Bridge Across The Bay Ltd

David Brockbank (a businessman representing a consortium of private sector investors) sponsored the setting up of the company in January 2004. It is a company limited by guarantee and therefore not-for-profit. It will lead on the early stages of the development plan including submitting planning applications with the aim of handing over to a more appropriate body to lead on build, construction and operation.

David Brockbank is the Chairman of the company. The Directors are Michael Hulme (Chair of Cumbria Visions and Westlakes Renaissance Urban Regeneration Company); Professor Bill Davies of Lancaster University; and Julian Carter (General Manager, Renewables Northwest - a joint venture between United Utilities and NWDA). Hazel Broatch was appointed as Chief Executive in February 2004.

The project is very much at the early stages of its development however we want to work with all of those who have an interest in the Bay as it develops. We may not be able to answer all your questions right now but if we can we will and if we can’t we will let you know when we think we will be able to. You can contact us by emailing: bridgeacrossthebay@supanet.com

The Proposal

Renewable Energy

Climate change is a significant threat to future generations. Challenging targets have been set to reduce CO\textsubscript{2} by 15-20 million tonnes by 2020. Reductions of 4-6 million tonnes are to come through the move to renewable energy. The targets are for 10% of electricity to come from renewable energy by 2010 and 20% by 2020. How challenging is this? Well – in 2002, only 1.7% of electricity was from renewable energy.

Our proposal is to generate renewable energy from the tidal power in Morecambe Bay. Tidal power is a reliable and predictable source of power. It has the potential to make a significant contribution to the targets for reducing carbon emissions and reducing the risks of climate change. The Bay is the second largest embayment in the UK and early desktop research in 2003 identified that the maximum outputs for power production outputs in the Bay is 515 megawatts. However realistic power conversion depends on the technologies developed to harvest the power.

Experiments in extracting tidal power are taking place in the Bristol Channel, Orkney and in the Firth of Forth. We believe that the North West should play a key role in these developments. We are researching the range of tidal turbines and their suitability for use in the Bay.

A key consideration is environmental impact. Our stated aim is to put the environment at the heart of our proposals and our intention is to minimise environmental impact. Our aspiration is to have environmental benefit and to
contribute to the future conservation of the Bay. At each key stage, as the project develops, we will undertake an appraisal of its environmental impact.

**The “Green” Bridge**

George Stevenson first proposed the idea of building a bridge across Morecambe Bay in 1834. Integrating a bridge onto the stanchions of tidal turbines is not a major engineering challenge. It would be a leading development in how renewable power generation can be designed into major structures. Innovations such as extracting the power creating by the sun in, for example, the tarmac surface and the sound barriers are also being researched.

The bridge would be potentially 12 miles long and could take 15 minutes to cross - saving journey times of 1 hour plus. It would open up Barrow and the Cumbria West Coast to North Lancashire and the South. Barrow is a priority area for regeneration with nationally significant levels of depravation. Access to Barrow and West Cumbria is a significant barrier to regeneration. The North West Development Agency has given its support to the proposal. The bridge would be a powerful symbol of the commitment to economic, social and environmental growth in the North West.

The project is expected to take at least 10 years – a marathon not a sprint.

**The Development Plan**

The Development Plan for the first four stages of the project identifies the need in the next two stages to undertake significant research into:

- The existing environment in the Bay;
- Turbines that would be effective in the Bay;
- The range of bridge designs;
- The environmental impact of any development;
- The traffic impact; and
- The socio/economic impacts.

It identifies key stages when a reappraisal of the commercial and environmental viability of the project would be undertaken. An outline of the Development Plan is available and if you would like a copy please email: bridgeacrossthebay@supanet.com.

**Consultation**

The Development Plan also identifies our commitment to ongoing consultation from these early stages onwards through the process of development. We hope you find this background information useful.

Hazel R Broatch
Chief Executive

August 2004