

Basque Country and Scotland team up to boost wave energy with EuropeWave project

4 December, Brussels.

The Basque Country and Scotland used the final day of the annual Ocean Energy Europe Conference & Exhibition to announce 'EuropeWave' - a new five-year collaborative programme that will channel €20m to the most promising wave energy concepts. The initiative is match-funded by the European Commission via its Horizon 2020 programme, and Ocean Energy Europe are on board as project partners.

Both the Basque Country and Scotland have long histories of industrial strength and today are centres of innovation. Both are committed to full decarbonisation and have developed long-term strategies to transition their energy systems.

EuropeWave will build on these strengths to ensure that the Basque Country and Scotland remain leading players in Europe's emerging ocean energy sector and the wider energy transition.

This collaboration is closely aligned with the decarbonisation, industrial and competitiveness objectives of the European Green Deal, and will help meet the European Commission's newly announced targets of 100MW of ocean energy by 2025 and at least 1GW by 2030.

EuropeWave will use an innovative 'pre-commercial procurement' approach to identify and fund the most promising wave energy devices from developers across Europe. Concepts will be assessed according to strict technical and economic performance metrics, and the best performers will be demonstrated in Basque and Scottish open waters at the end of the programme.

Scottish Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, Paul Wheelhouse, and Basque Minister for Economic Development, Sustainability and Environment, Arantxa Tapia announced the initiative during a joint interview at OEE2020.

Minister Wheelhouse said: "EuropeWave is a great example of how Scotland can continue to collaborate with European partners, like our great friends in the Basque Country, who have very similar aims and objectives to ourselves. We can work together to bring forward what can hopefully be a very important technology for the whole global community."

Minister Tapia said: "This project is an ideal platform for collaboration between two regions in Europe to promote a new sector that contributes to the energy transition, creating a new economy and employment for our citizens. It is a clear example of how things should be done."

Matthijs Soede, Research Programme Officer at the European Commission, added: "With EuropeWave we pool public resources for research and demonstration from national and EU level. By effective use of these resources, we hope that this will create more impact for the wave energy sector."

Rémi Gruet, CEO of Ocean Energy Europe, added: "We are delighted to be part of this initiative, which brings together some of the strongest supporters of ocean energy. The industry has long identified a pan-European 'pre-commercial procurement' as the right route to progress wave energy, so we can't wait to see this project get underway in 2021."

Media contacts:

Amy Parsons, Ocean Energy Europe
a.parsons@oceanenergy.eu
+32 2400 1043

Catriona Clark, Wave Energy Scotland
Catriona.clark@waveenergyscotland.co.uk
+44 1463 383313

Imanol Zenborain
izenborain@eve.eus
+34 944 035 681

Notes for editors

About Scotland's ocean energy activity

Scotland is a world leader in the development and deployment of wave and tidal energy technologies. The Scottish Government funds the Wave Energy Scotland (WES) technology programme, which has invested more than £41 million in more than 95 projects to date. These projects are developing wave devices, sub-systems and components, as well as leading the way in advanced control systems.

<https://www.waveenergyscotland.co.uk/>

About the Basque Country's ocean energy activity

The Basque Government, through the Basque Energy Agency (Ente Vasco de la Energía-EVE), has made a clear commitment to marine renewable energy, as the Basque coast is an ideal location for developing and testing wave energy generation devices, and has a technological and industrial base to become a world reference for these energies. EVE set up BiMEP - an offshore testing site with a grid connection for testing and validating marine energy converters and Mutriku Wave Power Plant, which has generated more than 2GWh of power - the first time it has been achieved by a wave power plant anywhere in the world.

<http://www.waveenergybasquecountry.com/en/>

About Ocean Energy Europe

Ocean Energy Europe is the largest network of ocean energy professionals in the world. Over 120 organisations, including Europe's leading utilities, industrialists and research institutes, trust OEE to represent the interests of Europe's ocean energy sector.

Ocean Energy Europe's mission is to create a strong environment for the development of ocean energy, improve access to funding, and enhance business opportunities for its members. To achieve this, OEE engages with the European Institutions (Commission, Parliament, Council, EIB, etc), and national ministries on key policy issues.

In the past four years the sector's profile has increased significantly, and the EU has emerged as a major driver of the industry.

www.oceanenergy-europe.eu