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OpenHydro secures Japanese tidal turbine contract

OpenHydro, a DCNS company, is part of a consortium which has been selected by the Japanese Ministry of the Environment to supply a tidal turbine system for installation at Naru Strait, Goto City, Nagasaki Prefecture.

The consortium includes Kyuden Mirai Energy Co., Inc, Nippon Steel & Sumikin Engineering Co., Ltd. and NPO Nagasaki Marine Industry Cluster Promotion Association.

Site surveys will commence later this year, with procurement activities, fabrication and cable laying scheduled to start in 2017. The 2MW Open-Centre Turbine unit will be built in France and shipped to Japan. The subsea base will be manufactured locally by Nippon Steel & Sumikin Engineering Co., Ltd. who will also be responsible for all mobilisation and deployment activities.

The turbine is planned for deployment in 2018 and will be subsequently connected to the grid. During the first year of operation, intensive tests will be conducted, the results of which will provide a reference for the build-out of commercial scale tidal arrays in Japan.

OpenHydro has incorporated OpenHydro Technology Japan, to manage and oversee the delivery of this demonstration project. It will also lead development activities in relation to future commercial scale schemes.

James Ives, OpenHydro, Chief Executive, said: "This 16-metre turbine will be the first commercial-scale tidal device to be deployed in Japanese waters. Through this demonstration project we will work with our Consortium partners to foster local skills and expertise. In future, we will manufacture devices for commercial scale arrays in Japan, underlining again the potential of the industry to create jobs and economic benefit where significant tidal resource is available. As such, this test device is an essential step in the development of a tidal industry in Japan."

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For more information, please contact: OpenHydro press office on 00353 (0) 4293 84355 or
00353 (0) 877 972 660 - pressoffice@openhydro.com

1. About OpenHydro

OpenHydro is a DCNS company specialising in the design, manufacture and installation of marine turbines generating renewable energy from tidal streams. The company's vision is to deploy turbine arrays under the surface of the oceans to produce energy silently, invisibly and with no impact on the environment. OpenHydro has achieved a number of industry firsts including being the first to deploy a tidal turbine at the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC), the first to connect to and generate electricity from tidal streams onto the UK National Grid and the first to successfully demonstrate a method of safely and economically deploying and recovering turbines directly on the seabed. The deployment and recovery method delivers a step change in the economics of tidal energy. OpenHydro has a project portfolio spanning Canada, France, Northern Ireland, Scotland and the Channel Islands with utility partners including Emera, EDF, Brookfield Renewable Energy Group, SSE Renewables and Alderney Renewable Energy. OpenHydro has won a number of awards for its innovations in the field of renewable energy technology.

2. About DCNS

DCNS is the European leader in naval defense and a major player in renewable marine energy. It is a high-tech company with a global reach built on meeting the needs of its customers through its unique expertise, unique industrial resources and ability to mount innovative strategic partnerships. The Group designs, builds and supports the service of submarines and surface ships. It also provides services for naval shipyards and bases. The Group offers a wide range of solutions in renewable marine energy. Attentive to social responsibility issues, DCNS is a member of the UN Global Compact. The Group achieved a turnover of 3.04 billion Euros and has 12,953 employees (data 2015).

3. About Nagasaki Marine Industry Cluster Promotion Association

NaMICPA, or Nagasaki Marine Industry Cluster Promotion Association, was established in 2014 in order to make Nagasaki a centre for the marine renewable energy industry in Japan. It is an association of 55 local companies. It aims to provide support to enable companies in Nagasaki to enter the marine renewable energy field and to help local companies develop in this business sector. It also helps facilitate research and development at companies that belong to this industrial cluster.

4. About Kyuden Mirai Energy

Kyuden Mirai Energy Co., Inc. is an owner and operator of various type of renewable energy power plants in Japan, including solar, wind, biomass and geothermal - having current assets over 120MW from renewable resources. The company's target is to increase its renewable assets up to 700MW by 2023. In order to achieve such target, it is exploring wide range of solution in Japan and overseas. Kyuden Mirai Energy Co., Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Kyushu Electric Power Co., Inc., which is a one of Japan's major electricity utility companies.

5. About Nippon Steel & Sumikin Engineering Co., Ltd

In July 2006, Nippon Steel & Sumikin Engineering Co., Ltd (NSENGI) became an independent company, blessed with a fine pedigree of steel manufacturing, construction planning and knowhow, cultivated under the reassuring wings of Nippon Steel.

NSENGI has built a wide variety of coastal steel structures employing advanced technologies, honed through our expertise in fabricating and installing offshore structures, acquired in overseas energy resource development projects