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NEWS RELEASE

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERT JOINS ABLE UK

A key figure in promoting the Yorkshire and Humber region across the globe is joining leading Northern company Able UK.

David Shepherd, International Development Manager with regional development agency Yorkshire Forward for the past five years, is taking on the role as new Group Business Executive with Able, which is an international leader in the site reclamation and development fields, as well as operating a number of riverside port and logistics facilities on both the Humber and Tees, including Able Humber Port on the south bank of the Humber, the largest site available for port-related developments in the UK.

Today Mr Shepherd described his new appointment as ‘a tremendous opportunity to build on my work with Yorkshire Forward in leading the Humber strategy for renewable energy developments...and now working with a pioneering company undertaking key projects that will allow the region to lead the way in the new industries of Twenty First Century.’

Thirty-two-year-old Mr Shepherd, a graduate of Leeds Metropolitan University, has been responsible for Yorkshire Forward’s International Business Strategy, managing staff in Leeds, India, China and Japan and leading a team which was involved in 245 new investment projects in the region from 2007 to 2010, with a total investment value of £1.15billion, creating around 13.500 jobs. He has also led the Humber strategy for developing the offshore wind industry.

Said David Shepherd “During my time at Yorkshire Forward I have been proud to play a part in establishing the Humber as an international centre for the offshore wind industry which makes it all the more pleasing—and challenging—to be joining a company which, with its existing investment on the South Bank and its multi-million pound plans for a state-of-the-art Marine Energy Park and Logistics and Business Park, is clearly at the forefront of the region’s economic future.





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“I have no doubt that over the next few years Able Humber Port will be seen as a site of international importance and I am delighted to be working with Able UK founder and Executive Chairman Peter Stephenson and Group Development Director Neil Etherington in making that happen.”

Added Able Group Development Director Neil Etherington “Recruiting someone of David’s calibre and expertise is a real coup for our company. No-one understands better than David the potential for the Humber in becoming the UK’s front-runner in the renewable energy field.

“The South Humber Bank is the last remaining strategic development site fronting a deep water estuary in the UK. There are enormous opportunities across the whole of estuary, from Hull to Grimsby, and we all have a role to play in order to ensure that the community are the real winners.”

8-6-11

CAPTION: The Able development team, from left to right, Group Development Director Neil Etherington, Executive Chairman Peter Stephenson and Group Business Executive David Shepherd.

NOTE FOR EDITORS: 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.

The next two phases of activity surround the combined Logistics and Business Park, which gained planning approval from North Lincolnshire Council in October last year, and the development of the Marine Energy Park – including the construction of c. 1,560metres of new quays – to service the growing needs of the Renewable Energy Sector.

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 Masterplan.

For further information please contact Peter Dodson, telephone 07753 910536.

