and Humber. It is attracting significant global interest, with a predicted £3billion of investment over the next ten years.

The Able Humber Port Facility is central to the future strategy of the public authorities and a principal feature in the Yorkshire Forward-sponsored South Humber Bank Masterplan.

The previously announced proposals for the logistics park and business park are expected to create 4,454 on site jobs. The Marine Energy Park proposals envisage 12,500 direct jobs- 5,100 on site, 5,100 more in the region and 2,300 in the rest of the UK—as well as generating a further 10,400 indirect jobs in North Lincolnshire and 2,400 in the wider region.

Further information on the project is available on [www.ablehumberport.com](http://www.ablehumberport.com).

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** for further information please contact Peter Dodson, telephone 01642 353111/mobile 07753 910536.

