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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RCG supports EMEC to explore Franco-Scottish wind/hydrogen collaboration

Glasgow, Scotland – 9th February 2021 - Following a competitive tender, The Scottish Government has awarded the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) a contract to explore opportunities for floating offshore wind and hydrogen supply chains in Scotland and France.

EMEC will partner with French engineering firm INNOSEA and London-based Renewables Consulting Group (RCG) to carry out research to understand the technical status of floating wind and hydrogen in Scotland and France and identify ways that collaboration can be encouraged to address challenges of mutual interest.



Floating wind and hydrogen technologies are central to energy decarbonisation strategies in both countries and internationally, collaborative research and development activity can identify new engineering solutions to increase the competitiveness of these technologies.

Towards this aim, the project consortium will evaluate the technical status of the floating wind and hydrogen production components and systems under development, accounting for the impacts of the policy context and innovation programme landscape in the two nations.

The consortium is also tasked with engaging directly with floating wind and hydrogen supply chain companies to seek feedback on existing collaboration successes as well as identify opportunities to facilitate further joined up thinking and cross-border activity.

This spring, the consortium will hold four virtual reflective workshops with French and Scottish industry stakeholders to understand their experiences of international collaboration as well as gather feedback on how future Franco-Scottish collaborative activities can be best supported.

The consortium is especially keen to hear from equipment manufacturers (OEMs), installers, project developers, project designers, trade associations and regional development agencies. Interested parties are encouraged to contact EMEC's Hydrogen Development Manager, Dr James Walker (james.walker@emec.org.uk), to state their interest in being involved.

The findings of this project will be published in a final report in summer 2021 ahead of COP26 which is set to take place in Glasgow in November 2021.

Paul Wheelhouse, Scotland's Energy Minister said:

“Scotland's Energy Strategy recognises the importance of working with international partners to better understand our transition to a net zero economy and energy system. In the run-up to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change conference (COP26) in Glasgow later this year, we have an opportunity to increase public awareness around the climate emergency we all face.

“This project, which sees collaboration between Scotland and our friends in France, is in line with our international energy engagement priorities for both hydrogen and offshore wind and will help to support our efforts to develop new renewable energy solutions. I very much look forward to seeing its outcomes and to utilising its findings to inform further evolution of our energy policy as we ramp up our ambition and seek to harness exciting new opportunities as we expand offshore wind in Scotland.”

Within the project consortium, EMEC bring extensive marine energy and hydrogen expertise and are well connected in the relevant Scottish supply chains. INNOSEA bring a strong French perspective to this research project and have worked with EMEC previously to support marine energy developers in Scotland, France and further afield to identify new opportunities, especially in hydrogen. RCG are leaders in floating wind and will lead in this project on the stakeholder engagement aspects, working to collate feedback from industry partners.

Dr James Walker, Hydrogen Development Manager at EMEC, said:

“International collaboration and dissemination of lessons learned in innovation are integral to seeing progress in the development of floating wind and hydrogen production technologies. Both are also key aspects of EMEC's work in testing and demonstrating the energy system of the future and we are delighted to be bringing this experience to support delivering this project.

“We look forward to working with INNOSEA and RCG, and to engaging with a broad range of industry stakeholders in Scotland and France to develop recommendations for the Scottish Government on means of best supporting collaborative innovation in these sectors.”

Hakim Mouslim, Chief Executive Officer at INNOSEA, said:

“Working with international partners in the transfer and integration of expertise in different marine renewable sources is very much at the heart of our work at INNOSEA. We understand that achieving our shared goals on climate change goes far beyond traditional thinking on renewable energy. Achieving net zero is a global endeavour, and we are really honoured to join EMEC and the RCG to accelerate learning and innovation in floating wind for green hydrogen production.”

Dan Kyle Spearman, Associate Director and Floating Wind Lead at RCG, said:

“Exploring new engineering solutions for floating wind linked to green hydrogen production is going to be an important innovation for the energy transition. I look forward to working with EMEC and INNOSEA to identify opportunities and challenges. I'm excited to work in this collaboration between industry and government and in particular working with the Scottish and French supply chains to accelerate these promising technologies.”

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Notes for Editors:

The Scottish Government

Further information on the project and the call for tender is available here:

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/show/search_view.aspx?ID=NOV400170

The Scottish Government Office in Paris is part of a network of Scottish Government Offices abroad, whose objectives are to promote innovation and investment and to strengthen cultural and economic links between Scotland and France. Further information here:

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/international-relations/international-offices-paris/>

The 26th UN Climate Change Conference will take place in November 2021, at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) in Glasgow.

More information on Scotland's Energy Strategy can be found here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-energy-strategy-future-energy-scotland-9781788515276/>

About The Renewables Consulting Group

RCG is a specialized expert services firm supporting the global renewable energy sector. From strategy to implementation, the company serves businesses, governments, and non-profits around the world with technical and management consulting services for both mainstream and emerging renewable energy technologies. RCG works with the public sector, private equity and financial services firms, utilities and project developers, equipment manufacturers, and engineering and construction companies for on- and off-shore wind, solar, and emerging technologies including wave and tidal and energy-storage projects. RCG is headquartered in London, and has offices in New York, Tokyo and elsewhere. For more information, visit our website at www.thinkrcg.com or connect with us on Twitter via @thinkrcg

About EMEC:

Established in 2003, EMEC is the world's leading facility for testing wave and tidal energy converters in real sea conditions. The centre offers independent, accredited grid-connected test berths for full-scale prototypes, as well as test sites in less challenging conditions for use by smaller scale technologies, supply chain companies, and equipment manufacturers.

The organisation is committed to supporting the transition to net zero and has expanded activities into new sectors including green hydrogen, energy systems and floating wind.

EMEC achieved a world first in 2017, generating hydrogen using tidal power for the first time.

Using Orkney's renewable energy to produce green hydrogen, EMEC is a partner in a growing number of innovative energy systems and hydrogen demonstration projects, driving the development of the local hydrogen economy working alongside global stakeholders to decarbonise power, heat and transport.

www.emec.org.uk/hydrogen

About INNOSEA:

INNOSEA, part of AqualisBraemar LOC Group, brings a rich portfolio of specialized engineering services for offshore renewable energy projects. One of the key assets of INNOSEA is its vast track-record of services provided to a wide variety of technologies or projects developers globally. INNOSEA track-record covers fixed and floating wind energy, Solar PV, tidal energy, wave energy, OTEC, Blue or Green Hydrogen projects, as well as sea-related energy storage projects.

INNOSEA provides consulting, market advisory and engineering services to the marine renewables industry with a particular focus on development of net-0 Carbon technologies including the use of various sources of renewable energies towards production of electricity or gas power.

www.innosea.fr

www.aqualisbraemar.com

Media Contacts

RCG:

Sarah Wood
Principal
sarah.wood@thinkrcg.com
+44 (0)300 303 3061

Mark Del Franco
Head of Communications
mark.delfranco@thinkrcg.com
1 475-209-0943

EMEC:

Caron Oag
Hydrogen Marketing Officer, EMEC
caron.oag@emec.org.uk
+44 (0)1856 852219