

News

:: World's Largest Wave Power Project Wins Approval

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npower renewables' plan for a pioneering wave power scheme on the Scottish island of Lewis has been given the green light – making it the largest consented project of its kind.

Today, (22 January 2009) the Scottish Government granted consent for the Siadar Wave Energy Project (SWEP), a decision welcomed by both npower renewables¹ and Inverness-based wave technology company Wavegen², who have been working together on the project since 2006.

The scheme will harness power from the Atlantic waves in Siadar Bay to generate up to four megawatts of electricity. The energy produced each year could supply the average annual electricity needs of around 1,500 homes in the Western Isles³.

The SWEP would be one of the first projects to operate under the Scottish Government's proposed multiple Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROC)⁴ scheme, the revenue support system to promote the development of marine energy generation.

npower renewables' managing director Paul Cowling said: "Scotland has immense potential in marine energy and the opportunity to be a world leader in marine renewables.

Notes to Editors

- npower renewables is one of the UK's leading renewable energy developers and operators, committed to developing and operating wind farms and hydro plant to produce sustainable and environmentally-friendly electricity. The company operates 17 hydroelectric power projects and 22 wind farms in the UK, including the country's first major offshore wind farm, North Hoyle. npower renewables is also working with marine energy technology partners to deliver new wave and tidal stream power projects in the UK. Through our existing projects and those in development, we are working in close partnership with communities and companies throughout the UK. As Government policy drives the UK towards a target of supplying 10% of electricity from renewables by 2010, and 15% by 2015, we will be at the forefront of realising this aim.

npower renewables is a fully owned subsidiary of RWE Innogy, and sister company to RWE npower, a leading integrated UK energy company with around 6.8 million customer accounts. RWE npower also owns and operates a flexible portfolio of conventional power stations as well as a portfolio of cogeneration plant producing more than 10% of the electricity used in England and Wales.

For further information about npower renewables and RWE Innogy visit www.npower-renewables.com and www.rweinnogy.com

- Wavegen, based in Inverness, developed and operates Limpet, the world's first commercial-scale wave energy plant, grid connected since 2000. Wavegen technology is currently being installed in the Basque Country, Spain where Ente Vasco de la Energia's Mutriku project is expected to

This consent is an important milestone in the development of wave power technology and is to be celebrated. However, commercial demonstration projects such as Siadar still face significant economic challenges.”

Matthew Seed, chief executive officer of Wavegen said: “Wavegen is delighted that the Scottish Government has consented the Siadar Wave Energy Project, validating the pioneering work Wavegen and npower renewables have put into the project development. The SWEP will be a major step in the development of the wave energy industry in Scotland and worldwide. Wavegen’s proven technology will now be employed at full commercial scale, paving the way for real cost efficiencies which will bring the cost of wave energy closer to that of more established technologies.”

For more information on SWEP, visit <http://www.npower-renewables.com/siadar/index.asp>

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INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

Media Interviews are available with Bill Langley at npower renewables, or Matthew Seed at Wavegen, please contact Alda Forbes/ Gill Innes, npower renewables on 01738 825110 to arrange.

Photomontages of the proposed scheme are available from npower renewables, please contact Alda Forbes/ Gill Innes, npower renewables on 01738 835110.

be Spain’s first grid-connected wave energy plant. Wavegen is owned by Voith Siemens Hydro Power Generation a group division of Voith AG. For further details on Wavegen visit www.wavegen.com or on Voith Siemens, visit www.voithsiemens.com

- It is estimated that the SWEP will produce approximately 8,000MWh per year based on an assumed installed capacity of 4MW. This is enough to supply the average annual electricity needs of around 1,500 homes in the Western Isles. This is based on the UK average annual domestic electricity consumption of approximately 4700kWh per year over the life of the SWEP. This figure may change as average domestic electricity consumption changes.
- The Renewable Obligation Certificate (ROCs) sees government subsidies paid to energy companies for every unit of renewable energy produced. The Renewables Obligation (Scotland) came into force in April 2002 and is one way of pursuing the Scottish Government’s renewable energy objectives. The RO target for 2008/09 was 9.1 per cent, rising to 15.4 per cent in 2015/16 and 30-35 per cent by 2020.

The UK Government will introduce banding of the Renewables Obligation this year, with the most established technology, landfill gas, getting 0.25 ROC/MWh, and emerging technologies such as wave and tidal getting 2 ROCS/MWh. The Scottish Government will introduce higher bands for wave (5ROCS/MWh) and tidal (3ROCS/MWh)

- The technology used is called “oscillating water column”. Ocean waves move air in and out of chambers in a breakwater, which in turn drives Wavegen’s turbine, known as the Wells turbine, to generate electricity.

Media Contacts:

Alda Forbes Tel: 01738 825 124
e-mail alda.forbes@npower-renewables.com

Gill Innes Tel :01738 825 132
e-mail gill.innes@npower-renewables.com