

PRESS RELEASE
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Franco-Scottish research to drive floating wind and hydrogen in Europe

The European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) and partners have delivered a report outlining a series of recommendations for the Scottish Government to facilitate research collaborations between Scottish and French organisations working in floating wind and hydrogen.

Published by The Scottish Government today, the report produced by EMEC in partnership with French engineering firm INNOSEA and London-based The Renewables Consulting Group (RCG), part of ERM, explores the technical innovation status of both floating wind and hydrogen supply chains in Scotland and in France.

This study was motivated by the recognition of shared priorities in Scotland and in France. Floating wind and hydrogen technologies are integral to evolving energy decarbonisation strategies in both countries due to shared geographical characteristics and energy system contexts, suggesting that there are opportunities both for growth, and specifically for Franco-Scottish collaboration in these sectors.

The report identifies shared technical and innovation challenges in the supply chain, including the need to develop port infrastructure and offshore working practices, as well as further research and development in materials and components for both floating wind and hydrogen systems. Opportunities and research needs associated with the integration of floating offshore wind and hydrogen systems in the future are also laid out in the report, noting that it is currently unclear whether hydrogen production facilities would best be located on or offshore if powered by floating wind.

Research conducted for the report was bolstered by direct engagement with supply chain stakeholders in both Scotland and France, including technology providers, infrastructure operators, project developers, policy makers, academics and enterprise agencies.

Stakeholders took part in a series of online workshops, interviews and questionnaires, where they shared views on continuing research needs for hydrogen and floating wind technologies, and the best means of supporting collaborative working between Scottish and French organisations. The sessions highlighted significant appetite from supply chain organisations in both countries to explore future collaborative demonstration projects with these technologies.

As a result of constructive engagement with French organisations in the Brittany and Occitanie regions, the report recommends that the Scottish Government seek to facilitate knowledge exchange and relationship building activities between Scotland and organisations in those regions. Establishing a research and development platform involving organisations in Scotland, Brittany and Occitanie is a further recommendation to support collaborative innovation activity to help resolve the shared technical challenges identified.

The full findings of this project report and the recommendations made to the Scottish Government have been published today, ahead of COP26 which is set to take place in Glasgow in November 2021.

Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport said:

“Scotland has some of the best wind resource in the world, and floating offshore wind will play an important role in supporting our just transition to becoming a net zero economy by 2045 – not just for its contribution to clean electricity generation, but as a key driver of the developing hydrogen economy in Scotland.

“We will continue to maximise opportunities in new innovations and emerging technologies, including in the integration of these two important sectors, which is why I am pleased to see the outcome of this collaborative project and its recommendations. Strong international partnerships will be critical to developing Scotland's hydrogen economy and delivering our net zero objectives. I look forward to further collaboration between France and Scotland in the continued development of this work.”

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

“In delivering this project, we had many fruitful discussions with organisations from across the full floating wind and hydrogen value chains in Scotland and in France. All of those discussions underscored the significant upcoming opportunities for organisations in both countries to work together, and the many exciting research questions which we can busy ourselves in answering.

“We are immensely grateful to all those who have supported this project through participating in our various engagement activities.”

Hakim Mouslim, Chief Executive Officer at INNOSEA, said:

“We are really pleased to have participated in this important Franco-Scottish collaboration. The findings of this project represent a turning point in unlocking opportunity ahead in the floating wind and hydrogen value chains of our two countries, in particular regarding innovation activities and de-risking supply chain for the integration of these technologies.

“This in turn, lays the initial foundations of a roadmap for collaborative innovation of floating wind power for green hydrogen production, that is both scalable and competitive – potentially a game-changer in our race to net-zero.”

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

“Hydrogen from floating wind will be a key vector for deep decarbonisation of industries globally. In our report, we've outlined recommendations on how Franco-Scottish partnerships can be leveraged to accelerate the commercialisation of these technologies. We are grateful to have been involved in a successful collaboration between Scottish Government and industry, as well as our partners EMEC and INNOSEA, and we're excited for the future opportunities in this sector.”

The full report is available for download from The Scottish Government website:
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/fostering-future-scottish-french-research-development-collaboration-floating-wind-green-hydrogen/>

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Editors notes:

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.abl-group.com

About The Renewables Consulting Group (RCG):

RCG, part of the ERM Group, 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

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