



Scottish Council for  
Development and Industry

## PRESS RELEASE

### WELCOME FOR BEAULY-DENNY DECISION

6 January 2010

Approval from the Scottish Government for the upgrade of the Beaulay-Denny electricity connection has been welcomed by the Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI).

**Gareth Williams, SCDI Head of Policy and Highlands and Islands Manager, said:**

“SCDI’s study on ‘The Future of Electricity Generation’ concluded that Scotland can maintain security of supply, exceed its ambitious renewable electricity targets and export power beyond its borders through harnessing the unique wind, wave and tidal resources in the Highlands and Islands. This decision is about moving Scotland from green energy potential to the green energy powerhouse.

“Approval for the Beaulay-Denny project demonstrates that Scotland is prepared to take the necessary decisions to keep the lights on and achieve our climate change commitments. Scotland is giving a clear lead in decarbonising our electricity supply and signalling to global energy businesses that their investment in new projects, facilities and jobs will be welcomed.

“Re-wiring our electricity network is one of the most important projects of the early 21<sup>st</sup> century and will be critical in delivering our economic model to generate sustainable economic growth.

“The Beaulay-Denny upgrade is the spine of this new electricity network which will allow a three-fold increase in power and should be followed by billions of pounds of investment in grid reinforcements, sub-sea cables from the islands and the development of a North Sea super-grid.”

**ENDS**

For further information please call Gareth Williams on 07917 103 997.

#### **Notes to Editors**

SCDI is an independent membership network which strengthens Scotland’s competitiveness by influencing Government policies to encourage sustainable economic prosperity, with offices in Inverness, Aberdeen, and Glasgow. Our membership is drawn from Scottish business, trade unions, public agencies, educational institutions, local authorities, voluntary sector and inter faith groups.