



The Old Sail Loft
Milford Docks
Milford Haven
Pembrokeshire, SA73 3AF

Ffon/Tel : 01646 696173/696174
Ffacs/Fax: 01646 696125
Ebostr/E-mail: pcf@mhpa.co.uk
www.marineenergypembrokeshire.co.uk

Marine Energy Pembrokeshire e-news Oct 2011

If you have any marine renewable energy news that you would like to be included in further editions and passed onto MEP members please send it to pcf@mhpa.co.uk

All of the below can be found in the news section of our website which you can follow as an RSS Feed.

Local News

Green growth real and happening in Wales

Chris Huhne put the spotlight on the economic benefits to Britain of investing in green energy in Wales. This financial year renewable energy developers have announced plans **in Wales for £779.8m investment, with the potential to create almost 1400 jobs**, as the nation begins to realise its huge economic potential and produce clean, home-grown energy. Speaking at an annual conference of the renewables industry, Chris Huhne hailed renewable energy sources like wind, wave and biomass as already delivering a “third industrial revolution” across the UK.

For more details [click here](#)

Low Carbon Research Institute 2 day Conference

Conference includes guest speakers at two key plenary events

- Day one – Wales and the world – the low carbon arena - Prof Phil Jones, Environment Minister John Griffiths and Dr Kevin Bygate.
- Day two – Prosperity and business in the low carbon sector - Prof Peter Pearson, Baroness Eluned Morgan, Dr Ron Loveland and a senior representative of the Chinese Government.

Twenty eight technical / academic sessions run in four themes across the two day conference.

Theme 1: Low carbon policies and public engagement

Theme 2: New and emerging technologies and skills and training for the low carbon economy

Theme 3: Energy supply, low carbon cities and regions, scenario modelling and low carbon futures

Theme 4: Environmental impacts and appraisal with economic costs and business opportunities.

For more details [click here](#)



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National News

Tyneside launches renewables Super Group

A&P Tyne is part of a newly launched North East UK 'Super Group' formed to inform global business about how the region's deep talent pool is positioned in a clear growth area for marine renewable energy. The influential band of companies, united under the name Energi Coast, aims to demonstrate the region's ability to service the entire needs of the renewable energy sector, particularly offshore wind.

A&P Tyne is one of 19 companies brought together by NOF Energy to promote the region as being perfectly positioned to supply the offshore wind market with the required skills and facilities already in place. Neil Jarvis of A&P Tyne said, "The North East is increasingly recognised as the best place in Britain to service the burgeoning offshore wind market. It's traditional engineering skills in shipbuilding, heavy manufacturing and engineering are easily transferable to building, operating and maintaining large offshore wind farms and our geographic location is ideal for major offshore wind developments such as the Round 3 Dogger Bank project. "The region can literally be a 'one stop shop' for the offshore renewables sector. We have companies that can provide services and solutions that extend right across the offshore wind supply chain. Add to that the ongoing development of wave and tidal power devices and the prospects for the North East are likely to be significant."

For more details [click here](#)

WWF Report suggests renewables could be UK's major power source by 2030

The UK could be primarily powered by a secure and inexhaustible supply of renewable energy by 2030 without the need for new nuclear power plants, according to a [report commissioned by WWF](#). Between 60% and 90% of the nation's electricity could come from wind, solar, tidal and other sustainable sources, with the rest supplied via an international supergrid and gas power stations. "This report is inspiring, but also entirely realistic. It shows that a clean, renewable energy future really is within our grasp," said David Nussbaum, chief executive of WWF-UK. "Failure to commit to a high-renewables future would leave us facing the prospect of dangerous levels of climate change and high energy prices."

The report states backing renewables would create hundreds of thousands of jobs and new economic growth. "Investing in clean energy offers us a means to tackle the two most crucial market failures that now confront the world: the financial crisis and climate change," said Nussbaum. "The only question that remains is, are we bold enough to take it?"

The report was welcomed by a host of businesses, including one the UK's "big six" energy suppliers, SSE. "It's a useful addition to the debate," said Keith MacLean, SSE's policy and research director. "Sufficient certainty that renewables will be a long term part of the energy system, well beyond the current 2020 cliff edge, is needed in order to allow the industry to mature and put renewables on a path of cost reduction that will steadily reduce and eliminate the need for support."

For more details [click here](#)

Consultation on Renewables Obligation Banding Review

This consultation invites comments on the Government's proposals for the levels of banded support available for renewable electricity generation under the Renewables Obligation (RO) for the period 2013-17. This consultation applies to England and Wales only. Separate consultations will be undertaken on proposals on banded support in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The RO is currently the main financial mechanism by which the Government incentivises deployment of large-scale renewable electricity generation. Banding reviews ensure that as market conditions and innovation within sectors



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change and evolve, renewables developers continue to receive the appropriate level of support necessary to maintain investments.

The lead banding scenario proposed in this consultation focuses on scalable lower-cost renewable technologies that will deliver the majority of the electricity we need to meet our 2020 targets. DECC are also reiterating our commitment to offshore wind and marine sectors where the UK has a rich natural resource, and can lead the way in driving down the costs of deployment.

For more details [click here](#)

Major changes to Renewable Obligation Scheme delivers huge boost to Marine Energy

The government has today unveiled long-awaited changes to the UK's renewable energy subsidy regime, proposing new support levels for a raft of clean energy technologies, and setting out plans on how it aims to reduce subsidies over time. As anticipated, marine and offshore wind energy emerged as the big winners from the proposed changes to the Renewables Obligation Certificate (ROC) scheme, which will now be put out [for consultation](#).

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg said the changes, which will apply from 2013 through to 2014, underlined the government's commitment to driving investment in the UK's renewable energy industry. "Investing in green energy boosts growth and creates jobs – the offshore wind sector alone could provide up to 66,000 jobs in this country by 2020," he said. "Supporting clean, green, secure energy is the right thing to do for both the environment and the economy."

His comments were echoed by Chris Huhne, Energy and Climate Change Secretary, who predicted that the reforms would help make the UK an attractive venue for low carbon investment at the same time as minimising the impact of renewable energy subsidies on energy bill-payers. "Our ambitions for these technologies reflect our desire for the UK to be the number one place to invest," he said. "We have studied how much subsidy different technologies need. Where new technologies desperately need help to reach the market, such as wave and tidal, we're increasing support. But where market costs have come down or will come down, we're reducing the subsidy."

The review proposes a significant increase in the number of tradeable ROCs awarded to wave and tidal energy projects from 2 ROCs/MWh currently to 5 ROCs/MWh for all projects with up to 30MW of capacity.

For more information [click here](#)

OESEA2 paves the way for future leasing rounds for wave and tidal energy

Minister, Charles Hendry, laid a written Ministerial Statement in Parliament last Wednesday, which concludes the process of the Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment (OESEA 2). It concludes that:

"there are no overriding environmental considerations to prevent the achievement of our draft plan/programme of leasing offshore wind, wave and tidal, licensing/leasing for seaward oil and gas rounds, hydrocarbon and carbon dioxide storage, provided appropriate measures are implemented that prevent, reduce and offset significant adverse impacts on the environment and other users of the sea.

On offshore renewable energy, "...OESEA2 paves the way for future leasing rounds for marine (wave and tidal) energy. It allows for an installed capacity of up to 33GW of offshore wind – subject to mitigation measures. This is in excess of the central range set out in the UK Renewable Energy Roadmap, which indicates that up to 18GW of offshore wind could be deployed by 2020. "The environmental report highlights that siting and consenting processes for offshore renewable energy developments must remain flexible to allow for technological innovation, including any mitigation measures".

For more information [click here](#)

Crown Estate hails 31 Marine Energy Projects

The Crown Estate has confirmed there are now 31 wave and tidal energy projects planned for UK waters, after the agency yesterday announced that eight new projects had been granted conditional agreements, giving them access to the seabed.

As expected, Marine Current Turbines (MCT) was granted a lease agreement for its planned 10MW Skerries tidal array off the coast of Anglesey, while wave energy firm Pelamis received the same approval for its 10MW wave farm off the west coast of Lewis, near the Island of Bernera. In addition, AWS Ocean Energy Limited was granted a lease agreement for its Moray Firth wave farm, while similar approval was issued to four Scottish tidal energy projects proposed by Marine Energy, Nautricity, Nova Innovation and Oceanflow Development.

The latest round of lease agreements was completed by Minesto UK's plans for a tidal energy project at Strangford Lough in Northern Ireland. The Crown Estate said that in total the latest agreements take the number of UK marine energy projects in the pipeline to 31, potentially adding a further 30MW of capacity

For more information [click here](#)