

**Aberdeen: 18.05.11**

## **Call to Europe's innovators to partner pioneering Scottish offshore wind project**

The joint venture (JV) behind a cutting edge wind deployment centre in Scottish waters will tomorrow send out a rallying call at the UK's premier green energy exhibition, All-Energy, to Europe's innovators offering them a platform to prove their ideas.

The JV partners behind the 11-wind turbine European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) off Aberdeen Bay, Vattenfall, Technip and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG), issued the call just weeks ahead of the submission of a full planning application for the centre.

Thanks to financial support from the European Union, the EOWDC will provide a platform to deploy and demonstrate new concepts, products and services in offshore wind whilst enabling research in this new sector – ideal for a partnership with Europe's renewables industry, academia and research community.

David Hodkinson, UK Country Manager of Vattenfall in the UK, speaking at the All-Energy conference in Aberdeen, said: "We hope that this project will provide a valuable service to industry and academia as the offshore wind sector really picks up pace. We want to hear from anyone who thinks they have something to offer the safe, rapid, cost effective and environmentally sustainable deployment of offshore wind turbines around Europe; getting in early gives you an edge. The centre will provide a major opportunity to deploy new technologies, goods and services ahead of the major development of Round Three Offshore Wind Farms – helping Scotland and the UK to achieve a strong position."

He added: "We are therefore keen to speak to turbine manufacturers, supply chain companies, universities and research establishments about their participation. All-Energy 2011 provides an excellent platform to begin these important discussions."

Ron Cookson, Managing Director of Technip UK, said: "We are extremely excited by the many opportunities that EOWDC presents. It is hoped to attract commercial deployment of next generation offshore wind turbines and associated technologies here in Aberdeen. The Centre would provide the ability to test foundations, cables, installation, manufacture, instrumentation, electrical and environmental factors as well as the turbines".

Morag McCorkindale, Chief Operating Officer at AREG, said: "Following an intense period of detailed development, study and consultation, the EOWDC is now poised to enter a critical phase. As such, we have made our rallying call to industry to engage with the project partners on how we can further build on the EOWDC's credentials."

This includes capitalising on Aberdeen City and Shire's critical mass of world-class oil and gas expertise which, along with the EOWDC, underpins the region's rapid emergence as an industry-leading player in maritime energy.

Chris Bronsdon, Chief Executive, Scottish European Green Energy Centre (SEGEC), said: "The development of offshore wind still faces many challenges to commercial deployment. The operation of the EOWDC will make a strong contribution to knowledge sharing for new components, designs and access methodologies for construction, operations and maintenance to be executed in the marine environment. SEGEC played a pivotal role in securing the €40M award from the European Commission and see that there will be significant added value to the partners, and to Scotland, in positioning this deployment centre as a key asset in the offshore wind supply chain."

Located off Aberdeen Bay, EOWDC would accelerate the development of offshore wind power by proving the next generation of technology in a real time offshore environment. It is expected that the facility would create jobs and economic benefit by attracting scientists, researchers, engineers, offshore wind supply chain companies and future investment in a fast growing sector.

The following areas will be of particular interest to Europe's innovators:

- Deployment of first 'run of production' offshore wind turbines to demonstrate readiness for full scale commercial deployment
- Deployment of innovative foundation, cabling, and electrical technologies and support for associated R&D activities
- Support for innovative research meeting EOWDC objectives, possibly including an offshore Ocean Laboratory platform
- Support for a centre of excellence in occupational training and emergency response related to offshore wind
- Support for public and commercial stakeholder education and awareness relating to offshore wind power

If industry, academia and research bodies wish to make contact with EOWDC regarding partnerships with the concept they should contact:

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In August of last year The Crown Estate awarded the EOWDC an exclusivity agreement as an offshore wind demonstration site. In December 2010 a grant award of up to €40m was confirmed from the EU as part of wider proposals to invest in key energy and internet broadband infrastructure projects. The EU Grant will support both development and capital costs associated with the EOWDC. The establishment of both the joint venture partnership and EU grant application was achieved with invaluable support from the Scottish European Green Energy Centre (SEGEC).

Following the application to Marine Scotland for planning consent to construct the EOWDC a series of events will allow the Public to view the detailed Environmental Impact Assessment. Dates for these events will be released later this year. The project is currently planning a Supply Chain Workshop for turbine manufacturers and foundation/cabling/installation contractors. This will be held at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre (AECC) on Monday 27th June 2011.

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#### PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

**PLEASE NOTE – – MEMBERS OF THE EOWDC TEAM & MANAGEMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE AT AECC ON 18<sup>th</sup> MAY AT 17:25 BY THE STAGE OF THE FLEMING AUDITORIUM FOR A PHOTO- CALL FOLLOWING THE EOWDC SESSION WHICH TAKES PLACE FROM 16:00 till 17:25.**

## NOTES TO EDITOR

### About Vattenfall

- Vattenfall's vision is to be a leading European energy company. It is currently Europe's sixth largest generator of electricity and the continent's largest producer of heat.
- Celebrating its centenary in 2009, Vattenfall's ambition is to reduce the emissions of carbon dioxide emissions by 30% by 2020 to 65 million tonnes.
- Wind power is a cornerstone of Vattenfall's action on climate change and the UK is a key market for future growth.
- Vattenfall is playing an important role in UK onshore and offshore wind power projects around the UK including developing the substantial East Anglia Offshore Wind Farm, a joint venture with ScottishPower Renewables. In 2010, the company completed the construction of Thanet Offshore Wind Farm, the world's largest.
- For more information on Vattenfall please go to : <http://www.vattenfall.com>

### About Technip

- Technip UK, part of the global Technip Group, is the leading provider of subsea engineering and construction products and services. With its headquarters in Scotland, Technip UK employs over 800 people in Aberdeen and at its spoolbase in Evanton, Ross-shire.
- Technip UK, a well established company with a strong reputation, provides project management expertise and offers a range of products, services and assets to a diverse client base; ranging from large global oil and gas operators to smaller independents. Furthermore, Technip UK was recently announced as the Technip Group's HQ for renewable energy projects.
- For more information on Technip UK and the global Technip organisation, please go to : [www.technip.com](http://www.technip.com)

## About AREG

- AREG, established in 2001, aims to ensure that Aberdeen City and Shire and its businesses play a major role in the renewable energy revolution through initiating and delivering key renewable projects, working with member companies to identify and promote opportunities.
- Since the beginning of 2010, membership has grown to almost 160 members which include a strong cast of oil and gas majors, technology developers, service, engineering, training, accreditation companies, four local authorities, development agencies and trade associations.
- The membership also spans every sector of renewable energy including professional services, oil and gas as well as wind, marine and hydro, bio, solar, geothermal energy and hydrogen fuel cells.
- For more information on AREG please go to : <http://www.aberdeenrenewables.com>

## PROJECT CONTACT DETAILS

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