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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

Detailed research to continue in Pembrokeshire

As part of the LCRI Marine R&D Programme and the Celtic Odyssey project the Research Vessel *Guiding Light* (Cardiff University) undertook hydrographic surveys in Ramsey Sound and amongst the Bishops and Clerks. The aim of the deployment was to investigate further the complex of hydrodynamics in the area. The unique dataset will subsequently be used by the various partners collaborating within LCRI-Marine (engineers, modellers, biologists, oceanographers, developers etc.) to identify (and potentially discount) areas in the vicinity of Ramsey Sound and the Bishops and Clerks deemed suitable for the installation of tidal turbines.

The Celtic Odyssey project will return in May 2012 to continue research in the area. For more details [click here](#)

Carbon Trust award TEL £390,000 for environmental monitoring in Ramsey Sound

The Carbon Trust has awarded £390,000 to Tidal Energy Limited (TEL) to fund environmental work at its Ramsey Sound demonstration site in Wales. The grant was issued under the CT's entrepreneur's fast track programme. TEL said it pledged to make environmental assessment data available to the wider marine energy industry and it hopes the work will help the Welsh sector to grow.

TEL development director Chris Williams said: "The Welsh Government believes that the deployment of tidal and wave devices off the nation's 1200km coastline could provide as much as 4GW of clean, predictable electricity by as early as 2025. This represents a huge opportunity but in order to achieve this goal, we must understand more about how devices interact with the marine environment.

CCW release report on natural heritage evidence to support planning for marine renewable energy

The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) is committed to working with regulators and developers to support the development of marine renewable energy in locations, and using technologies, that avoid significant adverse environmental impacts. This report summarises work CCW has undertaken to produce and share key synthesised evidence relating to Welsh natural heritage interests, in the form of GIS-based data layers, to be taken into account by strategic planning process for marine energy devices (wave and tidal stream). To download the report [click here](#).



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Atlantic Array offshore wind farm project begins public exhibitions in the South West

The public exhibitions events in September will give the opportunity for local people to meet the Atlantic Array project team. Visitors can also find out more information about the proposed wind farm, including progress to date on the environmental assessment and photomontages to provide an indication of what the Atlantic Array proposal could look like if constructed.

The locations and timings of the public exhibitions, which are being held along the South Wales coasts, are as follows:

South Wales

Date	Time	Venue
21 st September	12pm- 8pm	The Grand Pavilion, The Esplanade, Porthcawl CF36 3YW
22 nd September	12pm- 8pm	Fourwinds Hotel, Princess Margaret Way, Port Talbot SA12 6QW
23 rd September	12pm- 8pm	North Gower Hotel, Llanrhidian, North Gower, SA3 1EE
24 th September	10am- 5pm	Civic Centre, Oystermouth Rd, Swansea, SA1 9SD
27 th September	12pm- 8pm	Stradey Park Hotel, Furnace, Llanelli SA15 4HA
28 th September	12pm- 8pm	Fourcroft Hotel, North Beach, Tenby, SA70 8AP
29 th September	12pm- 8pm	Cleddau Bridge Hotel, Essex Road, Pembroke Dock SA72 6EG

For more information about the project [Click here](#)

National News

Scottish wave and tidal sector faces charges of £56 million every year to connect their projects to the grid

The Scottish wave and tidal sector faces charges of £56 million every year to connect their projects to the grid, says Scottish Renewables. Had the wave and tidal projects been developed further south – i.e. across the border to England – they would have been eligible for £11m in subsidies.

The current transmission charging regime issued by [Ofgem](#) is calculated according to where the generator is located. The north of Scotland has the highest charges anywhere in the UK, whereas projects in some parts of the UK, such as Cornwall, receive a subsidy payment instead.

Figures published at the *Scottish Renewables Marine Energy Conference* in Inverness show that the proposed 1.6 GW of wave and tidal projects in the Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters face an annual grid charge of £56m, compared to an £11m subsidy if they were sited off the south west coast of England – home to *Wave Hub*, the only other test site for marine renewables in the UK.

For more details [click here](#)

Wales enter running to host Green Investment Bank

The Welsh government is throwing its hat in the ring in the battle to host the Green [Investment Bank](#) (GIB) as part of its efforts to position the country as a major low carbon hub. The Welsh Government confirmed this week that it will be filing an application to for the bank's headquarters to be located in Wales, joining a growing list bidders including [Edinburgh](#), Peterborough, Leeds, Manchester, and London.

A Welsh government spokeswoman told *BusinessGreen* that a formal application will be made in the coming months, detailing which Welsh city would host the [bank](#) and why it believes Wales would be a suitable location.



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“The Welsh Government will be bidding for the Green Investment Bank and Business Minister Edwina Hart has requested a meeting with UK Business Secretary Vince Cable to discuss our bid,” she said. “We have also informed Sir Adrian Montague, chair of the Green Investment Bank, of our intention to bid which has been officially acknowledged by the [Green Investment Bank’s Advisory Group](#). In the meantime, we are awaiting details of the formal application process, which is likely to take several months.” The news emerged after the new Welsh Conservative Leader in the Assembly Andrew R.T. Davies criticised the Welsh Labour government’s green policies, and called on Hart to back a bid for the bank. “I want to see Wales harness the green economy to produce lasting and practical opportunities for economic growth,” he said. “We can be world-leaders in this sector – creating green jobs and channelling the potential of green business.”

For more details [click here](#)

UK launches Marine Industries Growth Strategy

A new strategy that could lead to £8bn growth in the British marine and maritime industry was launched on Monday by UK Business Minister Mark Prisk at the PSP Southampton Boat Show.

Drawing on the thinking of business, Government and academia, the Marine Industries Growth Strategy (MIGS) is the first ever integrated UK strategy for the marine industries and establishes a foundation for ambitious but sustainable long-term growth. If properly implemented, this strategy could lead to a £25bn marine industry by 2020.

Business Minister and co-chair of the Marine Industries Leadership Council Mark Prisk said, “Britain’s marine industries are one of our best prospects for high value, high skilled economic growth. That’s why we are launching the Marine Industries Growth Strategy to harness that potential and grow the industry by £8billion by 2020.

“By working together, like Lloyds Register and the university are doing here in Southampton, our marine industries can share knowledge, experience and opportunities. That way they will be able to create jobs, growth and a stronger more resilient supply chain.

“By harnessing the potential of the sector, and the research potential of our universities, we can build our strengths and capabilities to make sure that Britain’s marine sector has a bright and successful future.”

For more details [click here](#)

Carbon Trust awards companies supporting offshore wind

A boat with rally car-style suspension and a giant mechanical “seahorse” are among the designs receiving funding from a competition to solve problems working on offshore wind farms. Plans for the UK’s offshore wind industry will see turbines up to 190 miles out at sea in three-metre-high waves.

Transferring engineers and equipment safely onto wind turbines which require maintenance in these conditions is extremely difficult. But the Carbon Trust, which is running the competition, said keeping the turbines generating electricity in rough seas could increase revenue by as much as £3 billion for the new generation of wind farms.

It has shortlisted 13 designs from 450 submissions based on their technical merits, choosing concepts that have the best chance of successfully driving down the cost. Each of the designs, which include four systems for transferring personnel and equipment from a vessel to a turbine, six vessels which include a transfer system and three launch and recovery systems, will get £100,000 to help them develop.

For more information [click here](#)



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Trip by HRH The Duke of York focuses on marine renewable industry

HRH The Duke of York took a trip to Orkney, Scotland, on Sept. 6 to focus on the marine renewable energy industry. One particular focus of this trip was the finance gap facing the development of wave and tidal technologies. The Duke chaired a discussion in Kirkwall, the capital of Orkney, with representatives from finance companies, technology developers, Pentland Firth project developers, and government bodies.

He then visited the European Marine Energy Centre. EMEC Managing Director Neil Kermode accompanied His Royal Highness on visits to EMEC's wave and tidal test sites. "Receiving a visit from the Duke of York shows the significance of what is happening here in Orkney, to local and international business and innovation," Kermode says.

Marine renewables fit a number of key areas as part of the Duke's role in supporting the business community, EMEC says. Particular areas of emphasis include stimulating science and engineering, developing high-tech and high-value manufacturing, encouraging and recognizing scientists and entrepreneurs who develop their innovations and discoveries in the UK, and promoting international business opportunities.

Scotland has 17 wave and tidal projects leased for development in its waters, not including the test facilities at EMEC. As of May 2011, EMEC had 11 projects either in the water or in fabrication at its test sites.

For more information [click here](#)

Barclays become first bank to lend money to wave energy

Barclays Corporate on Monday gave the first bank debt finance loan to a marine energy project in Britain, a renewable energy sector which the UK government has earmarked for substantial growth this decade. The bank provided a five-year loan totalling 3.4 million pounds to cover costs to complete a 2.4 megawatt (MW) nearshore wave device developed by Aquamarine Power, in which UK utility Scottish and Southern Energy owns a 45 percent stake, off the coast of Orkney in Scotland in 2013.

"This demonstrates our confidence in the business model and provides a blueprint of how visionary companies can achieve their commercial aims with the right support," said Jan Love, director of project finance for Barclays Corporate Scotland. The British government expects power production capacity from marine energy projects to rise seventy fivefold to 300 MW by the end of this decade.

Aquamarine Power's three 800 kilowatt (KW) Oyster devices will capture the force of nearshore waves off the Scottish coast to power a pump which then pushes high-pressure water to drive an onshore turbine to generate electricity. The Scotland-based company is currently installing the first Oyster device and the two others are expected to start next year and in 2013.

For more information [click here](#)

Collaborative community marine renewable energy launch

A pioneering multi-million pound project to develop marine renewable energy in peripheral and island communities will be officially launched next week. The £4 million collaborative project between Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly and Finistere in Brittany will seek to identify and address specific opportunities and issues faced by outlying communities in exploiting marine energy resources.

It is estimated that by 2050, up to 50% of Europe's electricity supply could be provided by renewable ocean energy generated off the Atlantic coast. The Marine Energy in Far Peripheral and Island Communities (MERIFIC) initiative will be formally launched at a conference on Tuesday September 13 at the National Maritime Museum in Falmouth.

For more information [click here](#)



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