

MINUTES
OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (the “AGM”)
OF THE CROSS-PARTY TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION GROUP (“CPTIG”)
OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES
HELD AT TY HYWEL
ON WEDNESDAY 1ST MAY 2018 AT 12.30PM

Present:	
David Rowlands AM (Chair)	UKIP
Mark Reckless AM	Conservative
Catriona Brown (Secretary)	

1. Apologies were received from Llyr Gruffydd AM.
2. Catriona Brown reported that she had been attending the working group meetings of Marine Energy Wales and that two principal matters arose: (i) funding to subsidise early stage technology, and (ii) regulation creating unnecessary barriers for the industry. In particular, Natural Resource Wales would not follow the “deploy and monitor” model used in Scotland and thereby created years of cost and delay for the industry in Wales, and the Nuclear Decommissioning team from the Treasury in Westminster were requiring decommissioning bonds in place before marine apparatus could go in the water, which appeared disproportionate and potentially more for the benefit of the mandarins than the public.
3. David Rowlands AM noted the potential for micro-nuclear generators at Transfynydd, the site of a decommissioned nuclear plant, which benefited from (i) having the electric grid infrastructure in place, and (ii) a local population familiar with the site, although David Rowlands AM noted that there were differing views on whether nuclear generation was green. Catriona Brown noted that likewise, the marine energy industry in Wales benefited from having existing electricity grid infrastructure along its north and south coasts, in contrast to wind generation in the centre of Wales, and marine generation in Scotland. Mark Reckless noted that the UK had much expertise for building smaller plants, such as with Rolls Royce, which could benefit Wales, and Catriona Brown further noted that the marine energy industry in Wales aimed to create skilled jobs that would stay in Wales as the industry matured.
4. David Rowlands AM noted the potential for hydropower in Wales. For example, hill-farmers could utilise micro-hydropower, and David Rowlands AM gave the example of one hill-farmer who had approximately doubled his income by installing an 18MW unit which powered his equipment, and by selling the excess electricity back to the grid. David

Rowlands AM noted the problem was a lack of subsidies for selling back to the grid that would make this viable more widely.

5. The AGM discussed a new power generator at Port Talbot. Catriona Brown noted that if Port Talbot (or indeed local generators such as the hill-farmer discussed previously) started to generate their own electricity, that would lead to existing grid infrastructure costs being carried by a smaller group of consumers driving up their electricity prices.
6. David Rowlands AM informed the AGM about his visit to Grange University Hospital, and the potential for cost and time saving, with their modular off-site construction.
7. David Rowlands AM was re-elected Chair of the CPTIG at the AGM.
8. It was agreed that Catriona Brown would continue to be Secretary of the CPTIG.