

PRESS RELEASE – 19th December 2016

MET-CERTIFIED: boosting marine energy projects



From left to right: (1) SME's Plat-O submerged platform for tidal turbines to be installed at EMEC, (2) the Eastern Scheldt Tidal power plant built by Tocardo, (3) EEL Energy being tested at IFREMER and (4) TTC offshore test site.



Alkmaar, The Netherlands – Through its Interreg 2 Seas Programme, Europe will contribute 5,6 million euro to the MET-CERTIFIED project to accelerate the deployment of marine energy projects. MET-CERTIFIED is run by a consortium of European industrial, governmental and academic partners.

In July 2016, the Interreg 2 Seas Monitoring Committee gave the green light to the MET-CERTIFIED project, which stands for “**Development of International Standards and Certification Schemes for Marine Energy Technologies**”.

MET-CERTIFIED aims to **increase the adoption of insurable and therefore bankable marine energy projects** through the **development of internationally recognised standards and certification schemes** and by **testing and verifying technologies** against IEC standards for marine energy convertors.

“This project answers one of the main recommendations from the Ocean Energy Forum Strategic Roadmap. Certification can help to reduce perceived risks of the technologies in terms of performance and structural integrity, and thus helps to attract debt financing and make export much easier. At present **no certification scheme for marine energy** have been developed and implemented by all main stakeholders **in a consistent way**. The expectation is that it will come into existence over the next 3 years under the umbrella of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). Therefore the timing of MET-CERTIFIED is very favourable.”, says Peter Scheijgrond, project manager of the MET-CERTIFIED project.

“With the funding we can actively involve **stakeholders** around certification, from **banks and insurers to consenting authorities, end-users, test facilities and classification bureaus**. We will start with **verifying existing pilot projects against the IEC standards**. For example the tidal power plant in the Eastern Scheldt Storm Surge barrier will be used as a reference case for certification. By applying the standards and certification schemes on such projects we will receive valuable feedback to improve the IEC products. Next we will go through the process

of certification: **from concept to construction to installation** of a **full-scale floating platform for tidal turbines**”, continues Scheijgrond. “We expect this will result in robust standards and certifications schemes for the sector, and reduce the perceived risk associated with marine energy projects. This in turn will increase the interest from large investors, enabling the sector to deploy large marine energy projects.”

MET-CERTIFIED brings together **partners from 4 European countries** to advance the marine energy sector in the 2SEAS region: Tidal Testing Center (NL) as project coordinator, the European Marine Energy Center (UK), Lloyd’s Register EMEA (UK), IFREMER (FR), Tocardo Tidal Power (NL), Perpetuus Tidal Energy Centre (UK), NEC (NL), DNV GL (UK), Regional Development Agency West Flanders (BE), Ghent University (BE).

Facts

MET-CERTIFIED is receiving funding from the Interreg 2 Seas programme 2014-2020, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund under subsidy contract No 2S01-020. Also the Ministry of Economic Affairs in the Netherlands, the provinces of South and North Holland and the Belgian Province of West Flanders are offering financial support.

Interreg 2 Seas Programme:

Interreg 2 Seas is a European Territorial Cooperation Programme covering England, France, the Netherlands and Belgium (Flanders). The Programme is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and has a total of €241m ERDF to co-finance projects in the 2014 - 2020 period.

The overall objective is to develop an innovative, knowledge and research based, sustainable and inclusive 2 Seas area, where natural resources are protected and the green economy is promoted. In order to realise this, projects that directly contribute to one of the specific objectives (such as “Low Carbon Technologies”) can be part-financed for up to 60 % of their total project budget.

More information?

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