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## PRESS STATEMENT

For immediate release

### Peel heralds Government's innovation drive as part of industrial strategy

The Government's vision for a new era of British innovation has been warmly welcomed by Peel Environmental – the company behind Protos.

Prime Minister Theresa May has unveiled plans for an ambitious industrial strategy, involving a pledge to unlock £2billion investment per year in research and development, as well as an Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund to back projects in high-tech sectors.

Protos – a landmark development in the North of England focusing on energy, innovation and industry – has strong synergies with Government priorities.

Forming a strategic alliance with the University of Chester's neighbouring Thornton Science Park, Protos will see a centre of excellence developed where education and industry sit side-by-side. This approach will help retain the brightest minds within the Northern Powerhouse and build on the region's reputation in science and innovation - boosting productivity and the UK's commercial output.

Myles Kitcher, Director of Protos, said:

*"The Government's ambition to transform British business by backing new ideas and skills should be wholeheartedly welcomed. If we are to retain our skilled workforce it is vital we create the right opportunities and be at the forefront of new technologies on the world stage.*

*"Protos, our flagship development site in the North of England, is built around this idea of creating an industrial strategy. By forming links with education institutions and high-tech research facilities, we are creating an environment where new ideas can be deployed on a commercial scale.*

*"We were bolstered by the recent inclusion of Protos in the Government's Northern Powerhouse Investment Opportunities Portfolio. This, combined with new vigour behind a joined-up industrial strategy, could herald a new era for energy, innovation and industry particularly in the North."*



Protos is expected to deliver over 3,000 jobs once operational and a £350 million GVA boost to the economy each year. Located 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.

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Key features of the Protos site include:

- Phase One infrastructure near completion
- Outline and detailed planning consent
- A 21.5 MW Biomass facility is currently under construction
- An adjacent 19-turbine wind farm, currently in commissioning and set to be operational by the end of 2016
- Large-scale accommodation between 50,000 and 350,000 sq.ft.
- An opportunity for direct power availability
- 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 the can be found at [www.thisisprotos.com](http://www.thisisprotos.com)

### **Peel Environmental**

Peel Environmental (part of Peel Land and Property Group) which owns and develops 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 51ha (126 acres) 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.