



## **PRESS RELEASE**

16<sup>th</sup> January 2020

### **ERA builds new energy partnerships with Zhejiang**

Representatives from the UK's Energy Research Accelerator (ERA), have met with representatives from the Zhejiang Provincial Science and Technology Department, along with government officials and businesses today in Hangzhou China, in order to establish new collaborations in renewable energy.

The visit to Zhejiang province for the Zhejiang UK Green Energy matchmaking event is the last event of an ERA mission to China which has included symposiums and meetings at universities and research institutes in Beijing, Nanjing and Hangzhou.

The Energy Research Accelerator (ERA) is a partnership of eight research intensive universities from the Midlands region of the UK. These include the universities of Aston, Birmingham, Cranfield, Keele, Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham and Warwick, and also the British Geological Survey. Together they are working to develop new low-carbon energy technologies and solutions.

ERA is the biggest energy research partnership in the UK, with government and industrial funding of £180m to develop new energy research facilities, laboratories and large-scale demonstration projects.

The aim of the visit is to meet with representatives from government, businesses and academic organisations with an interest in renewable and low-carbon energy. ERA is particularly interested in building partnerships which could result in joint R&D projects or commercial collaborations.

Speaking about the ERA visit to Zhejiang, Professor Martin Freer commented: "It is excellent news that the Energy Research Accelerator is building a new partnership with the Zhejiang Provincial Science and Technology Department. I see tremendous opportunities from this relationship which will benefit both parties.

Within ERA we offer cutting-edge UK research expertise across a wide range of energy research areas, and I am sure that we can help many innovative businesses in Zhejiang to develop new green energy technologies. I would also like to thank Zhejiang Provincial Science and Technology Department for generously hosting us, they will be very warmly welcomed when they visit us in the UK in the future.”

Mr Chuanjie Liao, Deputy Division Chief of Zhejiang Provincial Science and Technology Department, commented: “Not only is everything in the world is dependent on energy, but it is also the source of the progress of human society. Zhejiang Province is seizing the opportunity to strengthen R&D in energy, and to promote energy technology and industrial innovation.

“Research institutes and enterprises in the UK are one of the most popular partners in Zhejiang. The success of the University of Nottingham in Ningbo, and the cooperation of other British businesses reflect the enthusiasm and effectiveness of scientific and technological cooperation between China and the UK.”

The representatives from ERA will be discussing their research activities and exploring collaboration opportunities in a number of research areas. These include:

- Wind Energy and Compressed Air Energy Storage
- Artificial Intelligence and Smart Energy
- Decarbonising transport from cars to freight vehicles
- Viability of emerging energy technologies
- Energy integration
- Thermal energy storage for heat, power and mobility
- Hydrothermal carbonisations: wet waste to solid biofuels
- Electro-chemicals and liquid salts

Zhejiang has a close relationship with the Midlands, being the home of the City of Ningbo which is twinned with the City of Nottingham. Jason Feehily, Director of Knowledge Exchange Asia at the University of Nottingham who is on the mission, added: “I am delighted to be taking part in the Zhejiang UK Green Energy matchmaking event kindly hosted by the Zhejiang Provincial Science and Technology Department.

“This is a very positive development of our relationship and builds upon the Science and Technology Department-Midlands Engine Memorandum of Understanding, signed in Nottinghamshire in September 2019. We have superb links with Zhejiang Province, with our University of Nottingham Ningbo China Campus being located in Ningbo City.”

ERA’s week-long mission to China is organised jointly by the Asia Business Centre at University of Nottingham and the Birmingham Energy Institute, University of Birmingham.

Over 200 representatives from Chinese universities, businesses and government bodies have attended the ERA China Mission events during the week.

For more information about the Energy Research Accelerator, visit [www.era.ac.uk](http://www.era.ac.uk) or [@EnergyRA](https://twitter.com/EnergyRA)

## **ENDS**

### **More information?**

For more information about this press release, please contact Nick King, Marketing and Communications Manager for the Energy Research Accelerator, on [nick.king@era.ac.uk](mailto:nick.king@era.ac.uk), or tel: +44 (0)7964 391057

### **Notes to Editors**

#### **The Energy Research Accelerator (ERA)**

ERA consists of the partner universities of Aston, Birmingham, Cranfield, Keele, Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Warwick, and also the British Geological Survey (BGS). ERA aims to harness the Midlands’ combined research excellence and industry expertise to play a critical role in tackling some of the biggest challenges facing the UK.

ERA’s priorities are focused in the areas of Energy Transformation, Energy Storage, Energy Integration and End Use Energy Demand.

Funded by the UK government through Innovate UK, an initial capital investment of £60m, has secured additional industrial co-investment of £120m.