

News Release

4 June 2007



YORKSHIRE FORWARD INVESTS £8.7 MILLION IN ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES

Yorkshire Forward is investing £8.7 million in the development and operation of an incubator building to support businesses entering the emerging low carbon energy technologies market.

The global market for the environmental technologies sector is expected to reach £400 billion by 2010 as action to tackle climate change escalates, creating a market for British businesses which could be worth £30 billion over the next decade.

The Environmental Energy Technology Centre (EETC), to be built on land adjoining the Innovation Technology Centre on the Advanced Manufacturing Park at Rotherham, with investment from the European Regional Development Fund, and will support more than 30 enterprises engaged in the development of products that will aid the transition to a low carbon energy economy.

Companies located in the building will be able to tap into the expertise in cutting edge manufacturing techniques and other technologies that exist within the Advanced Manufacturing Park.

Yorkshire Forward is aspiring to deliver a commercial building that will match or exceed the highest standards of sustainability and low carbon footprint previously achieved in the UK. A key element of this project is an iconic renewable energy mini-grid to supply electricity and heat to the tenants and provide a real life 'plug and play' demonstrator for new technologies. The wind to hydrogen energy system will enable the EETC to be self-sufficient in electricity and supply energy to the EETC through hydrogen generation hydrogen storage and fuel cell technology.

Tom Riordan, Chief Executive of Yorkshire Forward said:

“Yorkshire has a history of extracting energy and dealing with its environmental effects. If the region can export this knowledge and expertise in our universities and our businesses to the new economies of China, India and Brazil, it will mean lower emissions and a dividend for our economy.

“There is huge potential for the region’s businesses to tap into the emerging environmental energy technologies market. Yorkshire Forward’s investment in the Environmental Energy Technology Centre will provide new businesses with bespoke premises in a location which is close to a research base, and offer them a range of business and technical support. This facility will place them in the best possible position to survive and grow in an expanding global market.”

Existing environmental energy technologies include tidal, wave and wind electricity generation, converting light to electricity through photovoltaics, ground and air source heat pumps, biomass, combined heat and power systems, fuel cells and energy management equipment.

Work is expected to start on site during summer 2007, and be completed by Autumn 2008.

Notes to editors:

1. Over the past year, Yorkshire Forward has created and safeguarded more than 10,800 new jobs; helped create and attract more than 800 new businesses, provided nearly 25,000 learning opportunities and reclaimed more than 100 hectares of brownfield land - achieving or exceeding all of the targets it was set.
2. Yorkshire Forward’s investment across the region is maximised by attracting European Regional Development Funding from the Objective One and Two programmes.
3. For further information, please contact Janice Crich, Press Officer, Yorkshire Forward, Tel 0113 394 9715; e-mail janice.crich@yorkshire-forward.com or Fax 0113 243 1088.