

BUSINESS LEADERS GAIN UNDERSTANDING OF SEMBCORP'S STRATEGIC AMBITIONS



North East business leaders in key process industry firms were given a detailed insight into Sembcorp's strategic direction at a prestigious industrial event.

Nomi Ahmad, head of Sembcorp's UK energy business, addressed a large gathering at the North East Process Industry Cluster (NEPIC) Meet the Members event at Wynyard Hall on Teesside.

More than 600 people from NEPIC's 500 member companies attended the exhibition and conference event – the region's largest and most important industrial gathering of the year.

They heard from a range of speakers from chemical, pharmaceutical, bio-sciences, energy and other process sectors.

In his address, Mr Ahmad explained how the UK had been identified as one of four strategically important global growth locations for the Singapore-based Sembcorp Industries group. He told the audience his role was to grow the UK business organically on Teesside and through key strategic acquisitions elsewhere in the UK and potentially Europe.

He explained the trends within the power industry globally – including the increased decentralisation of generation, digitalisation of assets and domestic appliances, the spikes in supply and demand caused by increased adoption of renewable forms of generation and the increasing implementation of green energy policies – that were driving generating businesses to either adapt or die.

Sembcorp's strategy was to adapt and Mr Ahmad cited the proposed development of a new gas fired power station of up to 1,700 MW at the Wilton International site – currently going through a national planning approvals process as an infrastructure project of national significance - as being particularly important to Sembcorp's growth ambitions. He explained that the plant would have the capacity not only to power the anticipated new developments on the 2,000 acre Wilton site, but also potentially investments at the nearby 4,500 acre industrial site managed by South Tees Development Corporation.

Mr Ahmad also referenced the recent £216 million acquisition of the Midlands-based UK Power Reserve distributed energy business as playing a significant part in the transformation of Sembcorp into a fully integrated energy player in the UK in line with Group intentions. As well as bringing an extra gigawatt of power to Sembcorp's UK portfolio by 2019 - largely from small scale, rapid response gas turbines feeding directly into the national distribution network from 32 locations throughout the country - UKPR also offered one of the largest battery power portfolios in Europe.

In conclusion, Mr Ahmad praised the support given by groups and organisations in the region including the Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen, the leaders of Redcar and Cleveland Council and other business and civic chiefs in working in partnership with Sembcorp to achieve the best for the area.



