



Press Release

Tuesday 5 August 2008

## **ENERGY BOOST FOR GREEN HIGHLAND RENEWABLES**

Edinburgh-based Green Highland Renewables Limited today announced a new partnership with Scottish and Southern Energy to build and operate small-scale hydro-electric generating schemes throughout the UK.

Green Highland specialises in developing small to medium scale hydro electric schemes. Set up by property entrepreneur Iain Wotherspoon and land manager and construction project manager Alastair Riddell, the firm is a sister company of Caledon Green, a specialist in renewable energy and energy efficiency systems for the UK property and land management sectors.

The share purchase agreement in Green Highland marks a return to its roots for Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE). Britain's second largest energy group grew out of the former North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board, which brought power from the glens to Scotland's homes and industry during the fifties and sixties via a network of dams, tunnels and generating stations.

Today's hydro schemes generally divert part of the flow of streams and rivers down buried pipelines to small generating powerhouses, without the need for dams and aqueducts. These run-of-river schemes are constructed so as to take advantage of natural features in the landscape. These small-scale schemes operate on the basis of a small sill across a burn to ensure a continuing flow of water, and the schemes are often virtually invisible. Ten per cent of Scotland's electricity is already generated from hydro energy. Recent estimates suggest that 250MW of small-scale hydro capacity can be economically developed in Scotland alone.

Green Highland chairman Iain Wotherspoon said: "Scotland is an ideal hydro location with its mountainous terrain, lochs and rivers and a high average rainfall. There are many suitable sites in the Highlands for the development of micro hydro electric schemes.

"Such schemes have a low environmental impact on the landscape, offer a means of reducing carbon emissions and give landowners the opportunity to increase income through selling excess energy to the National Grid.

“We offer the opportunity to community groups and estate owners to become involved in renewables without the high cost and complexity of building and operating their own schemes. We offer a range of services from consultancy right through to building, owning and operating hydro schemes.”

Dave Gardner, Head of Ventures at SSE, said: “Hydro electricity is part of SSE’s heritage and we continue to look for opportunities to develop large-scale schemes like our 100MW project at Glendoe. But small-scale hydro has an important role to play in fully developing renewable energy in rural areas, for the benefit of communities and landowners. Green Highland Renewables provides us with a strong small hydro offering and SSE is able to provide the knowledge and expertise that comes from operating hydro-electric power stations for 60 years.”

This investment from SSE in Green Highland continues the SSE strategy of investing in renewable technology. This hydro venture also follows the recent joint venture deal between the Buccleuch Group and Caledon Green and the formation of Caledon Buccleuch, a specialist in biomass systems. These recent developments indicate a strengthening of the Caledon Green offering in key renewable technologies.

Ends

Further information available from Michael Groves or Carol Stewart  
T: 0131 225 4646; mobile 07944 060322  
E: [michael.groves@greatcircle.co.uk](mailto:michael.groves@greatcircle.co.uk); [carol.stewart@greatcircle.co.uk](mailto:carol.stewart@greatcircle.co.uk)

## **Notes to Editors**

### **GREEN HIGHLAND RENEWABLES**

[www.greenhighland.co.uk](http://www.greenhighland.co.uk)

Green Highland specialises in developing small to medium scale hydro electric schemes. Their main focus is to provide advice and solutions to landowners on sustainable hydro schemes through the whole process of design, procurement and operation.

### **CALEDON GREEN**

[www.caledongreen.com](http://www.caledongreen.com)

Caledon Green works with developers and landowners to assess and specify the optimum energy solution, create and commission clean energy systems and operate these systems in the long term. Its core energy and property expertise is augmented by alliances with leading players in small scale hydro, biomass, biomass electrical, energy from waste, anaerobic digestion, wind, solar, fuel cell and marine energy. Caledon Green’s systems optimise the mix of energy technologies to create a cost effective and localised energy supply for developers, land-owners and property managers.

### **SCOTTISH AND SOUTHERN ENERGY**

[www.scottish-southern.co.uk](http://www.scottish-southern.co.uk)

SSE is the UK’s leading generator of renewable energy and has several projects underway in the UK covering renewable technologies such as hydro, wind and marine.