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ARCON TRAINING CENTER TO LAUNCH U.S. WIND ENERGY TRAINING FACILITY IN SALISBURY, MARYLAND

[Salisbury, Maryland] — ARCON has signed a deal with the UK's largest wind trainer, AIS Training to develop a state-of-the art offshore wind training center in Salisbury, Maryland. This offshore wind training center will be the first full-suite GWO accredited training center of its kind in the Mid-Atlantic region and is expected to begin training in April 2020.

Being located on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, ARCON Training Center finds itself perfectly accessible to several airports, waterways and O&M locations. With Chesapeake, VA., Baltimore, MD., and all the other Mid-Atlantic states and metro cities just a few hours away, ARCON Training Center is positioned perfectly to support the needs of the region. The renewable energy sector is anticipating 40,000 new jobs to come online nationwide by the year 2030.

The new center will be purpose-built at ARCON's existing Training Facility in Salisbury, Maryland to train offshore wind workers in essential skills and required safety training such as GWO Working at Height, GWO Manual Handling, GWO Fire Awareness, GWO First Aid and GWO Sea Survival to internationally approved GWO standards (Global Wind Organisation). It will be developed in several phases over the next two years to include some of the more specialised GWO training courses such as BTT, Enhanced First Aid, Advanced Rescue Training & Slinger Signaller Training.

Part of ARCON's existing training Facility will be converted for phase one of the cutting-edge center, which will incorporate a 23-foot high training tower, climbing and rescue platforms and a rope access area with capacity for lifting and rigging along with First Aid as well as Fire Training.

Katarina Ennerfelt, Arcon Training Center, said: "Having been a resource already for welding and metal fabrication training as a result of local development of the Offshore Wind Industry, we are extremely excited to partner with AIS Training and begin the first Mid-Atlantic GWO Accredited offshore wind training center right here in Salisbury, MD. The growth and positive impact that this opportunity will have for the Eastern Shore of Maryland is limitless. We have always pushed and advocated for jobs and continued education in the trade and labor market and to be part of something that will create thousands of jobs and opportunities for people in the Delmarva area is truly an amazing feeling. We have been a proponent of Offshore Wind for years and all the benefits renewable energy will bring not only to the state of Maryland but hopefully as a springboard to the rest of the country. We are looking forward to working with and learning from AIS Training to make this new Wind Training Center one of a kind."

AIS Training, which is part of the 3T Energy Group, is the UK's largest wind training provider according to GWO statistics, with one in five of the wind industry's workers choosing to train at its Renewable Energy Training Centre of Excellence in North East England. It will bring this expertise to ARCON as a consultant on the project. As well as helping with the design of the new centre, AIS Training will lead on obtaining wind industry accreditation, course portfolio development, instructor training and ongoing operational support & business development.

Geoff Croft, Business Development Manager at AIS Training, said: "The offshore wind industry in the United States is growing rapidly with several large offshore wind farm projects currently being planned. The U.S. East Coast is earmarked as a key location for many of these projects such as the Skipjack wind farm off Maryland, which will host the world's largest turbines - GE Renewable Energy's Haliade-X 12-megawatt wind turbines. Maryland was therefore a natural choice to fully support our first U.S. renewable energy training village."

The new GWO Training Center is coming on the heels of Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan unveiling his details of new legislation to set Maryland on a path to 100% clean electricity by 2040. The Clean and Renewable Energy Standard (CARES) plan, which Hogan will submit on the first day of the upcoming legislative session, focuses on affordable clean energy, climate change, and greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Mike Dunn, The Greater Salisbury Committee, said: "This is a big day for the Eastern Shore of Maryland. We salute Katarina Ennerfelt and her ARCON team for working so hard to make this happen. And we thank AIS for making Salisbury the landing spot for their first ever North American training site. GSC has been solidly behind the State of Maryland's efforts to bring this emerging wind industry here. This is an exciting opportunity."

Dave Ryan, Salisbury-Wicomico Economic Development, said: "ARCON's historical success and commitment to training coupled with AIS' expertise is a sure way to develop a talent pipeline for the wind energy sector and add economic benefit to our community."

Jake Day, Salisbury Mayor, said: "Over the past five years, ARCON has established itself as an industry leader in welding services education. By teaming with AIS to build a world-class training facility for offshore wind professionals, ARCON is putting itself, the City of Salisbury, and the State of Maryland at the vanguard of the rapidly-expanding renewable energy economy in the United States."

"We're thrilled to have this new cutting-edge training facility in Maryland. We're a state that's consistently top-ranked for innovation, and we're a place where bold new ideas and talent can thrive," said Maryland Commerce Secretary Kelly M. Schulz. "ARCON and AIS Training will be providing valuable guidance and instruction to workers in the renewable energy sector and are helping make Maryland a powerhouse in the growing wind energy industry."

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If you would like more information about this topic, please call Katarina Ennerfelt at 443-614-9430 or email katarina@arcontraining.com