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HOME WAVE AND TIDAL CARNEGIE HEADING TO WAVE HUB

Carnegie heading to Wave Hub



01/04/2014

Carnegie Wave Energy has signed a commitment agreement to secure the final berth at Wave Hub, the offshore renewable energy test facility in Cornwall, to demonstrate its next generation wave technology.

The Australian developer's UK arm, CETO Wave Energy UK, plans to deploy a 3MW array of its 1MW Ceto 6 technology in 2016 with the option to expand to 10MW. The company is the third customer to commit to Wave Hub in the past four months.

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Carnegie executive director of European business development Kieran O'Brien said Wave Hub provides a "pre-developed site and installed grid connected infrastructure to test Ceto 6... while leveraging off UK technical and commercial supply chain expertise in the heart of the marine renewables industry".

Wave Hub managing director Claire Gibson said: "We have seen an increase in demand from companies with advanced wave energy technology and have had to consider each of them carefully given we only had one berth remaining.

"Carnegie has an impressive track record, successfully developing their Ceto technology from concept to a pre-commercial array in just 10 years."

Three wave companies – Seatricity, Carnegie and Wello Oy – are planning deployments at Wave Hub and potential future arrays that could total 30MW.

Regen SW director Johnny Gowdy, who also programme manages the South West Marine Energy Park, said: "Carnegie is exactly the sort of company that we hoped would come to Wave Hub, so today's announcement is a tremendous step forward.

"It is critical now that we continue to invest in new infrastructure, innovation and our local industry in order to exploit this opportunity. We also need to look forward with a clear strategy to support further offshore demonstration areas and to enable future commercial projects."

R-UK wave and tidal manager Dee Nunn said it was "great" to see the berths at Wave Hub fully booked, adding that it was "a credit to the government for establishing it and taking it forward".

He went on: "With this and the developments in Orkney at the EMEC site and NAREC in Northumberland, the UK is powering on as the world leader in wave and tidal energy."

Nunn warned, however, that to "fully reap the benefits" of the UK's marine resource, developers "need to know there's a long-term market".

He said: "The real gains from wave and tidal can be made in the 2020s but at the moment there's no indication of what our energy mix will look like then. We don't want to be in the position where we develop the technology but another country benefits from the large-scale manufacturing."

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