

Crown Estate Scotland Extends Nova's Shetland Seabed Lease to Support Tidal Project Growth

Tidal energy leader Nova Innovation has secured an extension of its seabed lease at the Shetland Tidal Array.

Crown Estate Scotland has granted an extension to Nova's existing seabed lease at Bluemull Sound in Shetland, increasing the capacity of the site lease from 0.5MW to 2MW. The extension will also see the current lease period extend until 2041.

The lease extension builds on the successful operation of Nova's Bluemull Sound turbines over the last two years. In 2016, the Shetland Tidal Array became the world's first offshore tidal energy array, delivered with over 80% supply chain content from Scotland.

The extension of the Bluemull Sound Lease provides opportunities for further deployment of turbines as part of a larger array and creates the prospect of a longer-term operation in Shetland. The next phase involves the installation of an additional three turbines by 2020, under the *EnFAIT* project: a flagship European tidal energy technology initiative led by Nova, in a consortium of nine leading industrial, academic and research organisations from across Europe.

Patrick Ross-Smith, Shetland Manager for Nova Innovation, said:

"We see this as a big vote of confidence from Crown Estate Scotland for tidal energy. The experience and data we have developed from deploying and operating the turbines in the world's first offshore tidal energy array are helping us to optimise our technology and processes. This lease extension paves the way for expanding the array, using the next generation of Nova turbines: further driving down the costs of this clean and predictable source of renewable energy."

Mark McKean, Development Manager for Crown Estate Scotland, commented:

"We've watched the development of Nova Innovation's Bluemull Sound site with interest and are really pleased to be able to support further growth of this project with this lease extension. With their ongoing work to further enhance the technology to be utilised at the Shetland site, Nova is demonstrating that tidal energy projects are truly coming of age. During the last 12 months we have witnessed a significant upturn in tidal energy deployments within Scottish waters and Nova's existing operations at Bluemull Sound have added to that. We look forward to seeing further progress at this site and benefits for the local supply chain in the coming years."

-ENDS-

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About Nova Innovation – www.novainnovation.com

Nova Innovation is a world-leading tidal energy company. Based in Edinburgh and founded in 2010, Nova has grown rapidly over the last few years: now employing over 30 staff. In 2013, Ian Marchant joined the company as Chairman; Ian is former CEO of Scottish and Southern Energy, one of the UK's largest utility companies.

In 2016, Nova was the first company in the world to successfully deliver an offshore tidal energy project.

Nova has gone from strength to strength and has won a number of large European contracts over the last 18 months. Recent recognition includes winning the Judges Award at the Scottish Green Energy Awards.

The technology needed to generate clean, predictable and affordable electricity using the ebb and flow of tides is rapidly developing, and there is growing worldwide interest in this emerging renewable energy sector. Nova designs, builds and operates tidal energy devices, and we develop sites for arrays of tidal turbines. Our aim is to be the world's leading tidal energy technology company. Drawing on past lessons from the wind power sector, we strongly believe that the way to achieve this is to demonstrate commercial devices at a small (sub-megawatt) scale, then scale up in size as the technology is proven: start small, think big, move fast.

About Crown Estate Scotland

Crown Estate Scotland manages land and property on behalf of Scottish Ministers. Through working with others, the organisation aims to innovate with land and property to create prosperity for Scotland and its communities. All revenue profit is returned to the Scottish Government.

The organisation manages:

- 37,000 hectares of rural land with agricultural tenancies, residential and commercial properties and forestry on four rural estates (Glenlivet, Fochabers, Applegirth and Whitehill)
- Rights to fish wild salmon and sea trout in river and coastal areas
- Rights to naturally-occurring gold and silver across most of Scotland
- Just under half the foreshore around Scotland including 5,800 moorings and some ports and harbours
- Leasing of virtually all seabed out to 12 nautical miles covering some 750 fish farming sites and agreements with cables & pipeline operators
- The rights to offshore renewable energy and gas and carbon dioxide storage out to 200 nautical miles

- Retail and office units at 39-41 George Street Edinburgh

Crown Estate Scotland is a public corporation which manages the assets on an interim basis until new legislation sets out permanent arrangements.