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To: [Neth, Energy](#)
Cc: [Mills, John \(DETI\)](#); [Stevenson, Bill](#); [Dolaghan, Paul](#); [Frazer, Fred](#); [Pauley, Alberta](#); [Winter, Andrew](#)
Subject: Storage Platform for Integration of Renewable Energy (SPIRE)
Date: 07 March 2014 12:01:33
Attachments: [INV 148-14 Invitation.pdf](#)

Good morning

The Minister has agreed to attend the launch of the Interreg IVA 'Storage Platform for Integration of Renewable Energy' (SPIRE) project on 1st April at Titanic Belfast, and will present the opening address at the event (copy invite attached).

We are currently preparing the briefing pack for Private Office in respect of the Minister's attendance, and have sought supporting material from both the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and the University of Ulster (Lead project partner) in terms of progress to date and key findings emerging.

Colleagues from Energy Division assisted previously in the assessment of this project prior to consideration and approval by DETI casework, and whilst Energy Division are not directly involved with this project, the assistance of Energy Colleagues would once again be appreciated as we develop the ministerial briefing in respect of what is essentially an energy storage / renewable energy centric project.

As this represents an opportunity to present a key departmental message in terms of renewable energy and its link to energy storage, the assistance of Energy Division colleagues would be appreciated in terms of input to draft speech material and press release.

An initial response by Thursday 13th March would be appreciated, to permit incorporation of material into ministerial briefing and fine tuning of same.

Happy to discuss as appropriate

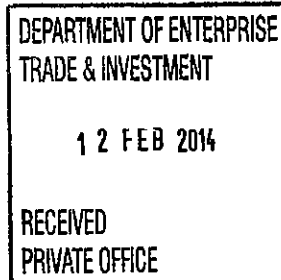
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Vice-Chancellor
Professor Richard Barnett



Mrs Arlene Foster, MLA
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
Netherleigh
Massey Avenue
Belfast
BT4 2JP

12 February 2014

Dear Arlene,

It is my great pleasure to invite you to address the launch of the Interreg IVA funded project "Storage Platform for the Integration of Renewable Energy" (SPIRE) under the auspices of the Special European Union Project Board. The launch event will take place in the morning of 1 April 2014 in the Titanic Belfast venue.

The SPIRE project is a jointly funded programme of work supported by the European Union, the Northern Ireland Executive and the Irish Government and led by Professor Neil Hewitt of the University's Centre for Sustainable Technologies. It supports researchers from Ulster and its partner, the Centre for Renewable Energy at Dundalk Institute of Technology (CREDIT), to examine the likely market for different capacities of energy storage on the all-Ireland energy market.

Three scales of energy storage have been identified, namely Demand Side Response at a domestic scale through boiler heating system substitution and additional thermal storage, commercial site scale integration of wind energy and storage (thermal and electrical) i.e. "autoproducers", and utility scale compressed air energy storage in the Larne salt deposits. The latter required the appointment of a suitable sub-contractor who has the appropriate licencing and capabilities to deliver a structural analysis of the salt deposits for large scale cavern development. Gaelectric Energy Storage Ltd was appointed after a tendering process.

The outputs from the three scales of energy storage are then integrated via the all-Ireland electricity market model "PLEXOS" with likely scenarios for wind energy penetration which will ultimately lead to potential market sizes and opportunities for these and similar technology scales.

Northern Ireland has the potential to establish itself as a centre for excellence in the development and deployment of energy storage technologies.

I therefore hope you can accept this invitation and in your address, considering the complementarity between this initiative and Northern Ireland's energy and economic development strategies.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely



Richard Barnett