

Media release

Crown Estate unlocks further Scottish wave and tidal opportunities

Four new demonstration wave and tidal zones and sites in Scottish waters are set to be developed to help further technology development, The Crown Estate announced today (Tuesday 8 July 2014). For the first time, local organisations will play a role in developing zones.

The Crown Estate, manager of the UK seabed, has agreed seabed rights for zones and sites across the UK:

- for six new wave and tidal current demonstration zones, which for the first time will enable locally-based organisations to manage and sub-let parts of the seabed to a range of wave and tidal current developers.
- for five new wave and tidal stream sites, each with the potential to deliver a project of between 10 and 30 MW.

Rob Hastings, Director of Energy and Infrastructure at The Crown Estate said: "By providing these additional seabed rights we are pleased to be enabling further technology development and commercialisation, which will be critical if the UK is to unlock its significant natural resources for wave and tidal current energy.

"This innovative approach to leasing the seabed sees us responding to market demand and introducing managed demonstration zones to give other organisations the opportunity to lend tangible support in their local areas."

Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism Fergus Ewing said, "We welcome this announcement by the Crown Estate to lease two new wave and tidal demonstration zones and two new project sites in Scottish waters. These offer opportunities for ambitious developers to prove their marine energy technologies and harness the potential of the oceans around Scotland's coastline. This will move the wave and tidal sectors further and faster along the path to commercialisation."

The locations for the demonstration zones and project sites include three off the coast of England, four off the coast of Scotland, one in Northern Ireland and three off the coast of Wales.

The Scottish zones / sites and organisations are:

- Stronsay Firth site (tidal stream, managed test facility, 20MW), EMEC
- Mull of Galloway site (tidal stream, 30MW), Siemens MCT
- Islay zone (tidal stream), EMEC working with the Islay Energy Trust
- Isle of Harris zone (wave), EMEC working with the West Harris Trust

The Crown Estate launched the wave and tidal current leasing process in October 2013 and these new demonstration zones are in areas specially chosen by The Crown Estate for their suitability for test and demonstration activities.

With this leasing process now complete, the next stage is for the demonstration zone managers to start to attract developers for the zones and to undertake further work, such as gathering environmental data that can help developers with the consenting process.

As manager of the UK seabed, The Crown Estate grants rights to organisations to operate on the seabed. However, all projects must go through the statutory planning process, including stakeholder and community consultation, gaining consent from relevant planning authorities before development can commence.

The Crown Estate will now consider how best to optimise future leasing processes as required to meet market appetite.

ENDS

For further information contact

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- Siemens – Rachel Odams on 07808824209 / Rachel.Odams@siemens.com

Notes to editors

- The full list of zones and sites across the UK is as follows:

Organisation	Location	Zone type / project name
Wave Hub	North Cornwall	Wave demonstration zone
	North Devon	Tidal stream demonstration zone
	South Pembrokeshire	Wave demonstration zone
Siemens MCT	Dorset	Portland Bill, tidal stream project site
	Northern Ireland	Strangford Lough, tidal stream project site
	Scotland	Mull of Galloway, tidal stream project site
EMEC	Scotland	Isle of Harris, wave demonstration zone
	Scotland	Islay, tidal stream demonstration zone
	Scotland	Stronsay Firth, tidal stream managed test facility project
Menter Môn	Wales	West Anglesey, tidal stream demonstration zone
Minesto	Wales	Holyhead Deep, tidal stream project site

- The Crown Estate is an independent commercial business, established by Act of Parliament.

- As manager of the UK seabed, The Crown Estate grants rights to organisations to operate on the seabed. However, any projects must go through the planning process, including public consultation, gaining consent from relevant planning authorities before development can commence.
- 100% of The Crown Estate's annual profits are returned to the Treasury for the benefit of the public finances. Over the last 10 years, this has totalled over £2.2bn.
- The Crown Estate has offices in London, Edinburgh, Glenlivet and Lockerbie and, on activity relating to Scotland, works with Scottish Government, Scottish Parliament, local authorities, communities and businesses in sectors such as offshore renewables, tourism and aquaculture.
- Activity in Scotland comprises:
 - The Energy and Infrastructure portfolio, including management of the seabed out to the 12 nautical miles and the rights to renewable energy on the UK continental shelf.
 - The Rural and Coastal portfolio – approximately half the foreshore where we manage around 850 aquaculture sites and we license over 5,000 moorings; 42,000 hectares including the Glenlivet, Fochabers, Applegirth and Whitehill estates, with agricultural tenancies, residential properties and forestry.
 - The urban portfolio which includes retail property in Edinburgh.
- Established in 2003, the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) Ltd provides internationally recognised and independently accredited purpose-built, open sea test facilities for wave and tidal energy converters in the world-class wave and tidal conditions of Orkney, Scotland. It is home to some of the most innovative marine energy devices currently in development. EMEC also provides scale testing facilities for smaller scale device, technique and/or component testing, offers a wide range of consultancy and research services, and is at the forefront in the development of industry standards. The Centre was established with around £30 million of funding from the Scottish Government, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the Carbon Trust, the UK Government, Scottish Enterprise, the European Union and Orkney Islands Council. www.emec.org.uk
- The West Harris Trust is a community charity responsible for managing 7225ha of land on the west side of Harris. <http://www.westharristrust.org/>
- The Islay Energy Trust is a community owned charitable organisation that aims to develop renewable energy projects for the benefit of the community whilst reducing Islay's carbon footprint. <http://islayenergytrust.org.uk/>