

URRAS HITS TREBLE

As readers will have noted, two new Enercon 900kW turbines now site proudly on the common grazings above Baile an Truiseil. Enercon's installation team started at Turbine 2 (nearest to main road) on 23rd June and the build process was completed by 25th June with no difficulties encountered. The team then mobilised at Turbine 3 on Druim nan Carnan over the next two days and were in place for 29th June, the start of the second week. Works commenced that day and the base section was quickly in place. Higher wind speeds the next day meant that no further turbine build could be achieved but significant assembly and preparation was undertaken instead. Weather conditions improved on 1st July and three sections were installed in quick succession with the blades then being fitted by lunchtime on 2nd July. The overall installation was completed within the contractual timescale and no extensions of time were required or delay costs incurred.

The next stage is the commissioning of the new turbines which is planned over the rest of the month and Enercon expects to have them operational by early August. Electrical cabling across the sites was postponed to enable the turbine installation to be undertaken unhindered and now is due to get underway w/c 20th July, lasting for two weeks and overlapping with the final stage of turbine commissioning.

Civil engineering works, involving the access road and hardstanding at both turbine sites, were completed in good time for the turbine installation activity. This contract is nearing completion, the remaining elements are minor road surfacing at Turbine 3, cable trenching from the new turbines to the substation and tarmac surfacing next to the main road junction at Turbine 3.

In the meantime, the existing turbine has been performing extremely well since the start of the year. February, March and May have seen impressive production levels, with May being the most productive month so far on record at 359 MegaWatt Hours, significantly exceeding forecasts. Grid maintenance shut-downs by SSE in April and June have reduced production for these months but results still exceed forecasts despite these interruptions.