

FORESEA programme awards support to ten offshore renewable energy technology developers

****under embargo until 09:00 CET, Tuesday 8 November 2016****

08 November. Brussels. The FORESEA (Funding Ocean Renewable Energy through Strategic European Action) Programme has awarded a 'Recommendation for Support' to ten ocean energy technology developers. The support will help commercialise these technologies by providing free access to open-sea test centres. The announcement was made at the Ocean Energy Europe 2016 Conference & Exhibition in Brussels today.

FORESEA is an €11m project which helps to bring offshore renewable energy technologies to market by providing free access through tailored support packages to a world-leading network of test centres: EMEC (UK), SEM-REV (France), SmartBay (Ireland) and Stichting Tidal Testing Centre (Netherlands). Access is awarded through a series of competitive calls for application. It is financed by Interreg Europe.

[The first FORESEA call for applications](#) closed on 21 September. Applications were assessed by FORESEA's User Selection Board, who have awarded a 'Recommendation for Support' to ten technology developers. Final confirmation of support will be granted to developers upon contract with the relevant test centre.

Awards were granted to the following companies:

- Aquantis Technology
- Corpower Ocean
- GEPS Techno
- Laminaria
- Mako Turbines
- Nautricity
- Pytheas Technology
- QED Naval
- Seacurrent
- Zyba

To mark the awards, the FORESEA programme will host a Drinks Reception at 17:30 today at the Ocean Energy Europe 2016 Conference & Exhibition, with addresses from Neil Kermode, Managing Director, EMEC and Maud Skäringer, European Commission

"This FORESEA award is an important part of the financial package which will help us to fully capitalise on our installation at EMEC, leverage further investment, and progress towards the marketplace, said Patrik Moller, CEO of CorPower Ocean – a wave energy technology developer and recipient of a FORESEA award.

"We are very proud to obtain this FORESEA award. It will help us finance sea trials on the SEM-REV site and then to reach sea-proven status with a new power range for our technology. Being selected as a promising technology is also a very positive sign for our future investors," said Jean-Luc Longeroche, chairman & CEO of Geps Techno – a wave energy powered autonomous platform developer and recipient of a FORESEA award.

“The Pays de la Loire region is among the European leading territories for testing facilities dedicated to marine renewable energies. The Region is supporting the sector by funding leading-edge test infrastructures such as the SEM-REV,” said Bruno Retailleau, President of the French region Pays de la Loire and President of the Atlantic Arc Commission of CPMR.

The European Union should foster these bottom-up developments by supporting R&I projects and facilitating commercialisation.

Tests in open-sea conditions are a critical stage in validating a technology but they require significant levels of investment. The FORESEA project addresses in a very concrete manner this challenge. Thanks to FORESEA, two new ocean energy technologies should be tested in Pays de la Loire,” concluded Mr Retailleau.

“The FORESEA programme’s first call has been very successful with many high calibre applications received and we are delighted to recommend ten technologies for support packages. The level of interest we’ve had from technology developers in the programme has been very encouraging, and shows how vibrant the sector is becoming. We look forward to welcoming some of the applicants to EMEC in the near future,” commented Nic Wallet, FORESEA Manager, EMEC.

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Editors notes:

FORESEA

The FORESEA project helps small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) test ocean energy technology in real sea conditions and prove power can be economically generated from the ocean, by providing free access to North-West Europe's world-leading network of test centres.

It is funded by the Interreg North West Europe programme, part of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

www.foreseaproject.eu

EMEC (European Marine Energy Centre)

Established in 2003, EMEC is the world's leading facility for testing wave and tidal energy converters in real sea conditions. The centre offers independent, accredited grid-connected test berths for full-scale prototypes, as well as test sites in less challenging conditions for use by smaller scale technologies, supply chain companies, and equipment manufacturers.

To date, more marine energy converters have been deployed in Orkney, Scotland, than at any other single site in the world: EMEC has hosted 17 wave and tidal energy clients (with 27 marine energy devices) spanning 9 countries.

With over 12 years of unprecedented experience, EMEC also offers performance assessments, Environmental Technology Verification (ETV), a range of research and consultancy services, and has facilitated the development of international standards for marine energy.

www.emec.org.uk

Ocean Energy Europe

Ocean Energy Europe is the largest network of ocean energy professionals in the world. 108 organisations, including Europe's leading utilities, industrialists and research institutes, trust Ocean Energy Europe with the promotion of ocean energy; acting as the main link between Europe's ocean energy industry and the EU institutions (European Commission, European Parliament, EIB etc) and EU Member States.

Ocean Energy Europe employs a dedicated team of renewable energy lobby and communications professionals with the skills needed to position ocean energy as a key technology for the EU to meet its strategic objectives and generate funding opportunities for the sector.

<http://www.oceanenergy-europe.eu/>

SmartBay

SmartBay supports the testing and validation of novel marine and maritime sensors and equipment, and of ocean energy conversion devices, at the 1/4 scale Smartbay Test Site in Galway Bay. This site is part of Ireland's infrastructure to support research and development in the marine renewable energy sector allowing a developer to progress the TRL scale; facilities include a fully licensed ocean test site, featuring surface platforms, wireless communications to shore and a sub-sea cabled observatory and node, along with a set of services available ashore from marine operations support to maritime engineering.

Users can access the site, availing of the facilities and of Smartbay's cyber environment, to test and validate marine ICT, ocean energy devices and innovative solutions for the marine and related sectors.

<http://www.smartbay.ie/>

SEM-REV

The SEM-REV is a fully consented and grid connected open sea test facility for marine renewable technologies of Centrale Nantes. It has been developed, through public financial support, to validate & to optimize both Wave Energy Converters and Floating Wind Turbine in real open sea conditions.

Operations are supervised from the land station in Le Croisic – west coast of France - by a dedicated team with all the required equipment to ensure operability, security and safety of data acquisition, energy converter control and survey.

Environmental monitoring is operational since 2009, the connection HUB was installed in the summer 2015 and thus the site is now 100% operational.

<http://www.semrev.fr/en/>

Tidal Testing Centre (TTC)

The Dutch Tidal Testing Centre (TTC) located in the North of Holland at Den Oever provides excellent opportunities for tidal stream testing at intermediate scale. In cooperation with partners the centre offers testing in a two ducted channels, open water tow tests with a barge and at a dedicated offshore floating site. Next year a low head facility comprising three ducted channels of different size will become operational.

Besides these services, TTC is involved in several funded research projects both in national and international consortia.

<http://www.tidaltesting.nl/>

Interreg North-West Europe

The Interreg North-West Europe Programme fosters transnational cooperation to make the Northwestern Europe a key economic player and an attractive place to work and live, with high levels of innovation, sustainability and cohesion. Here you can find information about our funding opportunities and the positive change our projects have brought to the territory and its people.

<http://www.nweurope.eu/>