



News from Pulse Tidal.

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DTI Backs £1.7M Humber Tidal Stream Energy Test Project - Latest Success for South Yorkshire's LIFE-IC Cluster

The DTI is to announce (10am Wednesday 8 February) that it is to co-fund the development of a new tidal stream energy project designed to harness power from the sea and convert it to electricity. The £1.7million project is being carried out by a consortium on behalf of Hull-based start-up company, Pulse Tidal, part of South Yorkshire's LIFE cluster of emerging energy technology companies.

The DTI grant of £878,000 will be added to contributions from the consortium of companies which together have the specialist skills to develop the technology through prototype testing to commercial product.

This first stage, which has attracted the DTI funding, will enable Pulse Tidal to test the system and prove its efficiency in a two year project.

The 1/5th scaled generator device, called the Pulse Stream 100 (see illustration below), will be sited in the Humber in 2007. It will capture some of the vast energy in the tides that flow up and down the estuary twice daily and convert this to electricity to be fed back to the shore.

The system will use high-performance hydrofoils similar to aeroplane wings which move up and down like the tails of swimming whales in order to take energy from tidal stream currents.

Unlike other planned devices, the Pulse Stream 100 can operate in the shallow waters of estuaries where the tides tend to be strongest. Since the strong, shallow flows are near to shore, the system promises to deliver cheap power close to areas of high demand.

This small tidal pulse device, not much bigger than a car, will sit in only 5 metres of water and will produce 100kW of power, enough electricity to power up to 70 homes.

Pulse Joint MD, Howard Nimmo says: "Tidal stream power is set to play a major part in meeting the UK's future energy needs. This DTI support enables us to properly analyse the device working in real conditions, where we hope we can replicate the excellent results obtained in recent tank tests at the University of Hull."

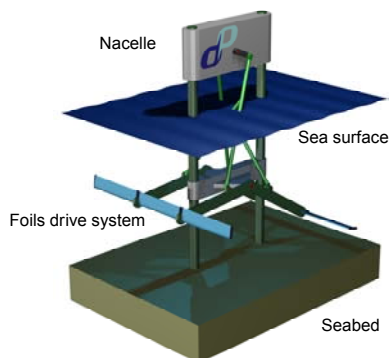
Philip Johnson, chief executive of the South Yorkshire-based LIFE cluster, says: "Tidal power has everything we need from our future energy resources: safe, clean, renewable and entirely predictable."

"Pulse is typical of the companies involved in the LIFE-IC project, with a commitment to bring renewable energy products to a rapidly-expanding market which, for tidal power, could be as worth as much as £10 billion in the UK alone."

Pulse Tidal is a key member of the LIFE project in South Yorkshire, the world's first business cluster programme dedicated to the development of renewable energy technology. The project team comprises the following partners:

- IT Power - the co-ordinators of the project and leading developer of marine and other renewable energy technologies
- BMT Renewables - specialists in engineering, design and risk management support to the renewable energy sector
- CIC Omec - suppliers of heavy engineering services to the energy industry
- Econnect - specialists in innovating solutions for the grid integration of renewable energy
- The University of Hull - international leaders in environmental and marine renewable research
- LIFE industrial cluster - bringing funding, marketing and management expertise to start-up companies

Ends



Pulse Stream 100 concept due for installation in early 2007