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Jan Müller

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UK oil boss fascinated by Faroe wind energy project

It was not just oil and gas on the agenda when several important foreign oil people visited the Faroes earlier this month. After the well-visited and successful oil conference at the Nordic House venue in Tórshavn, the host FOIB had organised a trip around the islands. The first stop was at the Faroe PMs office in Tórshavn, where the Minister for Hydrocarbon Affairs, Mr Johan Dahl also was in attendance. The prominent guests also visited Faroe Tele to learn about their exciting cooperation with foreign oil companies. They also visited the supply base at Rúnavík and the windmill park located on the southern tip of Eysturoy. At the windmill park, they were met by one of the initiators for the project, Mr Terji Nielsen, who explained this quite unique Faroe alternative green energy project to the guests. He explained the latest investments made by SEV (national energy company) in this technology and the wish of the Faroe political system to place a higher priority upon sustainable energy sources in the future, thereby diminishing reliance upon expensive imported oil. The goal is that 75% of the Faroe electricity requirements in 2020 will derive from sustainable energy sources. If all goes according to plan, the Faroes will in a few years time be reckoned among one of the worlds leading countries regarding the exploitation of sustainable energy resources, in particular hydropower and wind, but also tidal energy. Despite this trend, the Faroes will still have to import fossil fuel for heating and the production of electricity. The UK oil industry representatives could only look and nod in complete agreement to this very interesting tour of the existing facilities, as the very same steps are also being taken in the UK and large-scale investments are currently being made in these areas. Mr Terji Nielsen, the SEV project leader was very well prepared and he did an excellent job of explaining this relatively new aspect of a Faroe

energy development plan and their imminent plan to erect 13 new windmills close to Torshavn. These projects will all contribute towards the final goal of transforming the Faroes into a Green energy country.