
To: External Stakeholders

From: UK Strategic Areas Project Team, The Crown Estate

Date: January 2012

UK Wave and Tidal Energy Strategic Areas Project – January Update

Project Summary

This briefing is designed to give you a high level update on the progress of The Crown Estate's UK Wave and Tidal Energy Strategic Area identification project in two parts; the development of the strategic areas and our engagement with stakeholders to date. The key points are:

- The project focus is on assessing areas of sea which are suitable for wave and tidal energy development and includes considerations of resource and other technical parameters in order **to identify strategic areas**. The outputs of this project are to inform our internal thinking about how to best manage the resources we have responsibility for, just as we do for marine minerals and offshore wind energy.
- This project is neither part of an immediate plan to lease further sites, nor should it imply that The Crown Estate we will be leasing further sites imminently. It is addressing the **spatial potential to lease at commercial scale only** and not looking into the *appropriate timing* to lease at commercial scale; this is for later discussion, informed by the spatial analysis
- Using MaRS (our Marine Resource System) and through collaborative work with statutory planners, the project is now at a stage in which we have initial development potential models for both wave and tidal energy. We are currently in the process of refining these models further to ensure that they represent a robust technical strategic view of wave and tidal potential within UK waters. Further detail is outlined in the Box 1 below.
- We have also been working actively with other stakeholders who we believed would be interested in the project, including by asking them to share relevant data with us. Box 2 gives details.
- The project is on track to complete at the **end of March 2012** following which outputs and intended use of outputs will be communicated.

Box 1: Development of Strategic Areas to date

We have been working with statutory marine planners to develop the first model outputs for both wave and tidal resources. We have used MaRS (our Marine Resource System) to model development potential for both wave and tidal energy using technical parameters such as resource, water depth and distance from shore. MaRS is a GIS tool that uses multi-criteria analysis to identify areas of opportunity or constraint for a given activity. This provides a transparent, robust and repeatable methodology for assessing priorities.

We have reached a stage at which we have initial model outputs for both wave and tidal which we have shared with the statutory planners. We have included site selection criteria provided by developers following the first request for such data, as well as information gathered during a literature review. Initial model outputs show that the development potential for commercial scale tidal strategic areas is largely driven by the resource. Commercial scale tidal stream and range occurs in distinct pockets of opportunity around the UK. Wave opportunity has a less spatially defined footprint and covers a much larger area which will mean that the definition of the strategic areas for wave energy will be refined based on further technical criteria.

We are currently in the process of optimising the initial models further to ensure that they represent a robust technical strategic view of wave and tidal energy potential within UK waters. Once this is complete, we will be looking to define the strategic areas following a consideration of the thresholds for commercial scale development.

As well as refining the first outputs for wave and tidal strategic areas, we are now working towards identifying potential capacity for each of these areas (in Giga Watts) with an aim to publish our findings in a report at the end of March.

Box 2: Stakeholder Engagement

The project team undertook a stakeholder mapping exercise which identified stakeholders who would be interested in being kept up to date with progress of the project and who have access to a wider group of stakeholders who also wish to know the project outcomes. The project brief has been rolled out to these stakeholders over the last few months.

Stakeholder views are very important to us and all those who expressed an interest in being kept up to date with the project will receive a copy of this briefing directly and will be informed of the outputs once the project is complete in March 2012.

The project is a technical, resource based, assessment and therefore any resource information or data provided at a national scale will be considered for inclusion in the analysis. Data regarding socio-economic, environmental or other non-technical constraints are welcomed but may be outside the scope of this project and will be considered on a case by case basis.

Contact

For further information, please speak to [Olivia Burgess](#), the UK SA Project Manager.