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MEDIA RELEASE

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Northern Powerhouse Minister launches Peel's flagship £700m Protos scheme

Andrew Percy MP hails private investment as energy hub opens for business

Government Minister Andrew Percy MP heralded investment and collaboration in the Northern Powerhouse as he officially opened Peel Environmental's £700m flagship energy destination, Protos. Cutting the ribbon on the 134-acre strategic development site near Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, he recognised Protos as being at the heart of the north's emerging industrial strategy.

Protos is the only energy-focused development in the Government's recently-unveiled Northern Powerhouse Investment Opportunities Portfolio, which will attract £5 billion of investment across 13 projects. Focused on energy, industry and innovation, the site is set to become a magnet for international investment. With Phase One infrastructure completed; a 21.5MW biomass facility in construction; a 19-turbine wind farm in operation and with plots 'shovel-ready' for development - Protos is open for business.

Mr Percy praised the £170 million investment already secured in the site and championed a further £500 million planned to commence in 2017 and be delivered over the next three to four years. He also welcomed the site's wider long-term potential to bring £1.5 billion of investment and 13,000 jobs to the region.

Peel's approach to partnership was also highlighted, with links to educational institutions helping maximise opportunities to nurture and retain skilled workers and innovative start-ups in the north.

Andrew Percy MP, Minister for the Northern Powerhouse, said:

"The energy sector is pivotal to our Industrial Strategy, ensuring the country has the infrastructure it needs to support economic growth long into the future.

"So I'm delighted to launch the new Protos Energy Hub, right at the heart of the Northern Powerhouse, which will help create skilled jobs and attract significant investment for the region."

A hundred invited guests joined the Protos team at the University of Chester's neighbouring Thornton Science Park, where they heard how the site will provide a direct source of energy to existing and new industries in the surrounding area. Attendees also heard how this collaborative approach will underpin the success of the Cheshire Science Corridor Enterprise Zone, which provides financial incentives to occupiers and is set to create 20,000 jobs.

Demonstrating the Northern Powerhouse in action, Protos also embodies the Government's latest policy to create a cohesive industrial strategy to develop futureproof industries and technologies to compete on a global scale. The destination will provide a supportive environment in a prime location where new concepts can be taken from inception to development; demonstration and large-scale delivery.

Myles Kitcher, Managing Director at Protos, said:

"Protos is a game-changer for the region and we are proud to be at the heart of energising the north's industrial strategy. The Minister's recognition of the substantial committed investment



and our long-term ambition for the area is a real vote of confidence in our important role in delivering the Northern Powerhouse.

“It was a pleasure to declare Protos open for business alongside the Minister and our partners. As a hub for energy generators and industry, we’re already showing how Protos can be a regional and national centre of excellence that will drive growth and attract international investment.”

During the visit, Mr Percy was given a tour of the 134-acre site which included the biomass facility currently under construction and the University of Chester’s Thornton Science Park, which provides important links to a future skilled workforce in partnership with sector specific businesses located on campus. Mr Percy also gave a keynote speech on the importance of Protos to the Northern Powerhouse and the economic significance of the Northern Powerhouse to the UK as a whole.

Robert Mee, a speaker at the event and Chair of the Cheshire Science Corridor Enterprise Zone, welcomed reaffirmed confidence in the Northern Powerhouse and priority sectors such as science and innovation:

“The Cheshire Science Corridor Enterprise Zone will be instrumental in making Cheshire and Warrington the best place in the country for science and innovation. Protos plays a key part in the Enterprise Zone portfolio, already drawing international investment and providing flexible space where innovative ideas can be deployed on a large scale.

“With renewed vigour in the Northern Powerhouse and a focus on innovation and science as part of the Industrial Strategy, the region is well placed to capitalise on its unique offer and drive long-term economic growth.”

Guests included leading representatives from Cheshire West and Chester Council; the Cheshire and Warrington LEP; the Cheshire Science Corridor Enterprise Zone Board; Ellesmere Port Development Board; University of Chester; Atlantic Gateway; and Peel Ports.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Supporting images

Images from the event will be distributed at 1pm on Friday 27th January 2017.

Additional images of the site delivery in progress are issued for use including:

- Protos site bridge during construction
- Delivery of phase one infrastructure with a backdrop of the biomass facility during construction
- Protos under construction with a backdrop of the completed 19-turbine Peel Energy wind farm

Contact

For further information about Protos, the press release content, images and attendance at the event, please contact:

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About Protos

Protos is expected to deliver over 3,000 jobs once operational and a £350 million GVA boost to the economy each year. Located at Ince between Ellesmere Port and Chester, and within easy reach of



Liverpool and Manchester, the 51ha consented development site is now under construction and also forms part of the recently-created Cheshire Enterprise Zone.

Key features of the Protos site include:

- Phase One infrastructure completed
- 54 hectares of consented development with a masterplan for 280 hectares of development
- A 21.5 MW Biomass facility currently under construction and due to be commissioned in 2017
- An adjacent 19-turbine wind farm, currently in operation
- The ability to accommodate large-scale uses between 50,000 and 350,000 sq. ft.
- Delivery of Phase Two will include further infrastructure; and Energy from Waste facility; and UK Power Reserve facility
- An opportunity for direct power availability
- Two international airports within close proximity
- Over a quarter of the UK's population within a two-hour drive from site (18 million people)
- Access to a highly-skilled workforce
- Opportunities at the University of Chester's Thornton Science Park
- A connected location at the core of the North's industrial heartland

Further information about Protos can be found at www.thisisprotos.com

About Peel Environmental

Peel Environmental (part of Peel Land and Property Group) owns and develops energy and waste infrastructure projects. It has achieved consent for a range of energy infrastructure schemes including a 21MW Energy from Waste plant and 250,000tpa AD and MRF in Glasgow; a 26MW Energy from Waste at Kellingley Colliery, Yorkshire, and a 20MW Timber Resource Recovery facility at Houghton Main, Barnsley. Peel works with investors, waste management companies, technology providers and contractors to secure a deliverable business model for each project.

Peel Environmental brought forward and consented the Protos development, previously known as Ince Resource Recovery Park. The development site has full outline planning consent and part detailed planning consent for general manufacturing and distribution uses (B1, B2 & B8), as well as a biomass facility and an Energy from Waste facility.

About Peel Land and Property Group

Peel Land and Property owns 1.2 million m² of property and 15,000 hectares of land and water. Our holdings are concentrated in North West England, the Clyde, Yorkshire and the Medway with a portfolio valued at £2.3 billion. Our specialist teams have a proven track record in delivering high quality sustainable mixed use developments with a focus on creating new communities. Peel Land and Property is part of The Peel Group, one of the UK's foremost investors in real estate, infrastructure and transport, with assets owned or under management of more than £5 billion.

Find out more www.peel.co.uk

Peel in the Northern Powerhouse

Through our investment portfolio, the scale, diversity, expertise and approach to continuously reinvesting across the North of England puts The Peel Group at the forefront of delivering shared ambitions for the Northern Powerhouse.

Find out more www.peelgroup.global/news/downloads

