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JPR/CD/152296_220831_SIN-0_Cover Letter

SUBMITTED VIA PLANNING APPLICATIONS WALES
Ref: PP-11489778

Neath Port Talbot Council
Planning
The Quay
Brunel Way
Port Talbot
SA11 2GG

Dear Sir/Madam,

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED)
SWANSEA UNIVERSITY BAY CAMPUS, FABIAN WAY, CRYMLYN BURROWS, SA1 8EN
INSTALLATION OF WIND TURBINES ON ROOF AND BATTERY STORAGE CABINETS AT GROUND LEVEL

Stride Treglown are acting on behalf of Kier and Swansea University in respect to the development of the new Centre for Integrative Semiconductor Materials (CISM), which was granted planning permission on 7th July 2020 (ref: P2020/0429). The development provides a new world class research and teaching facility for semiconductor and advanced materials development within an established University setting.

Following on from this, the University has received funding to host a project that will trial innovative emission reduction strategies for use by the semiconductor industry. This is known as the Semiconductor Innovation for Net Zero (SIN_0) project, which will be based from the CISM building.

Proposed Development

To facilitate this project, it is necessary to install 3no. new wind turbines on the roof and 8no. battery energy storage cabinets at ground level of the CISM building, with associated alterations to boundary treatments and hardstanding.

Wind Turbines

The proposed wind turbines are 3.6kw Crossflow Turbines which have been designed to be either tower or roof mounted and seek to address drawbacks of traditional propellor-style wind turbines. The equipment is roof mounted and would sit at a height of 19m (thereby ruling out permitted development provision for new plant as set out in Part 8 Class B of the General Permitted Development Order).

It is intended that the installation of the proposed turbines would showcase new 'small wind' technology as a viable option for embedded renewable generation.

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Battery Storage

The proposed battery energy storage solution consists of eight outdoor cabinets (seven battery cabinets and one power cabinet) with a total capacity of 1.1 MWh/ 525 kW (157 kWh/75 kW per battery cabinet). This will provide a combination of useable capacity and critical backup. The proposed cabinets are of a modest size and shape and are positioned on the side of the building with similar functional plant/installations. If the building were operational, the installation of the battery storage would be allowed under Part 8 Class B of the General Permitted Development Order (GPDO).

Planning Considerations

The proposals are located within the University Campus and are therefore supported by LDP Policy CCUC1 (Coastal Corridor University Campus). The proposals have been located in a suitable location away from key pedestrian routes and notable visibility beyond the site boundaries. The facilities are also of a practical design to meet their purpose and of a scale that is in keeping with existing buildings. As such, the development proposals are considered to be in accordance with LDP Policy BE1 (design).

The implementation of sustainable energy generating technologies is also strongly supported by the LDP, with LDP Policy SP18 seeking for developers to offer a proportionate contribution to the meeting of national renewable energy targets, whilst minimising any negative environmental impacts.

LDP Policy RE1 sets out the criteria for the assessment of renewable and low carbon energy developments. In terms of the criteria including in point 4 of this policy:

- (a) Measures have been taken to minimise impacts on visual amenity and the natural environment;*
- (b) There will be no unacceptable impacts on residential amenity;*

The choice of turbines has been specifically designed so as to minimise impacts on the environment. The style is significantly less visually obtrusive than traditional propellor-style wind turbines with a significant corresponding reduction in impacts on bats, birds and noise.

The turbine has a low rotational speed which provides significant noise and vibration advantages. Also, the blades cannot overspeed, providing safety advantages.

Ambient noise levels on the site are controlled by road traffic from Fabian Way and fixed services plant on University buildings. The noise impacts of the proposed turbines are not expected to be greater than existing plant installed on the campus.

- (c) The development will not compromise highway safety;*

The proposed works are sited away from the highway and will not have any impact on access arrangements.

- (d) The development would not interfere with radar, air traffic control systems, telecommunications links, television reception, radio communication and emergency services communications; and*

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The low-level style of wind turbine will avoid any interference with communications equipment.

(e) There are satisfactory proposals in place for site restoration as appropriate.

No site restoration is required.

Planning Policy Wales supports decentralised renewable energy systems, the increased use of energy storage to balance supply and demand and refers to local authorities facilitate such developments (paragraph 5.9.1). The siting and design of the proposals is considered to be appropriate to address LDP Policy BE1 and RE1.

Planning Application

Further details of the development proposals are set out within the accompanying package of plans and drawings. A full list of documents and drawings submitted as part of this application is provided below:

- CISM-STL-XX-ZZ-DR-A-09000-P175-SIN_O Site Location Plan
- 152296-STL-XX-00-DR-A-09001-P175-SIN_O Existing Site Plan
- 152296-STL-XX-00-DR-A-09002-P175-SIN_O Proposed Site Plan
- CISM-STL-XX-R1-DR-A-01000-P175-SIN_O - Existing Roof Plan
- CISM-STL-XX-R1-DR-A-01001-P175-SIN_O - Proposed Roof Plan
- CISM-STL-XX-ZZ-DR-A-02000-P175-SIN_O - Existing Elevations North and East (Sheet 01)
- CISM-STL-XX-ZZ-DR-A-02001-P175-SIN_O - Existing Elevations South and West (Sheet 02)
- CISM-STL-XX-ZZ-DR-A-02002-P175-SIN_O - Proposed Elevations North and East (Sheet 01)
- CISM-STL-XX-ZZ-DR-A-02003-P175-SIN_O - Proposed Elevations South and West (Sheet 02)
- 3.6kW Roof Mounted Turbine drawing

The planning application fee of £460 has been submitted electronically.

If you require any further information please let us know.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Pritchard MRTPI
Associate Town Planner
For
STRIDE TREGLOWN LIMITED