



North Devon Company To Distribute Domestic Wind Turbines in SW

PRESS RELEASE - 4th JANUARY 2010

For the attention of the Business Editor,
North Devon Journal

A North Devon green energy company, ch4e, has been appointed distributor for the South West for an innovative new micro wind turbine system designed for domestic use.

The vertical axis turbines, made by UK company Vertical Wind Energy Ltd, are among the first to be offered for small scale use at a highly competitive price, and have only recently become available on the UK market. The 10 metre masts are suitable for use on a flat roof or concrete foundation slab. All the parts for the turbines, except for the generators, are made in the UK.

“We are delighted to have been appointed to distribute these new turbines in Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset,” says Chris Muir, Director of ch4e, based at Trentishoe near Parracombe in North Devon. ch4e is a specialist in renewable technology and green energy. “I am enormously impressed with the design of these micro turbines, mounted on a vertical rather than a horizontal shaft, and the technology behind them.

“When I visited the VWE plant in Northern Ireland I saw the turbines in action and studied all the technical and safety data. In my opinion, this design heralds an important new chapter in micro wind generation turbines. Finally we have a system that actually works under all wind conditions, and has a realistic price tag. It is better than anything else currently on the market and I am confident the sales figures will soon bear this out.

“The designers have ironed out many of the disadvantages that have been associated with small scale turbines, including the problems of noise and the inability of micro turbines to cope with gale conditions. The VWE vertical turbine works in all weather conditions, including very high wind speeds, is easy to install and has a sophisticated braking system.”

The VWE turbines are currently offered in a 3 kilowatt size, at a price of £12,500. This is suitable for use with domestic premises, or small commercial businesses. (A larger turbine, 6 kW, is due to be launched by VWE in several months time.) A small number of 3 kW turbines are already up and running in parts of the UK, but VWE is keen to see more in the South West.

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ch4e

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The South West is an ideal region of the country for vertical turbines, according to Peter Mortimer, Sales Manager for VWE. “The South West has a particularly good wind profile for three reasons. Firstly, there is a clear open aspect to the South West, with 3,000 miles of ocean, clear winds and little turbulence, secondly there is a predominance of coastal towns and coastal property, and thirdly there are elevated areas such as Exmoor and Dartmoor.

“The average UK domestic home uses around 4,000 kilowatt hours per year,” continues Peter Mortimer. “The 3 kW turbine, in a very good location, will produce around 5,000 kilowatt hours per year. That figure will be lower in a location that is not so good. The turbine will produce between 50% and 100% of an average family’s power needs. On a very good site, you are likely to get payback in 7 years. On an average site it is more likely to be around 10 years.

“Not only are you looking at reducing your costs of power, you are also isolating yourself from future rises in energy prices. In addition, due to the government’s new Feed-in Tariffs (see additional information below) being introduced in April 2010, customers will be getting a return of between £700 and £1500 a year, depending on the quality of the site. People are starting to see a micro wind turbine as an extra string to their pension bow.”

Additional information:

- The **Feed-in Tariffs** (or FITS) start in April 2010 and will be paid for 20 years. These are payable to anyone who owns a renewable energy system, regardless of whether they use all the electricity themselves. Customers selling excess power back to the National Grid can claim an extra payment. The tariffs are currently forecast to be worth up to 23 pence per kW/h of electricity produced, depending on the type and size of the system. The Feed-in Tariffs are being introduced by the government to encourage the uptake of small renewable energy systems.
- The vertical wind turbines have 10 metre masts and can be attached to a flat roof or a specially built foundation on a suitable site.
- Potential customers initially require a **site survey**, at a cost of £250, which is refundable if they go ahead with the purchase of a turbine. The survey includes estimates of the amount of electricity the turbine is likely to produce.
- Planning permission is then required before work can begin.

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Additional information cont:

- The 3kW turbine costs £12,500. There are additional costs for cabling and foundation work. Some customers may be able to carry out some of this work themselves.
- VAT is charged on the price of the turbine, from the beginning of 2010, at 5% for domestic clients and 17% for commercial clients.
- Installation of the turbine usually takes a maximum of 2 days.
- The VWE vertical wind turbine is currently undergoing MCS testing and is expected to achieve accreditation by the end of March 2010.
- Vertical Wind Energy is a member of the British Wind Energy Association.

Notes for editors:

- **Pictures attached showing the vertical mast in use.**
- **Mast specification details attached.**
- **Further information is available from VWE via their website www.vweltd.co.uk or from ch4e's website, www.ch4e.co.uk**
- **All press enquiries or sales enquiries regarding the vertical wind turbine should be made to ch4e on 01598 763612, or via email: sales@ch4e.co.uk**

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Press release issued by ND Media. www.ndmedia.co.uk

