

# Business Weekly

THE VOICE OF BUSINESS IN DERBYSHIRE

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## GREEN ENTERPRISE SPECIAL

### From wind farming to burning waste wood, Alpha's building for the future

BY OLIVER ASTLEY

A CIVIL engineering firm is working on a £2.5 million contract to link an off-shore wind farm to the National Grid.

Hilton-based Alpha Construction is carrying out structural engineering work on a sub-station, near King's Lynn, for Centrica Energy.

Power generated from the Lincs wind turbines, five miles off the coast off Skegness, will be transferred by two under-sea cables to the sub-station.

The Hilton firm will complete the contract by next summer, with the sub-station expected to be finished in December 2011.



ROB SMITH

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At a reported cost of £725 million, the wind farm is expected to generate enough power to supply 170,000 homes, every year, for between 20 and 25 years.

Alpha Construction is providing foundations and structures for the sub-station, in Norfolk, to support and house the equipment that will transmit the wind-generated power into the National Grid.

Lincs offshore wind farm is made up of 75 wind turbines, each one 160m tall, with a



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rotor diameter of 120 metres.

Alpha Construction managing director Rob Smith, said: "Wind farms and renewable energies are areas of business where there is an increased work load and there is a lot of investment planned right up until 2025."

The UK has signed up to the EU Renewable Energy Direct-

ive which includes a UK target of 15 per cent of energy from renewable sources, such as wind farms, by 2020.

Mr Smith said: "Our experience of working for the high-voltage electricity industry in sub-station environments has helped put us at the front of the queue for this type of project."

Another recent contract won by Alpha in the renewable energy sector is for £1.3 million worth of work to design and build a plant that would turn waste wood into energy.

Power from burning the waste wood would be used to generate electricity in the south-east of England.

#### PRACTICAL ADVICE

THE Derby Telegraph has launched its own 10:10 campaign to get businesses, schools and individuals to reduce their impact on the planet by cutting carbon emissions.



Our campaign, launched with partners Derby City Council, the University of Derby, Derby Homes and Dyson Insulations, gives practical advice on how to save cash by reducing their energy use.

The national campaign was founded in September last year by Franny Armstrong, with the aim of capturing the public's imagination in a similar way to Make Poverty History. For more details visit [www.thisisderbyshire.co.uk/1010](http://www.thisisderbyshire.co.uk/1010).

The firm is also working on an anaerobic digestion plant at a dairy, in Dorset, that will use milk waste products as fuel for generators.

Built through a grant from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, when the plant is up and running, the dairy is expected to reduce its electricity bills by 60 per cent.

Alpha Construction is currently tendering for work on two further multi-million-pound wind farm projects in the UK and is hopeful of securing even more orders prior to the end of the year.

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