

News

:: npower submit plans for wave power scheme

23/04/08

A new wave power station on the Isle of Lewis, one of the first in the world, moves a step closer today (23 April 08) as npower renewables submits a planning application for the ground-breaking scheme.

The Siadar Wave Energy Project (SWEP) is a collaboration between npower renewables, and Inverness based technology company Wavegen. The SWEP would be the first project to operate under the Scottish Government's Marine Supply Obligation (MSO), put in place to promote the development of first generation marine energy power stations.

The scheme would harness power from the Atlantic waves in Siadar Bay to generate up to 4 megawatts of electricity. The energy produced each year could supply the average annual electricity needs of around 1,500 homes on Lewis and Harris.

If plans are given the go ahead by the Scottish Government, building work could start as early as 2009. The project could generate up to 50 construction jobs and would take around 18 months to complete.

Bill Langley, Marine Development Manager for npower renewables said: "We believe this is a new

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 16 hydroelectric power schemes and 19 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. npower renewables is a fully owned subsidiary of RWE Innogy, and sister company to RWE npower, a leading integrated UK energy company, whose activities include the co-firing of biomass and the implementation of a major energy efficiency programme.

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

chapter in the UK's search for a sustainable future. We remain convinced that the SWEP could be the gateway to harnessing the best wave resource in the UK. This pilot scheme could be the stepping stone to realising large-scale wave energy projects around the UK and worldwide. "

"The Scottish Government provides a number of mechanisms, including the MSO, to promote the development of marine renewables projects, and that encouragement has been critical to bringing this project forward. We look forward to delivering the SWEP and making a significant contribution to the Scottish Government's ambition for Scotland to be a world leader in marine renewables."

Matthew Seed, the Chief Executive Officer of Wavegen said: "Wavegen is delighted to be working with npower renewables at Siadar and we look forward to demonstrating the commercial viability of wave energy. This project builds on the reliable technology proven at the Limpet plant on Islay, grid connected since 2000, and to be installed in Ente Vasco de la Energía's Mutriku project, in the Basque Country, Spain. Wavegen has identified further UK locations for this type of plant, and we will be working with npower renewables to start making wave energy a real contributor to government renewable energy targets."

The scheme involves building a new breakwater, similar in appearance to those frequently used around the UK's coastline, the big difference being that the Siadar breakwater would house the Wavegen turbines. As well as providing green, renewable electricity, the SWEP could also provide shelter and

- Wavegen is a world leader in wave energy and wave power. Wavegen developed and operate Limpet, the world's first commercial scale wave energy plant that generates energy for the grid. The Wavegen head office is located in Inverness, Scotland where they also operate state-of-the art wave power research and development facilities. Wavegen is owned by Voith Siemens Hydro Power Generation a group division of Voith AG.

- For further information about Wavegen visit www.wavegen.com. For further information about Voith Siemens Hydro please visit www.voithsiemens.com

- 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.

- Marine Supply Obligation: In 2006, the Scottish Government examined whether the powers available under the Renewables Obligation Scotland (ROS) might be used to provide more direct support to emerging technologies. This resulted in the introduction from April 2007 of a Marine Supply Obligation (MSO), designed to provide a long term signal of support and commensurate returns for wave and tidal generation located in Scottish waters.

facilitate the development of a fair weather harbour facility for small commercial and leisure craft, which is one of the aims of the Siadar Pier Group.

For further information about the Siadar Wave Energy Project visit www.npower-renewables.com/siadar

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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.

- Siadar Pier Group is a local community group working with Comhairle nan Eileen Siar to develop an improved slipway to improve access to the sea at Siadar.

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

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