

Appendix 2 Letters of Support

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2.1 RLSP



25th September 2023

Lisa Willis,

Neath and Port Talbot County Borough Council.

Dear Lisa,

Letter of Support for the National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence.

The Regional Learning and Skills Partnership (RLSP) is delighted to offer its' support for the proposed National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence. The provision of such an innovative centre in West Wales alongside an Enhanced Manufacturing Production facility will not only be unique in Wales but will provide the innovation that will be required to meet the new skills and methods of manufacturing for the future.

New manufacturing methods, new technology and new ways of learning will be key to the success of our industry in the region over the next 20 years and creating that future workforce is essential if we are to compete with other manufacturing areas across the UK, European and the wider World. There will be huge opportunities for the South West region through the City Deal project, the Freeport and additional investment opportunities that will be generated because of the former. Manufacturing will be one of the key success factors offering thousands of jobs both in primary and secondary jobs through the supply chain and all of these individuals will need to be skilled or upskilled as they transfer across to new industries and new ways of working.

There are approximately 9,000 currently employed in manufacturing in Neath and Port Talbot, with 17% due to retire in the next 10 years. The anticipated growth for the region is 16,000 jobs across primary and secondary services and these will be across all levels, bringing in high paid, high skilled opportunities into the region. There is also a need to develop further opportunities for research into sustainable manufacturing processes which the facility will offer, again providing additional higher paid jobs.

The development of a Centre of Excellence of Net Zero skills will meet the ambitions of the City Deal Skills and Talent Programme not only by bringing a Centre where people and businesses can learn and manufacture together but, it will be a venue where academics in

our universities and colleges can work together. This will be a unique opportunity where Higher and Further Education; School Education can learn from each other and have greater links to learn from the manufacturers themselves, sharing best practice and building the skills platform of the future, creating economic growth for the region.

Collaboration will be key to the success of the programme and the RLSP look forward to working closely with you and your partners as you progress the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

J Lewis

JANE LEWIS

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP MANAGER



Regional Learning
and Skills Partnership

Partneriaeth Dysgu
a Sgiliau Rhanbarthol



2.2 SWIC



Dear Nicola Pearce

Director of Environment and Regeneration

Ref: National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence (working title)

Industry Wales is an arm's length organisation of Welsh Government and serves as an important link between industry and Welsh Government. The developing South Wales Industrial Cluster (SWIC) has been managed through Industry Wales thus ensuring the essential cooperation needed between industry, academia and government as industries plan their route to net zero. SWIC will be supported by the new membership organization Net Zero Industry Wales going forward as a member of the Industry Wales family. SWIC represents the largest CO₂ emitting industrial region in the UK. With Welsh Governments target now aligning with UK Governments target to be net zero by 2050, it is important that all decarbonisation plans and technological developments are expedited as soon as possible. SWIC cluster includes Steel, Oil, Cement, Chemicals, paper and general manufacturing companies.

The proposed project completely aligns with the goals of SWIC and will support and steer the decarbonisation of the South Wales area.

Therefore, on behalf of the South Wales Industrial Cluster (SWIC) steering team we would like to endorse and support the plans for the addition of the *National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence (working title)* with the ambition to upskill the existing workforce and provide relevant training for new people who wish to work in the green economy and maximise the opportunity of the number of new developments taking place in the region e.g. Freeports, Floating Offshore Wind (FLOW), Blue Eden Project, Homes as Power Stations (HAPS), Skills and Talent and the Supporting Innovation and Low Carbon Growth (SILCG) Programme.

We will support this facility by participating in engagement sessions to scope the facility.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Williams

28/09/23

Dr Chris Williams
Head of Industrial Decarbonisation
Industry Wales
cc. James Davies, CEO, Industry Wales

2.3 Swansea University – Prof. Dave Worsley OBE



Materials Science and Engineering
Gwyddor Deunyddiau a Pheirianeg

Dr Brett Sudell
Head of Low Carbon Growth
Neath and Port Talbot Council
The Quays
Brunel Way
SA11 2GG

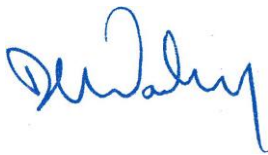
25/9/2023

Dear Brett,

Many thanks for the information on the expanded vision for the manufacturing hub being built as part of the City Deal low carbon growth programme. This centre is clearly allied closely to SWITCH Harbourside and sits in a local net zero ecosystem including our SPECIFIC project sites, the Cardiff University Combustion Centre and the USW Hydrogen hub. It is indeed very exciting to be part of this journey and the news that you are planning to support net zero skills escalation meshes uniquely with our work with the SWITCH on Skills programme. We are naturally therefore very keen to support the scheme both in terms of content development, access to online resources and also for the onsite provision of taught and practical elements. Having delivered our innovation campus I would also like to support elements of the design of the facility not least to make sure it showcases local 'Active Building' innovations which can be used to inspire the next generation of net zero professionals. It is also very timely that this facility be created given the seismic changes in the local industry base needed in order to reduce our own carbon emissions but without losing a critical raw material that underpins the transition.

Good luck and please connect with myself, Prof Dave Penney (d.penney@swansea.ac.uk) and Dr Khalil Khan (k.khan@swansea.ac.uk) so that we can get involved as soon as possible.

With very best wishes;

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Worsley', written in a cursive style.

Professor David Worsley OBE FIMMM FLSW
CChem MRSC

A decorative horizontal line consisting of three overlapping, wavy blue lines that span the width of the page.

Faculty of Science and Engineering | Cyfadran Gwyddoniaeth a Pheirianeg
Swansea University | Prifysgol Abertawe

2.4 Swansea University – David Warren

Fri 22/09/2023 17:39



David Warren <d.j.warren@swansea.ac.uk>

Letter of support for NNZSCoE

To Brett Suddell

Cc Khalil Khan; David Penney

Dear Brett,

Thank you for sending on the information regarding the proposed National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence (NNZSCoE). It sounds like a great proposal and will support the development of much needed skills for the transition to Net Zero. As you are likely aware, my colleagues and I represent a group of Net Zero focussed projects already in receipt of funding, including NOW Skills, SWITCH-On Skills and COATED MZA Centre for Doctoral Training. We are supportive of the proposal and see many opportunities for complementary activities and sharing of best practice in the area of multi-level skills delivery.

Likewise, I see many opportunities for collaboration at the Advanced Manufacturing Production Facility including research and skills to develop the technology and workforce to reach our Net Zero goals and contribute to a prosperous region.

If you require any further information please let me know

Best regards

David

Dr David Warren EngD MIMMM FHEA

MZA Operations Rheolwr

Manager Gweithrediadau

Swansea MZA

University Prifysgol Abertawe

Bay Campus Campws y Bae

Room A201a, Ystafell A201a,

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Swansea University Prifysgol Abertawe

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council



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2.5 Celtic Freeport – David Gwynne



25th September 2023

Dear Nicola,

NATIONAL NET ZERO SKILLS CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (NNZSCOE)

I understand that the outline business case for the National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence put forward by Neath Port Talbot Council is reaching its final stages of consideration by the Swansea Bay City Deal (SBCD) Programme Board and Joint Committees. As Interim CEO of Celtic Freeport, I am delighted to confirm our support for the proposal.

Celtic Freeport is aiming to attract new manufacturing businesses to sites within the South-West Wales area which are likely to be linked to the green economy. To be successful, these businesses will need suitably qualified individuals with the requisite skills and projects such as this help address the identified skills gap in the region. As such, the aims and objectives of the NNZSCOE are fully in line with the type of investment we believe is required to support a just transition to a green economy. Our own OBC, which is currently under development, is also likely to include other projects which will benefit from the development of a skills centre of excellence such as this proposal.

From my perspective I can see that integrating the skills centre of excellence with an advanced manufacturing centre provides a number of additional, synergistic benefits. For example, the ability to allow first hand industrial training on state of the art manufacturing equipment to give the learners real world experience that cannot be gained from just classroom environments. We therefore feel that the two projects are highly complementary and will bring many positive benefits to the locality and SBCD region.

Tax benefits are available to freeport users for a short time frame window only. As such, any acceleration of investment that supports the provision of a skilled workforce has a material impact in increasing the attractiveness of the

freeport sites to businesses to accelerate their investments into the local economy. As such, I am delighted to support this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Gwynne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Gwynne
Interim CEO
Celtic Freeport

2.6 Net Zero Industry Wales – Ben Burggraaf



Net Zero Industry Wales
Waterton Technology Centre
Bridgend
CF31 3WT

“National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence” Letter of Support from Net Zero Industry Wales

21st September 2023

Dear Brett,

I'm writing to you, to express Net Zero Industry Wales's support to for the proposed National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence, as part Advanced Manufacturing Production Facility (AMPF).

The Welsh Government set out a commitment to ensure Wales becomes a Net Zero nation by 2050. South Wales has a significant industrial heritage and covers steel production, oil, gas and chemical sectors. Welsh businesses are responsible for around 20% of the UK's total greenhouse gas emissions associated with industrial and other business activity. These carbon emissions can be mainly directly attributed to companies along the M4 corridor.

In 2019, the South Wales Industrial Cluster (SWIC) was formed to support the reduction and elimination of greenhouse gas emissions emitted in the region, which per capita is one of the highest in the UK. SWIC brings together over 30 partners, including the three largest emitters in the region. Beyond bringing companies together to develop lasting partnerships, the cluster supports the development of a decarbonisation plan for the region and shapes the route to a sustainable net zero economy.

Net Zero Industry Wales (NZIW) was incorporated in 2022. It will support SWIC and other industrial clusters in Wales, work in partnership with business and academic partners operating in a wide range of energy and carbon intensive industries, to enable the decarbonisation of their industrial processes.

The Net Zero Industry Wales members are committed to transition towards producing more sustainable goods & services in Wales, from example the on that set out in the SWIC cluster plan, at a pace needed to meet the legally binding targets.

Industrial decarbonisation is a major challenge if Wales is to reach Net Zero by 2030 and appropriate skills in the workforce is key to achieving this target. Wales is ideally placed to be a test bed for the rapid transition to low carbon technology and there are significant benefits to be gained from a co-ordinated, national approach to industrial decarbonisation and the creation of a green energy economy.

The National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence will support an ambitious programme to engage and interact with the Further Education & Higher Education sectors and establish a system to ensure there are no barriers to skills escalation. The uniqueness of the centre being co-located with the AMPF will give those undertaking courses the opportunity to practice their new skill sets on state of the art equipment housed in the facility.

The proposed Centre of Excellence will offer a flexible delivery model that utilises advances in online guided learning, in person teaching and practical sessions, industry collaborations and high-level applied research. People can access short, CPD or credit bearing courses and use these to build

qualifications, or simply to gain the skills needed for their role. The centre will also support higher apprenticeships.

The recently published skills barometer provides the evidence that South West Wales is lacking in skills providers who can support the net zero skills agenda with courses appropriate to this area. In addition, Industry Wales has identified the need for industry led skills provision to meet the needs of industry over the next 5 to 15 years.

I wish the team great success with the funding proposal, to which I give the strongest support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BB', written in a cursive style.

Ben Burggraaf
Chief Executive Officer
Net Zero Industry Wales

bburggraaf@nziw.wales

www.nziw.wales

www.swic.cymru

2.7 SILCG Programme Board Chair – Nicola Pearce



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

Dyddiad/ Date	21 st September 2023
Rhif Ffôn/ Direct Line	01639 686668
Ebost/ Email	n.pearce@npt.gov.uk
Cyswllt/ Contact	Ms N Pearce
Eich cyf / Your ref	
Ein cyf/ Our ref	DENV/AFM

By Email:

Dr Brett Suddell
Programme Manager
Supporting Innovation & Low Carbon Growth Programme
(SILCG)
b.suddell@npt.gov.uk

Dear Brett,

RE: Letter of support

As Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) for two of the Swansea Bay City Deal programmes and projects, which includes the Supporting Innovation & Low Carbon Growth (SILCG) programme and Homes as Power Stations (HAPS) project I would like to offer support as chair of both SILCG and HAPS boards for the newly proposed addition to the SILCG portfolio with the **National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence**.

I am aware as SRO that the outline business case for the NNZSCoE put forward by Neath Port Talbot Council will be decided upon by Welsh and UK Governments along with the relevant city deal committees towards the end of this year. I would like to offer this letter of support confirming my full support in my capacity as Chair of both Boards with oversight of the excellent working being undertaken by both projects in this field of work. This well timed proposal will contribute towards addressing the significant shortfall in green economy jobs that are needed in the region over the coming years. This will be, if approved, an additional element to an already approved project, this centre will also support the HAPS project in providing qualified installers for green housing technologies for now and in the future. This centre will also support other

Amgylchedd ac Adfywio

Nicola Pearce, Cyfarwyddwr yr Amgylchedd ac Adfywio
Y Ceiau, Ffordd Brunel, Parc Ynni Baglan, Castell-nedd SA11 2GG
Ffôn 01639 686668 Ffacs 01639 686668

Environment and Regeneration

Nicola Pearce, Director of Environment and Regeneration
The Quays, Brunel Way, Baglan Energy Park, Neath SA11 2GG
Phone 01639 686668 Fax 01639 686668

www.npt.gov.uk

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymdrin â gohebiaeth Gymraeg a Saesneg i'r un safonau ac amserlenni.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh and will deal with Welsh and English correspondence to the same standards and timescales.

local/regional initiatives such as Freeports, Blue Eden, Global Rail Centre of Excellence (GCRE), Hydrogen economy, FLOW and many others.

The important point that I would like to stress from my perspective as Chair of the Boards, that this is not in any way a duplication of existing activity but has been developed in consultation with key skills providers in the area to ensure this centre will be complementary to the existing provision that is currently available and planned for in the future. We in NPT have a proven and highly commended approach to collaboration between academia and industry and this strong partnership with the local authority will ensure success in the future with this project. We also believe combining the skills centre with the advanced manufacturing production facility, an already approved SILCG project, will provide a unique and unrivalled provision in the local area and city deal region for the benefit of all. To address the shortfall in jobs within the green economy that are needed by 2050 this can be addressed with the step change envisaged by supporting a centre of this size and scale in conjunction with the AMPF supporting supply chains and the diverse local the manufacturing industry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicola Pearce". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicola Pearce
Director of Environment and Regeneration

2.8 GCRE – Simon Jones



Fri 29/09/2023 13:19

Simon Jones <Simon.Jones@gcre.wales>

RE: Letter of Support request for the National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence

To Brett Suddell

Cc Rob Forde

You replied to this message on 29/09/2023 13:20.

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. If in doubt, contact the IT Service Desk

Apologies for the delay in responding.

Just to confirm following our conversation earlier this week that the proposed National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence aligns closely with our own ambitions for the Global Centre of Rail Excellence which is being built about 15 miles away elsewhere in the county borough.

The National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence can become an important aligned part of the offer for clients at GCRE and will undoubtedly be helpful in our core mission to help the UK and European railway to accelerate its own march to Net Zero. Ad the UK's first Net Zero in operation railway we understand the importance of what you are trying to achieve, and the technical and operational challenges it will pose. We have common cause I we are delighted to add our name to the list of supporters of your plans.

Let me know if you need any further information.

Simon

Simon Jones

Chief Executive

Global Centre of Rail Excellence

simon.jones@gcre.wales

+44 7795 334340

2.9 Cardiff University – Hywel Thomas



Sat, 16/09/2023 09:11

Hywel Thomas <ThomasHR@cardiff.ac.uk>

Re: Letter of Support request for the National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence

To  Brett Suddell

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. If in doubt, contact the IT Service Desk

Dear Brett,

Very happy indeed to support this very welcome initiative. And also happy to be involved in further discussions. In my experience, industry has voiced a strong need for this type of initiative.

With best wishes,
Hywel

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

2.10 University of South Wales – Jon Maddy



Calolfan Hydrogen, Prifysgol De Cymru
Parc Ynni Baglan
Port Talbot SA12 7AX

University of South Wales' Hydrogen Centre
Baglan Energy Park
Port Talbot SA12 7AX

27th September 2023

To: Brett Suddell
Supporting Innovation & Low Carbon Growth Team

Support from University of South Wales for the Advanced Manufacturing Production Facility and National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence

Dear Brett,

As part of our continued engagement with the Swansea Bay City Deal (SBCD) *Supporting Innovation & Low Carbon Growth* programme, the University of South Wales is happy to support the Advanced Manufacturing Production Facility (AMPF) and welcome the inclusion of a National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence.

The University of South Wales (USW) is committed to low carbon research, development, and enhancing skills and training in the region. Through the Hydrogen Centre in Baglan, the university plays a pivotal role in collaborative innovation with industry, local government, and academic partners, working to implement effective decarbonization technologies. Commensurate with these activities, the University is keen to support the AMPF and its work in facilitating low carbon product development and commercialisation.

Since its inception in 2008, USW has attracted investment to support the development of hydrogen technology test-bed facilities at the Hydrogen Centre. These complementary facilities present an ideal opportunity to work alongside the AMPF's emerging purpose built, manufacturing facilities for the development of green products and supporting growth of organisations in the field.

As a Higher Education Establishment, USW has developed core Bachelor's and Master's programmes supporting Sustainable Technology Development and works with partner FE colleges on the delivery of apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships addressing low carbon industry. In addition, the team at the University's Hydrogen Centre has worked closely with industrial and government stakeholders in developing the South Wales Industrial Cluster, including assessment of the skills and training requirements of industry in their pursuit of net zero.

As an extension of this existing activity, the University is happy to support the development of the *National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence* and initiatives to develop the skills and competencies of the industrial workforce in the region. We anticipate that our engagement will include an advisory role in the set up and delivery programmes of the *National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence*, alongside industrial, government and other academic institutions. With supporting agreements, USW can aid in the development and delivery of training programmes through the NNZSCoE.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Maddy'.

Jon Maddy, Director USW Hydrogen Centre.

Email: jon.maddy@southwales.ac.uk



2.11 Neath Port Talbot College – Kelly Fountain Vice Principal



Tue 26/09/2023 08:49

Kelly Fountain <kelly.fountain@nptcgroup.ac.uk>

RE: Letter of Support request for the National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence

To Brett Suddell

Cc kathryn.dunston; Gemma Charmock

You replied to this message on 26/09/2023 10:51.

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. If in doubt, contact the IT Service Desk

Hi Brett,

Thank you for meeting with us yesterday.

This is confirmation that we would be in support of your proposal to develop a National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence, within the Advanced Manufacturing Facility. We see this as an excellent opportunity to further collaborate with you in line with our strategic plans for the College. We have recently launched our Net Zero Academy which is an innovative collaboration between the College, industry specialists and respective trade associations, to deliver skills and training to meet the Net Zero targets.

We wish you every success in the bidding process.

Kind regards,

Kelly

Kelly Fountain

Is-bennaeth Academaidd

Vice Principal: Academic

0330 818 8100

Colleg Castell-nedd / Neath College

www.nptcgroup.ac.uk

2.12 NPTCBC - Education Department

Fri 15/09/2023 10:58



Andrew Thomas

RE: Letter of Support request for the National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence

To Brett Suddell, Angeline Spooner-Cleaverly, Christopher D. Mills

Cc Lisa Willis

Brett

Thank you for your e mail. The work you describe sounds as exciting as it is innovative. Please accept this e mail as endorsement and full support for the National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence

Kind regards Andrew Thomas

Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning

2.13 UWTSD – Richard Morgan

Tue 09/10/2023 10:59



Richard Morgan (Innovation & Engagement) <richard.morgan@uwtsd.ac.uk>
National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence

To Brett Suddell
Cc Lisa Lucas

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Dear Brett,

Further to our recent discussions I am writing in support of your proposal for the development of a National Net Zero Skills Centre of Excellence.

UWTSD have had the pleasure of working with NPTC for a number of years and can attest to the strong industry focus and professionalism in responding to demands through initiatives such as this.

The Innovation and Engagement team at UWTSD see this as very complementary to our own provisions and activities such as our Advanced Manufacturing Skills Academy, the Centre of Batch Manufacturing Wales and MADE Cymru, and look forward to working closely together on this and several other areas. This would also align with the UWTSD SFP project that is about to mobilise, given that a large focus will be on supporting companies in adopting technologies to obtain net-zero ambitions.

We fully support this application for funding and believe it will have a positive impact on the region and its workforce.

Many thanks

Richard

Richard Morgan

Pennaeth Ardeist ac Yngysylltu | Head of Innovation & Engagement

Athrofa Gwyddoniaeth a Chelf Cymru | Wales Institute of Science & Art

Prifysgol Cymru Y Ddrindod Dewi Sant | University of Wales Trinity St David

Adeilad IQ, Heol Y Brenin, Abertawe | IQ Building, Kings Road, Swansea SA1 8EW

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