

Celebrating a milestone



Congratulations to Paul Hendren, Production Manager at Robin Rigg, for 20 years' service with E.ON. People are, and always will be, our greatest asset. Paul's abilities and contributions are an important part of the success of our entire operation and we'd like to thank him for his dedication and hard work over the years.

Paul said:

"Me and my family are forever grateful to E.ON for the support, encouragement and opportunities they've provided me to grow and develop over the past 20 years. It seems like only yesterday I walked in as an apprentice to begin a career that continues to challenge me now and hopefully for many more years."

Keep in touch

You're always welcome to get in touch with us about Robin Rigg. You can email robin.rigg@eon-uk.com, call us on **01900 507 070**, or write to us at:

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Port of Workington
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Robin Rigg Newsletter *e-on*



Autumn 2019

Embracing the winds of change

I can't believe it's already autumn. It's been a whirlwind year at Robin Rigg and we're rapidly approaching our 10 year anniversary – marking a decade of operating and maintaining the wind farm. 2019 has been a year where we've balanced 'business as usual' with preparing for the change that lies ahead.

As I mentioned in my last update, E.ON and another top German utility company, RWE, have agreed a deal including a number of asset swaps. At the time of writing this article, the deal is still subject to the necessary regulatory approvals, expected imminently. In the meantime we're busy preparing in the background to make sure our transition from E.ON to RWE is seamless. I'm really excited about the prospect of Robin Rigg becoming part of a new, green RWE business – as is Dr Rolf Martin Schmitz, RWE AG's CEO:

"The coming months will be one of the most exciting periods in our company's history. RWE will soon turn into a 'new RWE' – an international player with a clear focus on renewables and energy storage. We'll rank among the world's leading green energy producers, which is something we're already looking forward to."

I joined E.ON and the electricity industry 12 years ago, so my excitement is tinged with sadness at leaving the company that started my career in a fantastic sector. I'll always be grateful for the opportunity but I know this new chapter will be great for Robin Rigg and everyone who works here.

New community fund coming soon

I'm delighted to announce that Robin Rigg will be launching a new community fund over the coming months – continuing our support for local communities on both the Scottish and English coastlines neighbouring the wind farm. Over the last decade, we've donated over £1 million to local community projects, thanks to two 10-year community funds set up by E.ON when Robin Rigg

was first commissioned. The funds aimed to benefit local areas on the Cumbrian and Galloway coasts with funding given to projects promoting the sustainable use of energy and resources, reducing climate change and nature conservation.

Cumbria Community Foundation, who managed the Robin Rigg West Fund on behalf of local communities, told us:

"The fund provided a valuable, long-term, sustainable and reliable source of income for local initiatives. Promoting sustainable living is so important these days and funds set up by local businesses such as E.ON have been crucial in helping projects make a bigger impact in their area."

I'm so proud of the projects Robin Rigg has supported over the last decade. Round Robin has provided you with regular updates on the fantastic work happening in our local communities and it's great to see how committed people are to living in a more environmentally friendly and sustainable way. The two 10-year community funds set up by E.ON have now drawn to a close but keep your eyes peeled for more news on our brand new community fund – including how to apply for grants.

A great team effort

With all the change on the horizon, my fantastic team have done a great job and remain focused on our core purpose – operating and maintaining the wind farm safely. Thanks to their dedication, we're well on track for another successful year.

My perspective on weather has changed so much since coming to Robin Rigg and as we head into the final months of 2019 embracing the winds of change, we're hoping for plenty of actual wind too!

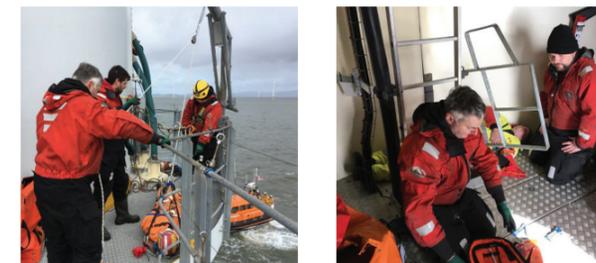
Kerry McCole
Robin Rigg Plant Manager



Safety first

Practicing our response to offshore emergencies

Earlier this year, we held a joint emergency exercise in the Solway Firth with the RNLI and the Coastguard to practice our response to potential emergency situations. The exercise began with a distress call to the Robin Rigg control room, reporting that a member of our wind turbine maintenance team was seriously injured and needed immediate evacuation from a turbine offshore. In response, the control room liaised with the emergency services and arranged for a Crew Transfer Vessel (CTV) to standby next to the turbine, while the maintenance team looked after the casualty. Using their enhanced first aid training, the team dealt with a critically ill, unconscious patient, including keeping their airway clear and stabilising a suspected broken pelvis, back, neck and femur.



The next stage was to transfer the patient from the turbine onto a vessel. The RNLI launched a lifeboat and when it reached the turbine, the maintenance team lowered the stretchered patient onto its bow. The evacuation was then repeated using the CTV.

Once the whole team were on board, the vessel headed towards the Port of Workington for the second practice scenario of the day. The CTV had collided with a submerged object, resulting in multiple casualties and loss of power. The RNLI lifeboat towed the CTV back to shore where the Coastguard arranged a rescue party to help the injured crew, including recovering casualties from below decks where room is limited.

Once both exercises were complete, everyone involved reviewed how the day had gone. We all agreed that it had been a success with important lessons learnt about how we communicated and used equipment. As well as practising our joint response to emergency situations offshore, these exercises are also a valuable opportunity to strengthen relationships between key emergency response partners in Robin Rigg's area of operation.

Then all we had to do was tidy up, have a cuppa and give ourselves a pat on the back!

A simple solution

A simple solution to a challenging issue

As you can imagine, water ingress is one of the leading causes of turbine faults and breakdowns at offshore wind farms like Robin Rigg. This year we launched a project to tackle the issue and prevent water, which leaks in from skylights and other unseen routes, from penetrating our turbines' circuit breakers.

The project team came up with the idea of manufacturing a vacuum-formed, thermo plastic cover for the nacelle control cabinet, designed to direct water away from the circuit breaker, safely out through the turbine nacelle.

The final design for the cover was trialled on a turbine using a simple water test. It fitted well, but the team found that water pooled in the bottom corner, next to the drain plug. To solve the problem, they tweaked the design to create a bigger drop off towards the drain and the new solution was ready to go. The only other potential snag was the covers getting damaged in transit but luckily they fit inside the offshore bags already designed to transport skylight windows, and they've provided more than adequate protection.

The new lightweight, recyclable covers have been fitted to all Robin Rigg's turbines and so far, they're doing a great job of preventing breakdowns and keeping our turbines turning.

Written by Scott Thornthwaite

