



hutchinson
engineering

NEWS RELEASE

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Hutchinson Engineering sets sail for future success with initial wind project at marina

Hutchinson Engineering (Widnes, Cheshire UK) has teamed up with wind turbine company **quietrevolution** (Clerkenwell, London UK) to complete a prestigious commercial contract at Portland Marina – the iconic venue for hosting sailing events at the London 2012 Olympics.

It is the start of a long-standing working relationship between the two firms, as Hutchinson has been awarded the complete contract for supply of **quietrevolution's** full spectrum of towers.

The marina project required Hutchinson engineers to design and manufacture a bespoke 18m monopole tower for the award-winning **quietrevolution** qr5 wind turbine, which has a unique low noise impact. This design can now be rolled out as standard across other sites.

It is estimated that the vertical axis wind turbine, based near to the water's edge at Portland Marina in Dorset, will generate up to 7,500 kWh per year.

Ivan Brocklehurst, Technical Director of Hutchinson Engineering, commented: "Our engineers have worked hard to create a tower that complements the clean-cut, award-winning design of the qr5 turbine.

"During the development stages, emphasis was also placed on the different dynamic outcomes of Darrieus-Savonius, a lift and pull effect associated only with VAWTS (Vertical Access Wind Turbines)."

Will Sheard, Principal Mechanical Engineer at **quietrevolution**, described the partnership approach to working with Hutchinson Engineering: "We had already worked with the company as they supplied two 18m Hutchinson prototype towers for our production site in Pembrokeshire, Wales.

"And so at the outset of our latest commercial project, we looked to work with them again for a new tower at Portland Marina.

"We chose Hutchinson because of low cost and high quality, and it gave us confidence to know that they had already supplied masts to Proven and Evance – names that we respect in terms of manufacturing HAWTS (Horizontal Axis Wind Turbines).

"The tower engineered for us is based at the marina, so it will be a great test site for researching excessive wind speed, exposure to the elements, and measuring the ability to withstand corrosion from the sea.

"In terms of promoting the use of VAWTs, the location is also significant because the world's media will be descending on the marina during the sailing events for the 2012 Olympic Games."

Hutchinson Engineering has designed 18m, 15m and 6m towers for quiet**revolution**. Production of the first 6m monopole is underway, and the 15m pole is in design stage – the 6m version is intended for use on rooftops. All three tower models include an advanced hydraulic ram to raise and lower the turbine for ease of installation and servicing.

Furthermore, the company has been assisting quiet**revolution** with enhancements to their rotor.

Will explained: “Hutchinson has helped us to develop a new support tube and a static tube – key structural components for the rotor.

“These steel fabricated elements are crucial to successful assembly of the turbine itself. In the past we have used different suppliers, but we have been able to streamline our costs and production by consolidating our supply chain to Hutchinson.

“As engineers of steel structures for wind turbines, they have certainly positioned themselves at the forefront of small wind projects internationally.

“Likewise we are also a progressive company, having recently been endorsed by the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS), as well as collecting a range of awards for clean technology and product design.”

In recent years, quiet**revolution** has been named one of the fastest growing cleantech companies in Europe, winning Guardian Library House CleanTech 100 2008 and gaining fourth place on GP Bullhound Cleantech Connect Awards 2010. They have also been certified Winner of the D+AD Product Design Award 2007 (Yellow Pencil), and Winner of the Business 2.0 "Bottom Line Design - Energy Prize" 2007.

Ivan added: “We have an on-going development plan with quiet**revolution** to increase the yield of towers as they have recently closed their order book for the year based on record sales. This is also great news for Hutchinson Engineering.”

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Photos (below) are available as high resolution J-pegs images.

Photo captions:



Ready to set sail:

The tower design by Hutchinson Engineering for the qr5 wind turbine at Portland Marina.



Leading the quietrevolution:

Hutchinson Engineering has designed the monopole tower for the UK's leading VAWT.

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