

July 6, 2010

OpenHydro awarded £1.85 million grant to further technology innovation

Tidal renewable energy company OpenHydro, has today welcomed the announcement that it has been awarded a grant of up to £1.85 million from Scotland's WATERS fund (Wave and Tidal Energy: Research, Development and Demonstration Support) to help develop emerging energy technologies and improve the operation of marine renewable devices. The grant will be used by OpenHydro to design, develop, manufacture and test a cost effective power conversion and control system for connecting arrays of tidal turbines to the electricity grid.

The £15 million WATERS fund is a collaboration between the Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise with support from European Regional Development Funds. OpenHydro is among five marine energy companies who have been successful in being awarded a share of the funding available.

Speaking following the announcement of the grants awarded, Scotland's Energy Minister, Jim Mather said: "Our seas have unrivalled potential to generate clean, green energy and bring jobs, investment and know how to Scotland. We have a quarter of Europe's potential tidal energy resource and a tenth of the wave capacity – a resource already drawing developers and innovators to Scotland's seas as we have seen with planned activity in the Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters.

"This funding is another step on the road to a low carbon Scotland that maximises its resources for a sustainable future. Initial costs for marine energy are high and capital is needed – these grants will help attract further private investment. Our support will ensure a continuous stream of ideas and technologies can be tested, developed and refined at our world class testing centre on Orkney and elsewhere around Scotland."

Commenting on the grant award, James Ives, chief executive at OpenHydro said: "We are delighted to be awarded this grant. We are very excited and confident that following completion of the project, we will have successfully demonstrated an economic and efficient method of grid connecting and controlling large scale commercial tidal arrays." He added: "On behalf of all my colleagues at OpenHydro, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Scottish Government and Energy Minister Jim Mather in particular, together with the team from Scottish Enterprise and

Highlands and Islands Enterprise, directly involved in the WATERS Fund for all the support provided to OpenHydro.”

Earlier this year, OpenHydro, in conjunction with SSE Renewables, was awarded licence rights by The Crown Estate in the UK to develop a major 200MW tidal farm in the Pentland Firth, off the northern coast of Scotland.

-ends-

About OpenHydro

OpenHydro is an Irish energy technology company whose business is the design and manufacture of marine turbines for generating renewable energy from tidal streams. The company's vision is to deploy arrays of tidal turbines under the world's oceans, silently and invisibly generating electricity at no cost to 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 turbines directly on the seabed. The deployment method uses a custom built heavy lift barge designed by OpenHydro specifically for deploying tidal turbines which delivers a step change in the economics of tidal energy.

OpenHydro has a project portfolio spanning the USA, Canada, France and the Channel Islands with utility partners including EDF and Nova Scotia Power. OpenHydro has won a number of awards for its innovations in the field of renewable energy technology. For further information please visit www.openhydro.com

Media contact:

Frans Van Cauwelaert
OpenHydro
+353-1-669 0155
Cell: +353-1-087 947 6743
frans.vancauwelaert@ogilvy.com