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AEA helps BBC bring wind power to Ascension Island

A key BBC World Service transmission site on Ascension Island has embraced wind power helped by AEA, a leading sustainability consultancy. AEA was commissioned by the BBC to provide an independent, supplier-neutral investigation into renewable power options to replace the ageing technology at the site. The new hybrid wind/diesel power station is expected to save approximately £500k a year on the diesel fuel that previously had to be shipped to the island, and reducing the frequency of costly and environmentally unfriendly tanker supplied diesel fuel deliveries to 18 monthly intervals.

During the three year development period, AEA undertook an initial review of the site and the various technological options available, followed by a detailed feasibility study including an environmental impact assessment. The location and nature of Ascension Island made the project particularly challenging - the island is volcanic and, due to its location in the middle of the South Atlantic, has no deep water port. However, since the turbines have been in operation, they have generated around 205,000 kWh of electricity per month – offsetting roughly 57,500 litres of diesel.

Once the development was approved by the BBC, AEA staff continued to provide independent support including, a review of potential wind turbine manufacturers, tender support services and ad-hoc technical advice during the BBC's negotiations with suppliers.

Giles Barwell, Client Director at AEA, said:

“This project has been hugely challenging, given the location of the site and the unique environmental conditions experienced there. However, now that the new technology is up and running it will deliver clean renewable power to the island and significantly reduce the carbon footprint associated with transmitting the World Service into the Africa.”

Bob Hammond at the BBC said:

“When it came to modernising our Ascension Island site, the BBC was very keen to exploit the natural resources of the island and to find a way of making the site more sustainable. AEA guided us through the process of finding out how best to go about achieving our aims, and since the new turbines have been up and running, we estimate we will save around £500k each year on diesel costs, and cut our carbon emissions by approximately 3,500 tonnes a year.”

Ascension Island is located in the South Atlantic. See Google maps for its [location](#).

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About AEA

AEA is one of the world's leaders in energy and environmental consultancy and information management. The company operates in the UK, Europe, the US and China advising the UK Government, the EU and major private sector organisations in energy and climate change, air and water quality, risk management, resources and waste, sustainable transport and knowledge transfer.

A full case study of the Ascension Island project is available on request.

For further information please visit www.aeat.co.uk.

About BBC World Service

BBC World Service is an international multimedia broadcaster delivering 32 language and regional services. It uses multiple platforms to reach its weekly audience of 180 million globally, including shortwave, AM, FM, digital satellite and cable channels. Its news sites, which received 4.7 million weekly visitors in September 2009, include audio and video content and offer opportunities to join the global debate. It has around 2,000 partner radio stations which take BBC content, and numerous partnerships supplying content to mobile phones and other wireless handheld devices.

For more information, visit bbcworldservice.com.

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