

Freedom of Information Request – Vestas Site Queries

I am writing to you to provide the information you requested concerning costs of the current scheme in Stag Lane and West Medina Mills, Isle of Wight, and ownership of the former wind turbine factory.

Your request to SEEDA is:

“The projected cost of the current scheme in Stag Lane & West Medina Mills Newport Isle of Wight for a Research & Development site for Vestas Wind turbines.”

“Who now owns the abandoned wind turbine factory also built with SEEDA finance.”

The following paragraphs provide SEEDA’s response to your request:

1) *The projected cost of the current scheme in Stag Lane & West Medina Mills Newport Isle of Wight for a Research & Development site for Vestas Wind turbines.*

The projected cost of the current development scheme in Stag Lane & West Medina Mills involves two key elements: public money invested or committed and private investment planned by Vestas.

The public funds include an investment by SEEDA of c. £10m gross (£6.5m net after sale of the land to Vestas is concluded) in the assembly of 6.35ha of land at West Medina Mills, the clearance of derelict structures and preparation of a 5.43 ha site for development. It also includes the costs of land acquisition for the widening of Stag Lane, and the complete reconstruction of the road for adoption as a public highway by Isle of Wight Council. This benefits the residents, businesses and users of Stag Lane, including existing and future occupiers of the West Medina Mills site. An area of 0.92 ha of natural conservation land to the south adjoining the Dodnor Creek nature reserve is to be transferred to Isle of Wight Council as part of this scheme.

As a result of SEEDA's investment, Vestas will be able to acquire the 5.43 ha development site at an open market rate for the construction of the new Blade Technology Centre. Vestas are planning to invest c. £50m in the construction of the new building and a further significant investment will go towards the fitting-out and installation of new plant and machinery.

SEEDA has also committed to contribute a further £5m to Vestas Technology to match fund the Department of Energy & Climate Change’s (DECC)



Environmental Technology Fund grants towards future research and development activity within the planned new Technology Centre.

The scheme has safeguarded 120 jobs and already created another 30. A further 200 new jobs are expected to be created over the next three years.

Further details of this commitment can be found in the press release on our website:

<http://www.seeda.co.uk/news-and-publications/news/recent-news/1/archive/2009/640>

2) *Who now owns the abandoned wind turbine factory also built with SEEDA finance.*

We understand the building is owned by Vestas Technology UK Ltd and is currently being used as a research and development facility. SEEDA has not provided funding to build this factory.