

Coolkeeragh Phase 1 launched

Northern Ireland's Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Mr Ian Pearson MP, and Minister Dermot Ahern TD, the Republic of Ireland's Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, visited Coolkeeragh ESB in October to unveil a commemorative plaque to launch Phase 1 of the Coolkeeragh Combined-Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) Plant. The unveiling ceremony marked the successful completion of all Coolkeeragh ESB's crucial Phase 1 milestones. In addition to the Ministers, the ceremony was attended by the Mayor of Derry, Councillor Shaun Gallagher, local business leaders, politicians, members of the media, and community leaders.

Minister Pearson gave a strong welcome to the local business and employment opportunities the Coolkeeragh ESB plant is creating: "I particularly welcome the fact that the new CCGT power station has secured 40 jobs for the future, while up to 600 jobs are being created during the construction phase," he said. "Locally based subcontractors and suppliers have already secured contracts totalling some £20 million. In addition, the station will also help local businesses in the north-west with local supply contracts worth up to £7 million per year."

At the launch, Minister Ahern linked the development at Coolkeeragh with the aim of creating an all-island energy market: "The construction of the state-of-the-art electricity generating plant will greatly enhance the attractiveness of the locality for inward capital investment. I believe today represents another positive step on the road to building closer links



Minister Ian Pearson MP, Minister Dermot Ahern TD with Padraig McManus, ESB Chief Executive, and Richard Sterling, Managing Director CPL, on a visit to the site at Coolkeeragh ESB

between the two markets which will ultimately benefit consumers North and South."

Mr Padraig McManus, Chief Executive of ESB, and Mr Richard Sterling, Managing Director of Coolkeeragh Power Limited, welcomed the two ministers on their visit to the site.

Mr McManus welcomed the fact that the project had now achieved major milestones with the arrival on site of all of the key components, including the turbine, and that it was on target for commercial operation in early 2005. He said that the Coolkeeragh ESB plant was stimulating economic growth in the region, and bringing many tangible benefits in the form of job creation, local company contracts, efficient power generation, and facilitation of the extension of the gas network to the north and north-west.

Richard Sterling, Managing Director of Coolkeeragh Power Limited, spoke of ESB's commitment to the plant: "ESB has applied resources into the project and turned a dream into reality," he said. "The new plant will keep power generating in the north-west as well as bringing natural gas to the region."

Coolkeeragh ESB team recruited and on site

Recruitment of the operations and maintenance (O&M) team for the new combined-cycle gas turbine power plant is now complete. This followed a successful advertising campaign in the local and national press to fill the permanent operational, technical and administrative posts. More than 90 per cent of the new Coolkeeragh ESB

O&M team are from the north-west area. The new team began their tenure with a two-day induction off-site and a team-building exercise before transferring to site where they are now heavily committed to a demanding training programme designed to prepare them to assume control of the plant in early 2005.

North-west's first ever meeting of Energy Authority takes place at Coolkeeragh ESB

The first ever meeting of the Northern Ireland Authority for Energy Regulation to be held in the north-west has taken place at Coolkeeragh ESB.

The Authority regulates issues in Northern Ireland's newly deregulated energy market.

During their site visit, the members of the Authority were given a presentation on the progress of the new plant, which is scheduled to be operational early in 2005.



Joan Whiteside, John Gilliland, Douglas McIlldoon, Chairman of the Authority, Charles Coulthard and Peter Lehman of the Authority for Energy Regulation

Customers pay visit to Coolkeeragh ESB

ESB Independent Energy held a very successful customer event at the Coolkeeragh power plant in November. More than thirty customers and prospective customers attended the event that provided the opportunity to take in the on-going work at the plant at first-hand and the chance to hear details of the services and products that ESBIE is offering.

"Many of the people who attended on the day were energy managers and so had a keen interest in getting a very tangible sense of where exactly their energy will be generated come early 2005," said Sean O'Loughlin, Supply Manager for Northern Ireland. "It was our pleasure to be able to host the event on site and to bring them up to speed with developments within ESBIE."



The gas turbine – the power engine of the new Coolkeeragh ESB power plant – installed on site

COOLKEERAGH



For further project information please contact:

Coolkeeragh ESB Ltd, PO Box 217, 2 Electra Road, Maydown,
Londonderry BT47 6XU Tel (028)71864700 Fax (028)71864701

E-mail: ccgt@coolkeeragh.co.uk Website: www.coolkeeragh.com

Giant 580-tonne gas turbine and generator arrives at Coolkeeragh ESB

The giant 580-tonne gas turbine and generator has arrived at Coolkeeragh ESB, via the port at Lisahally.

The gas turbine and generator forms the central technology of the combined-cycle gas turbine

power station, and was the heaviest single load the port at Lisahally has ever seen.

The plant will draw its natural gas supply from a new north-west gas pipeline currently being developed.

The shipment was lifted using a jumbo ship with its own

onboard cranes. It was transported to Coolkeeragh ESB by a special self-propelled modular transporter trailer in early September. At the plant, specialist gantry-lifting equipment lifted the giant gas turbine and generator into place. The turbine and generator, which were manufactured in France and the US, were shipped in through Rotterdam. They were purchased from the leading manufacturer General Electric.



Recording Coolkeeragh ESB's construction: two major arts initiatives announced

Two major arts initiatives have been announced for the north-west featuring Coolkeeragh ESB and The Playhouse.

Coolkeeragh ESB has contracted the local arts group to record the construction of the power plant through both public and schools-based arts projects.

In the public arts initiative, Coolkeeragh ESB is contracting The Playhouse to commission the Northern Ireland artist, Simon McWilliams, to produce a piece of public art that will record the development of the new plant up to and including the opening of the plant in 2005. It will be displayed at the Coolkeeragh ESB plant as well as through community exhibitions.

For the school-based project, Coolkeeragh ESB and The Playhouse are commissioning artists to work with four local post-primary schools developing art within the schools. The project will be long term and it is hoped it will produce a number of pieces of artwork for display within the power plant at Coolkeeragh ESB.

"The initiatives provide us with the opportunity to celebrate

the development of the Coolkeeragh ESB power plant and to develop students' involvement with the visual arts within the local community," said David O'Dwyer, General Manager, Coolkeeragh ESB.



Simon contemplates commission!

Simon McWilliams, the artist chosen to record the various phases of development at Coolkeeragh ESB, with Dave O'Dwyer, General Manager of Coolkeeragh ESB

Coolkeeragh's £20 million for local firms welcomed by Invest NI Chief

The outstanding success for local firms of the Supplier Development Model, which is being used by Coolkeeragh ESB to source contractors and expertise, has been strongly welcomed by Leslie Morrison, Chief Executive of Invest Northern Ireland.

"The Supplier Development Model is an excellent example of relatively modest investments in modern technology yielding substantial business benefits," said Mr Morrison. "To date, Invest Northern Ireland has contributed £130,000 to this project which, through the sharing of knowledge in an efficient and effective manner, has reinvested over £20 million in the local economy.

"It has already resulted in local businesses winning contracts worth more than £20 million in total, for services and materials including construction, civil works, scaffolding, piping erection, electrical contracting, cleaning, site security and administration.

"The Supplier Development Model was developed by NW Marketing to build relationships between local companies and the main contractors for the Coolkeeragh ESB project. This included developing an online database of suppliers, skills and competencies, and a bulletin board for knowledge sharing between Invest NI, Coolkeeragh, the main contractor and local suppliers. Information technology, professional advice and a buyer's forum were also included. As a result, the local economy

has maximised the benefits from the project, both in economic and skill-enhancement terms.

"Such has been the success of this project, that we fully expect to exceed our original target of £30 million worth of business for local companies by the time the power station is commissioned in 2005," said Mr Morrison.

The second phase in the Supplier Development Model initiative has been announced by Professor Terri Scott, Invest NI's Managing Director of Entrepreneurship and Enterprise; Richard Sterling, Coolkeeragh Power's Managing Director; and Roland Stickler, Commercial Project Manager of VA Tech, as the main contractors with General Electric.



Photomontage of the Coolkeeragh ESB plant

Coolkeeragh ESB implements safety awareness campaign

The safety of all those who work on the Coolkeeragh ESB site has been the number one priority. The company has recently launched a comprehensive safety programme to maximise awareness of all workers on the project to safety issues and safe work practices.

Commenting on the scheme, Barry Lynch, Health and Safety Advisor at Coolkeeragh ESB said: "We have a good health and safety record but we are now entering the next phase of the project, with a substantial increase in mechanical and electrical works, which has led to a large number of new workers on site. We want to ensure that these new workers understand the importance of safety on this project, particularly as we are currently over 100 working days without a lost time accident and we want this to continue as we start the next stage of the project. While every worker is entitled to a safe working environment and safe systems of work, they also have a responsibility to look after their own day to day safety and that of their co-workers.

"The main contractor for the project is GE/VATech, a

consortium of General Electric from the USA and VATech Combined Cycle from Austria. The majority of the 450 workers on site are employed by subcontractors from all parts of Northern Ireland while a number are working on behalf of specialist contractors from Europe who have contracted the expertise of local engineering companies to assist them on the project. Our role is to encourage them to work towards creating an accident free environment." Awareness of the Site Safety campaign is highlighted by a giant safety banner erected on the west side of the gas turbine hall on the Coolkeeragh ESB plant. It bears the safety slogan: Safety – It's My Responsibility.

All of the main components for the power plant have been installed on site and the civil works on the main building are nearly complete. Construction work is on schedule with completion due at the end of the summer, followed by the commissioning phase with the plant fully operational in early 2005.