

Senergy Econnect

Energising Renewables Wind-Diesel Experience on Scottish Islands *Ottawa Wind Diesel Conference June 2009* Guy Nicholson Technical & Business Development Director













- Senergy Econnect business and clients
- Foula island first system
- Foula refurbished system
- ⊢ Eigg
- ⊢ Kisiizi
- ⊢ Summary



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Senergy Products & Services



Senergy Econnect - summary

- International consultants and advisors in renewable energy and grid integration.
- -14 years in renewables
- Contracts in over 30 countries.
- Involved with half of wind turbines installed in UK.
- SmartGrids.



Senergy Econnect - Client Base



Senergy Econnect - Technologies

- ⊢ Wind
- F Tidal
- F Biomass
- F Biogas
- Energy from Waste
- ⊢ Hydro
- Concentrating Solar Power (CSP)
- Solar thermal
- ⊢ PV
- Diesel/ Biodiesel
- Landfill Gas
- ⊢ Wave
- Co-Gen/CHP











Foula – Location

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Foula:

20 miles from Shetland



2.5 miles





Foula – in 1980s

Foula in mid 1980s

- Remotest inhabited island in British Isles ~ 50 residents.
- ⊢ Crofting economy.
- ⊢ Poor transport links.
- National Nature Reserve;
 - ► ~2million birds.

Infrastructure upgrades planned

New Harbour.

- New School.
- Electricity Scheme.





Foula – electricity scheme plan

- 1983 Project planning & feasibility
- 1983/4 Funding application
- 1985 European part funding awarded
- 1986 Shetland Island Council funding
- 1986 Scheme design, specification and planning
- -1987 Procurement and installation
- 1988 Phase 2 and commissioning
- 1989 Full commissioning and handover of scheme









Foula – original layout



Foula – original schematic



23.4kW

DIESEL GENERATOR

POWERHOUSE

- Plentiful wind and hydro resource
- H difficult access for supply of fuel
- pumped storage system
- interconnected control of all generation plant
- autonomous demand-side management
- diesel generator back-up

Foula – original system operation



Foula – positive aspects 1/2

⊢ "smart" metering with 3 tariffs:

- ⊢ High for diesel;
- Hedium for renewable power;
- Low for heating loads.

⊢ Hydro

- Had induction generator as well as synchronous generator for rapid start up and injection of power prior to synchronisation.
- Spear valve control allowed water conservation.
- Supported wind power in turbulent conditions (lulls in wind output) without needing to start diesel.







Foula – positive aspects 2/2

Demand side management to:

- Add heating load using spare energy;
- Shed & Shift non critical loads during power shortages.
- Computer/software based supervisory control scheme:
 - Allowed operational improvements to be made with experience.
- ► 3.3kV HV distribution scheme:
 - No HV switchgear, one point of protection with inter-trips, very reliable.
- ⊢ Community:
 - Bought into scheme and became strong supporters.







Foula – areas for improvement 1/4

⊢ Hydro & pumped storage:

- Hydro scheme fell short of design power
 - About 12kW compared to 20kW design;
 - ► Was too small to carry community load.
- Hydro catchment very small
 - ► Larger catchment available without storage.
- Loch subject to wind waves > silt and debris
 - Pelton runner was badly warn by high sand content;
 - Debris (peat and turf) blocked trash rack.
- ⊢ Pumps too large loads (2.5, 7.5 and 7.5kW)
 - Needed variable speed drives for soft starting and control.







Foula – areas for improvement 2/4

Control and monitoring system

- User interfaces
 - Before the days of GUI and touch screens;
 - ► Re programming and reloading a skilled role.
- Generator controls
 - F Did not use Programmable Logic Controllers;
 - Based on complex relay logic schemes;
 - Fault finding, diagnostics and control logic very complex and difficult.
- Remote monitoring
 - No remote communications or interfaces at the time.
- Demand side management
 - Load shed/shifting was circuit based;
 - ► appliance based would have been better.
 - Randomised shed/shifting (not a fixed order).



Foula – areas for improvement 3/4

⊢ Wind turbine

- ► Scheme was over reliant on a single machine.
- F Turbine was a "special" with synchronous generator could not be easily replaced or duplicated.
- Proportional frequencyt load governing control scheme only allowed full output in very high winds. Output did not reach rated except to power dump load.
- High turbulence from 1000ft cliffs gave highly variable outputs.
- Needed to be shut down in turbulent wind speeds and directions.
- Severe marine environment and difficult maintenance.







Foula – areas for improvement 4/4

⊢ Community

- Initially were not on board;
- Resident turnover during project timescales;
- Insufficient skills to maintain all various aspects;
- F Trained individuals moved on;
- F Too complex except for intermittent role.
- Corrosion Protection / finishing
 - ► Very aggressive marine environment.
- ⊢ Health and safety
 - System operation and maintenance by islanders would not be acceptable today.









Foula – original operation

- After 10 years of operation:

- Wind turbine electrical generator failed and was not replaced.
- Hydro scheme unreliable and low output.
- Scheme running wholly on diesel power.





Foula refurbishment & options

- Driven by deterioration of old system.
- In 2004 3 options investigated in study costing 29,375GBP:
 - Connection to Shetland Islands grid (diesel powered with wind support) 4.5m GBP.
 - Provision of battery storage unit with upgraded diesels and network. Capital cost not stated. Annual costs ~25k GBP subsidy to maintain parity with Shetland power prices.
 - Provision of an upgraded hydro, pv and wind scheme budgeted at 1m GBP.



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Refurbish scheme funding

Scheme cost 833,000 GBP:

- Shetland Islands Council
- Shetland Enterprise (40,000)
- Highlands and Islands
 Community Energy Company (80,000)
- European Regional Development Fund (355,233)
- Energy Saving Trust
- ⊢ Big Lottery Fund (200,000).



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Foula refurbished scheme location



Foula refurbished scheme design



Foula – refurbished operation

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Foula - electrical system operation 22 March 07









Photos courtesy of Wind and Sun Ltd

Eigg

- ► No existing electrical network.
- ► Community buyout of island 1997.
- ► Consultation and feasibility study 2003.
- Outline design and budget by Senergy Econnect in October 2004.
- Funding obtained; design contract awarded May 2006.



- ► Characteristics
 - similar to Foula more residents (72 properties), longer distances (5 miles x 4 miles).
 - more generating sources (hydro, wind, PV) including existing hydros.
 - ► large hydro installation at Laig (100kW).
 - budget to cover complete network installation.
 - ► agreed limit on domestic supplies (20A).



Eigg Hardware

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Scheme cost 1.5M GBP

Generating Feb 2008







Photos courtesy of Wind and Sun Ltd











Kisiizi Uganda

- Hydro mini-grid system.
- Power blackouts in 2001.
- Senergy Econnect retrofitted load / demand side management.
- Operating to date.
- Hore power sold, better quality of supply.









Summary

- Senergy Econnect experienced in Wind Diesel schemes and Hybrids with PV and Hydro.
- Experienced in the design, analysis, implementation and commissioning of schemes:
 - Scotland: Foula, Eigg, Muck, Rum, Knoydart, Fair Isle.
 - Elsewhere: Uganda, Greece, Greenland, St Helena.
- Lessons learnt from refurbishment of Foula and ongoing refurbishments and improvements on Rum, Fair Isle, Knoydart, Muck, St Helena.
- Extensive use of demand side management solutions.











Energising Renewables

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