

# Candida Whitmill



Candida Whitmill is an entrepreneur with over thirty years' experience in a diverse range of sectors including energy, property, agriculture, hospitality and tourism, growing through start-ups, mergers and acquisitions and market development.

Candida has a long standing interest in encouraging the right political and economic climate for businesses to flourish in the UK. From early 2004 to 2007 she was a Board member of the Small Business Council, reporting directly to the Secretary of State for the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI, now BEIS) on the impact of Government policies on businesses. Having completed an MSc based on renewable energy, Candida was responsible for research and recommendations on energy policy, a complex area, requiring cross-departmental co-operation in developing political, financial and market-led solutions to ensure an affordable, secure supply of energy, compatible with environmental objectives. In support of the low carbon agenda, Candida became Chairman of the Tidal Power Forum, alongside the Renewable Energy Foundation, seeking solutions to harness the tidal

resource in the UK. Candida continues to advise on energy policy at a national level while maintaining her business interests.

The largest source of dispatchable low-carbon electricity is still nuclear power. However, the next generation of nuclear heralds an exciting new era, with revolutionary technology, infinitely superior to the pressurised water reactors that make up the majority of the current 449 reactors operating globally. These new small modular reactors, SMRs, cannot 'meltdown' under any circumstances, and are capable of burning up existing stock piles of legacy waste. With more renewables coming on to the grid, flexibility to fit with intermittent sources is another great advantage. Batteries are not yet financially or technically viable on the commercial scale required to 'back up' the growing intermittent capacity. SMRs could be built in factories in the UK, shipped to site and installed at a fraction of the cost and time of gigawatt plant, decreasing risk and increasing return on investment.

As the founder of Penultimate Power UK in Newcastle, Candida aims to bring SMRs to the North East and develop an SMR industry to sustain the UK nuclear industry for many years to come.

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