Galvanising Geothermal - Delivering Demand
An REA conference

13 October | The Minster Building, London, EC3R

REA GEOTHERMAL ENERGY FORUM

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW:

This is the UK's flagship geothermal conference, bringing the industry together, to explore what it will take to unlock geothermal's potential across sectors including digital infrastructure, agriculture, cooling, heat, power and industry. Key policymakers from DESNZ and senior cross-party MPs will join the conversation on how to galvanise the UK's geothermal sector.

Agenda (17/08/26) is as follows:

Opening addresses: REA CEO, Trevor Hutchings | Geothermal Energy Forum Chair Tony Bryan, Development Director, Star Energy

Panel 1: Demand – Current State of Play: This panel examines where demand for geothermal energy is currently coming from and what the true state of play looks like. It will interrogate government projections on the sector and explore the potential for scaling geothermal deployment and where future demand will come from.

Keynote Address: A senior political stakeholder will set out the government's perspective on geothermal energy.

Fireside Chat: the REA will interview the official in a fireside conversation format. This session offers a more informal, probing follow-up to the keynote themes.

Panel 2: Devolved and Regional Heating & Energy Policy: Representatives from local authorities will discuss how heating and energy policy is playing out at a regional level. The conversation will extend to policy perspectives from the North East, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

Panel 3: Scaling Geothermal in the UK: This panel asks how far the UK can realistically emulate the US and other countries' model of geothermal deployment, and whether that ambition is achievable. It will also draw lessons from other countries' experiences of scaling the sector.

Panel 4: Skills and the UK's Competitive Edge: This panel looks at regional skills gaps and availability in the North East, Aberdeen, and Cornwall, alongside the risk of brain drain. It will also consider Oil & Gas skills contribution to the sector.

Panel 5: Large Offtakers – NHS & Airports: This panel explores how major institutional offtakers like the NHS and airports can drive geothermal demand. It will also touch on opportunities within the farming sector.

Second Keynote: We will hear from another senior official on the intersection of government policy and thermal infrastructure.

Panel 6: Financing Geothermal: This closing panel addresses the top-line financial asks of the sector, including the Green Heat Network Fund, heat purchase agreements (HPAs) and upfront capex support from local authorities and government. It aims to identify the concrete financial mechanisms needed to unlock investment.