

'Professional Support to the Wind Industry'



February 2021

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Realise Energy Services Acquires Optinergy NI

Realise Energy Services acquires Optinergy Ltd (NI), cementing their position as a major player in the wind turbine service sector.

Following on from our acquisition of UK wind turbine service and maintenance business Wind Technik Nord UK Ltd in October 2020, Realise Energy Services is now delighted to announce the successful acquisition of Optinergy Ltd (Northern Ireland), the Northern Ireland medium wind turbine operation and maintenance arm of Optinergy Ltd (ROI).

Realise Energy Services is a UK-wide service and maintenance company with a large portfolio of medium to large scale wind turbines (including Vestas, WTN, Micon and Bonus) which we support with remote monitoring, scheduled and unscheduled operation and maintenance services, as well as other services including wind turbine optimisation, turbine supply, installation and commissioning and other elements of asset management.

This acquisition of Optinergy (NI) from parent company Optinergy Ltd (ROI) will further consolidate and strengthen Realise's offering of wind turbine services in Northern Ireland and across the rest of the UK.

Re-branding Optinergy (NI) as Realise Optinergy NI, this acquisition brings considerable benefit for all Realise and Optinergy (NI) customers, providing them with a professional, reliable, and financially secure operation and maintenance service for their wind turbines further backed with a growing team of experienced field engineers and administrative services. Optinergy (NI) turbines will continue to be serviced by the same engineers who will now join the Realise team, although customers will be introduced to additional engineers as part of the larger Realise operations team.

Realise have also taken on the Optinergy (NI) office and storage facility at Omagh reinforcing their operational capability and presence in Northern Ireland. No significant changes are planned for the Optinergy (NI) business in the short-term and customers will continue to experience high standards of customer service. Going forwards, our customers will also be issued with login details for the Realise online client portal providing access to turbine operational and performance data and other financial and commercial information.

As essential workers, Realise and Optinergy (NI) engineers continue to work throughout the current situation, following strict COVID-19 best practice to protect both themselves and our customers.

Connection Adjustments

PPA Uplift

Grid

Randolph
Group News



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Grid Connection Adjustments – Northern Ireland

NIE Grid Code Compliance (Northern Ireland only)

In 2019, NIE began to roll out a programme of changes to the electricity network to meet changing power quality requirements and deliver a stable grid for Northern Ireland. Along with the UK-wide move from G59 to G99 which is designed to stabilise the existing UK grid infrastructure, the NIE Grid Code Compliance Programme was implemented to address rapidly accelerating levels of change across the network and enable new NI renewable energy targets to be met.

The first stage was designed to address the SONI grid frequency requirements and affected small scale generators of all sizes. Following the onsite adjustments to individual generators' G59 relays throughout last year, this has now been completed.

However, the second and third stages (the NIE Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Implementation Programme and, where necessary, the installation of reactive power control equipment) are now underway, and all generators will have received a recent letter from NIE Networks in relation to this programme.

NIE Networks requested by 31st January 2021 that you had engaged and appointed a Verified SCADA Installer (such as Realise Energy Services). This can be completed online at <u>https://www.nienetworks.co.uk/ssg-scada-replyform</u>.

Once this is done, you then have a period to carry out the installation of the required SCADA and, where necessary, reactive power control equipment.

As a Verified SCADA Installer, Realise Energy Services can offer SCADA and reactive power control solutions to suit turbine and site-specific requirements – the first step would be to arrange an onsite survey of the existing electrical infrastructure and install a data logger to analyse power quality and understand whether reactive power control equipment will be required.

Further information on the SCADA and Reactive Power Control programme can be found here

Please contact Realise Energy Services on <u>enquiries@realise-energy.co.uk</u> or **0800 042 0251** if you would like further information or a quotation for the supply, installation, and commissioning of the SCADA and the reactive power control solutions.



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Grid Connection Adjustments – Great Britain Accelerated Loss of Mains Change Programme (GB only)

Over the past 12-18 months, the Accelerated Loss of Mains Change Programme (ALoMCP) requires generators in Scotland, England and Wales currently operating under G59 to adjust their G59 relay protection settings. Driven by National Grid and the GB Distribution Network Operators, this is intended to take pressure off the grid transmission and distribution networks by adjusting frequency settings in individual generators to reduce the incidence of trips across the network resulting in a more stable grid infrastructure.

In order to assist in this process, funding was made available for generators in GB to cover the cost for an authorised party to visit their site and make the necessary changes to their protection settings and submit the necessary documentary evidence of these changes to the relevant DNO.

Many generators have already had these changes carried out or are in the process of securing funding and making the necessary adjustments, but we are aware that some may still need to do this. If you still need to make these adjustments, Realise Energy Services can assist you with getting this done while the current funding window is still open.

Please contact Realise Energy Services on <u>enquiries@realise-energy.co.uk</u> or **0800 042 0251** if you would like further information or a quotation for the adjustment of the G59 protection settings at your turbine.

Further information on the ALOMCP can be found here





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"Retrofit your Vestas turbine's controller and optimise availability that will improve your annual energy generation and extend the lifetime of your turbine."

Realise Energy Services' continued partnership with leading European control system manufacturer, DEIF Wind Power Technology offers a range of turbine retrofit solutions designed to optimise turbine efficiency, maximise turbine performance and increase production of your wind turbine.

Realise Energy Services' DEIF-trained engineers can assess your turbine and design, model and install a bespoke DEIF solution tailored specifically to your turbine and site. This can optimise production with increased functionality and reduced wear and tear ensuring improved turbine performance and availability.

We can offer clients a range of cost-effective, yet high quality retrofit solutions manufactured by DEIF who have a proven track record across a global fleet of hundreds of Vestas turbines supported with our locally based operation and maintenance and turbine monitoring services.

The DEIF retrofit solution is suitable for the following Vestas Turbines common across the UK medium scale wind industry: V27, V29, V39, V42, V44 and V47.

If you would like to find out more about a DEIF retrofit for your Vestas turbine, please get in touch with Realise Energy Services.

A new DEIF Controller offers:

- Improved monitoring and control.
- Increased turbine availability.
- Assured access to spare parts; and
- Modern fibre-optic technology.
- All leading to increased income potential.

Compatible with Vestas V27/29, V39 and V42/44/47

Realise Energy Services are the authorised partner of DEIF Wind Power in the UK.





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OWNER SERVICES - Realise Energy Services team up with Renewable Exchange to offer GB turbine owners PPA uplift

Realise Energy Services and Renewable Exchange have teamed up to offer turbine owners in Scotland, England and Wales market leading Power Purchase Agreements or Enhanced Export Rate tariffs with an extra uplift.

Renewable Exchange is the marketplace for renewable generators wanting to gain the best price for their power by comparing rates across a large number of offtakers. Generators in GB can use Renewable Exchange to instantly access over 30 PPA offtakers and compare the best deals on the market together with the option of deciding if the Enhanced Export Rate would actually be a better bet. With Renewable Exchange you can also track the power market and automatically execute a contract when prices spike to lock in at the best price. Its quick, easy, and Renewable Exchange do all the work for you.

Under the agreement, all Realise GB customers holding a valid service and maintenance contract can approach Renewable Exchange and will receive an automatic additional uplift to the power price offered.

To find out more, Renewable Exchange can be contacted on: **0117 405 7931**, or **contact@renewableexchange.co.uk**. Just mention Realise when speaking to them to receive the uplift.

For turbine owners in Northern Ireland, our sister company, Farm Energy Northern Ireland can offer competitive ROCs trading and Power Purchase Agreements. Please contact the team at FENI on 028 7930 0606 or email info@farmenergyni.co.uk.



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RANDOLPH RENEWABLES GROUP NEWS

Realise Energy Services is owned by the Randolph Renewables Group which provides financial security and strength for clients as well as offering a range of additional services for owners of wind generating and other renewable assets. Additional Group news includes:

Farm Energy NI part funds wind report and refutes Audit office claims

An independent economic review of small-scale wind in Northern Ireland has found that an average small-scale wind turbine costs the individual consumer just 1 pence over its 20 year lifespan. A cost which is partially offset by reductions in the wholesale electricity price and other wider economic benefits including increased employment and reductions in carbon emissions.

Part funded by Realise's sister company Farm Energy NI ('FENI'), and carried out by KPMG on behalf of Renewable NI, the report 'An Economic Review of Small Scale Wind', examines the socio-economic impact of small-scale wind including costs to the consumer. It also reviews government support for the sector and evolution of support schemes including the NI Renewable Obligation (NIRO), as well as de-rated turbines and expected average rate of returns for operators. A representative of FENI Commented on the report, "We felt it was important to support this piece of research to protect our own membership from the political and economic implications of the Audit Report not being challenged"

The review comes on the back of a report released by the Northern Ireland Audit Office last year which examined the NIRO but did not have access to commercial data.

Key findings of the report include:

- Independent assessment reveals the average small-scale wind turbine costs individual Northern Ireland consumer just 1 pence over its 20-year lifespan.
- The review finds the sector contributes £45 million per year to the local economy and has created over 500 jobs.



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- Average small-scale wind turbine achieves a 9.7% rate of return in line with Government target.
- Overall the cost to the consumer of the renewables obligation was less than projected and delivered more renewable generation in Northern Ireland than was targeted.
- Findings based on actual costs of small-scale wind assets in NI, which were cross referenced against publicly available information, with a randomised pool of projects also audited to validate findings.

Welcoming the report, Steven Agnew, Head of Renewable NI said; "2021 is a strategically important year for the renewables sector as we look forward to the publication of an energy strategy that will help us reach our decarbonisation targets, while also creating growth opportunities. It is therefore important to recognise the real value of the small-scale wind sector which, as this report shows, has far reaching positive benefits."

"There has been a misconception recently about the value of small-scale wind locally and the impact of the NIRO scheme. This review carried out by experts in the field, reveals not only the true cost to consumers of the NIRO scheme but also the far-reaching positive benefits of small-scale wind for the economy, jobs and the environment, at a reasonable rate of return that falls under Government estimates.

"Small-scale wind also brings with it job creation, enhanced security of supply and the ability to infill pockets of grid capacity which can't accommodate larger projects – all at the price of 1 pence per turbine to the NI consumer.

"The renewable electricity industry as a whole stands ready to invest in Northern Ireland and power the green recovery that is needed as we tackle the twin Covid and climate crises. Setting an 80% target for renewable electricity generation by 2030 for instance could create over £1billion of direct investment in NI over the next decade, while also savings 3.5 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent."

Farm Energy NI are members of Renewable NI and their Small-Scale Working Group. Along with other companies working within the renewable sector, FENI contributed to this report on behalf of its own members. The report can be downloaded here: *An Economic Review of Small Scale Wind in Northern Ireland*



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Additional Services

- A Wide Range of Service and Maintenance Contracts
- Turbine inspections and reporting (Operation and Health and Safety Reporting)
- Control and SCADA system upgrades
- Fall Protection and climb assist upgrades
- Blade inspection, repair & pitching optimisation
- Tower and nacelle painting
- Site maintenance
- Transformer inspection and servicing plus oil analysis
- Re-powering and site purchase
- Research & Development

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Interested in Selling?

Do you own a Development Site or an Operational Asset and are interested in selling? The Randolph Renewables Group's development arm continues to progress wind farm opportunities, (both operational and pre-development), to increase the number of MW of green energy in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Considering the current lack of subsidy for new wind farms, the Group is increasingly undertaking unique and novel approaches to ensure sites can be optimised to provide robust financial viability. If you have an operational asset or development site you would be interested in discussing, please do not hesitate to get in touch on: **0131 558 2630** or <u>enquiries@randolphgroup.co.uk</u>



If you need an experienced and reliable turbine support service and your current service and maintenance contract is due to expire over the next few months, please do contact us to get a free, no obligation quotation.

