

Address: Dooneen, Crecora, Co. Limerick, Ireland

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
Received:	7/3/14
Fee:	€50
Receipt No.	B123473

An Bord Pleanála,
64, Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

Date: 24th February

RE: EXTENSION OF THE HARBOUR AT GALWAY

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
TIME	BY <i>post</i>
07 MAR 2014	
LTR-DATED	FROM <i>[Signature]</i>
PL	

Dear Sir,

The Atlantic Ocean Energy Alliance (AOEA) is a broad based group of companies and individuals interested in the renewable energy space. Our members include private companies, semi state bodies, local authorities engineering consultants, SMEs, ICTs, institutes and investors.

Our aim is to be the face of renewable energy in the west of Ireland in the Wind, Wave and Tidal spectrums.

Ireland has an exceptional marine energy resource. As Europe moves towards becoming an electricity-powered economy, Ireland must capitalize on its ocean energy resource potential and position itself at the forefront of electricity supply to the European market. The majority of our potential ocean energy resource lies off the west coast of Ireland and the challenge lies in the successful national exploitation of this to the benefit of the source region and nation.

The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in its recently published document **Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDP) – A framework for the Sustainable Development of Ireland's Offshore Renewable Energy Resource [February 2014]** highlighted the importance of ports 'especially those ports along the western seaboard as they will play a crucial role in facilitating the necessary development of both offshore renewable generation and grid infrastructure requiring investment to handle the necessary plant, equipment and cabling, and the associated shipping both during construction, and operation and maintenance phases of future projects.' The OREDP identifies Galway Harbour as having 'important potential in terms of servicing future demand in this sector.'

Recently, Galway Harbour has successfully completed the importation of wind turbines for ENERCON and its associated components and is the only port that has deployed all 1/4 scale wave energy test devices.

The AEOA have always acknowledged that ports play a fundamental function in Ireland's task in achieving its renewable energy targets by 2020, and while 80% of the marine renewables of wave and wind energy lies on the west coast, particularly between Slyne Head in Co. Galway and Annagh Head in Co. Donegal there clearly needs to be infrastructural development of ports to be able to meet these targets.

The extension of Galway Harbour is timely. It will position Galway and Ireland to be able to capture this natural indigenous source of energy, providing a real and sustainable economic opportunity for Ireland and help decarbonise the energy system. The extension will allow the port company to be able to deploy full scale wind, wave energy devices without depth restrictions for these specialised ships.

The AEOA fully supports this planning application (**61.PA0033**) and sees it as a real and tangible project of 'joined up thinking' in a move towards developing Ireland's greatest natural resource and the delivery of material economic benefit for the west and for Ireland.

Yours sincerely,



Ben Wrafter,
Chairman AOEa

