



Minutes of NSTA Board meeting on 22nd September 2022
09.00-14.00
Raemoir House, Banchory, Aberdeenshire

Directors	In attendance
Tim Eggar Chairman	Stuart Payne Chief Executive designate
Iain Lanaghan Non-executive Director	Hedvig Ljungerud (item 4) Director of Strategy
Andy Samuel Chief Executive	Scott Robertson (item 10) Director of Operations
Nic Granger CFO and Director of Corporate	Brenda Wyllie (item 10) NNS Area Manager
Sara Vaughan Non-executive Director	Russell Richardson Company Secretary
Sarah Deasley Non-executive Director	Fiona Gruber Head of Governance and Board Secretary
Fiona Mettam Shareholder Director	
Apologies: Malcolm Brown, Non-executive Director	

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chairman welcomed Directors to the meeting.

2. Minutes and matters arising

Directors approved the minutes of the 14th July meeting, agreeing one amendment.

3. Conflicts of interest

No conflict of interest with any agenda item, nor as a result of new appointments, was declared by any Director.

Tim Eggar has been appointed as interim Chairman of Haulfryn Ltd.

Sara Vaughan has been appointed Chair of Elexon Ltd and its Balancing and Settlement panel.

Sarah Deasley declared a forthcoming project with Frontier Economics but the Board was satisfied that it did not represent a conflict of interest.

Fiona Mettam left the meeting briefly during item 4.

4. Strategy day reflections and succession planning

The Board agreed that the strategy day had been a very positive discussion and had reaffirmed the NSTA's clear and consistent position on energy security and the energy transition. Directors agreed that it would be important to continue to build on the Strategy and the North Sea Transition Deal to maintain momentum on emissions and underline the vital role of the UKCS for value creation and growth. The Board reviewed and prioritised the actions from the strategy day.



The Chief Executive designate set out his changes to the NSTA's leadership team structure, to be phased in from October, which will enhance the NSTA's ability to deliver at pace. The Board discussed the new structure and asked the Chief Executive designate to develop an annual review process for the Board to consider talent and succession planning for senior leadership roles.

5. Safety and environment report

The Board discussed the Chief Executive's update on safety and environment performance.

6. Chief Executive report

The Chief Executive highlighted the huge team effort which has been required to support the government's pledge to increase domestic energy supplies. The 33rd oil and gas licensing round is due to be launched in early October and the NSTA is supporting BEIS with technical expertise on English shales.

The NSTA was pleased to receive 26 applications for first carbon storage licensing round and welcomed the fact that there was competition in most areas.

Fiona Mettam left the meeting.

7. CFO report

The CFO reported no significant movements in forecasts and anticipates that the NSTA will return 2022-23 levy funding to industry.

The BEIS grant in aid of £250k would not be sufficient to cover additional onshore work and the NSTA may have to consider reallocating staff from other areas.

8. Hydrogen regulatory role

The Director of Strategy set out the case for the NSTA to have a direct role in the hydrogen regulatory framework, where it could add value as part of its energy integration work. The Board discussed and fully supported the recommendations and asked the team to consider other areas where the NSTA's licensing and stewardship expertise could potentially support onshore and offshore hydrogen production.

Fiona Mettam rejoined the meeting.

9. Shareholder update

The Shareholder Director updated the Board on departmental business.

Fiona Mettam left the meeting.

10. MER UK and net zero considerations

The Board discussed a general paper referencing a potential project and other examples which demonstrate the considerations NSTA colleagues take into account to align net zero obligations in the strategy, historic emissions decisions and the need to have regard to security of supply.

Fiona Mettam rejoined the meeting.

11. Governance matters

The Company Secretary presented an updated delegation schedule and a resolution requesting that Directors renew his Power of Attorney to sign deeds. Directors noted the delegation schedule and those present signed the resolution. Malcolm Brown will sign the resolution in counterpart.

12. Agenda planning

The Board discussed the future meetings schedule and agreed additional future meeting dates.

There was no other business.



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Chairman

17th November 2022
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Date