

SEMBCORP OUTLINES PLATFORM GROWTH IN UK



The panel addresses questions raised by an audience of leading Tees Valley business people

Nomi Ahmad and Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen have shared a platform to update leaders from the north east business community on major business development projects in the area.

Speaking to an invited audience of top level business people at the Middlesbrough Gazette's prestigious Q4 Debate in Darlington, Mr Ahmad, head of Sembcorp in the UK, outlined Sembcorp's plans for future growth.

He explained that in the past year, Sembcorp had been working in close partnership with the newly formed Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) and the South Tees Development Corporation (STDC) – the body charged with bringing investment and jobs back to a 4,500 acre industrial zone including the former SSI steelworks site - to ensure that future investments went to the right parts of the South Tees area.

He pointed out that energy was often high up on the 'checklist' of items required by investors prior to making key investment decisions and explained that that Sembcorp's strength was that it is able to offer large quantities of low cost, low carbon power not just to existing customers, but also to potential new customers to the site and the area.

At the same time, Sembcorp was pursuing its own growth plans and Mr Ahmed said the company was at an advanced stage in the national planning process for a new gas turbine power investment that could act as a magnet to future investment in the area.

Attendees also heard how Sembcorp was increasingly integrated in the UK energy market via its £216 million acquisition of a distributed energy company, UK Power Reserve. The move had given Sembcorp fast start up facilities feeding directly into the national grid at 32 locations and future battery storage capability. The deal also meant Sembcorp could more effectively trade energy on the UK market and Mr Ahmad also pointed out that the company had been successful in attracting top quality energy traders out of London to its UK headquarters on Teesside.

Mayor Houchen said the area had seen dramatic progress since the “dark days” following the closure of the SSI steelworks in 2015 but stressed there remained much work to do to bring the first jobs and investments to the STDC site. He said all businesses and individuals had an important role to play in ‘selling’ the Tees Valley to investors as an excellent place to work and live.

The pair were joined on the platform by Professor Steve Cummings, Dean of Teesside University’s School of Science, Engineering and Design (top left) and finance expert Paul Gibson, a trustee of the High Tide Foundation charity.



Leaders listen intently as Nomi outlines Sembcorp’s vision for growth.



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