**NOVA & ELSA THIRD TURBINE DEPLOYED IN SHETLAND TIDAL ARRAY - A WORLD SHOWCASE FOR SCOTTISH RENEWABLE INNOVATION**

Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy, will today (Thursday 23rd February) announce that Scottish tidal energy leader Nova Innovation has successfully deployed a third turbine at the Shetland Tidal Array.

The announcement will be made at the Renewable UK 13th Annual Wave & Tidal Conference & Exhibition at the QEII Conference Centre, London.

The Shetland Tidal Array is the world’s first grid-connected offshore tidal array. Edinburgh-headquartered Nova Innovation installed the first Nova M100 turbine in the Bluemull Sound in March 2016, the second in August 2016, with the third going live in February 2017.

The project is a collaborative partnership with Belgian renewable energy leader ELSA, who provided project management expertise and operational input, as well as financial support. The partnership has delivered a world-leading project that showcases the best in pan-European co-operation.

The Shetland Tidal Array has 100% EU content and has been delivered with over 80% Scottish supply chain input, demonstrating Nova’s commitment to local supply chain and industrial strategy engagement.

The project has been highlighted as best practice in the delivery of an offshore tidal array; from conceptualisation, through to delivery. The deployment was seamless at all stages despite operations taking place in a hostile weather environment. The complete onshore and offshore system was installed in under 6 days, during mid-winter, in a diver-less operation – showcasing Nova’s ‘plug and play’ technology. The latest works have demonstrated massive cost reductions beyond the previous best in the industry, driving the industry towards commercialisation.

Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy, Paul Wheelhouse said:

“Tidal energy has great potential to further contribute to Scotland’s energy supply and is already having a positive impact on the Scottish economy, bringing innovation, inward investment and skilled jobs.

“Today’s announcement is another landmark development in Scotland and an excellent example of EU partner collaboration. Nova Innovation’s technology and ELSA’s project management expertise have delivered transformational change in this exciting growth sector.

“We have committed grant and loan funding to Nova Innovation and I am therefore very pleased to see that our investment is delivering tangible results.  I very warmly welcome the commitment from Nova Innovation to support the local supply chain by building a project with extremely high levels of Scottish input.”

Simon Forrest, Chief Executive Officer, Nova Innovation said: “I welcome the Minister’s positive comments. The team is immensely proud to have deployed and successfully operated the first offshore tidal array in the world. Not only is this a ground-breaking achievement for Nova and our partners, but it marks Scotland out as a leader in marine energy.”

He added: “We are in discussions with partners in a number of export markets and are very much looking forward to establishing tidal energy as a long-term source of clean, green, predictable renewable energy.”

Since its inception in 2010, Nova Innovation has been at the forefront of tidal energy technology development. This further announcement reaffirms Nova and ELSA’s position as market leaders in the sector.

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**Notes to Editors**

NB: high resolution imagery is available to accompany this release.

Scottish Enterprise has supported Nova Innovation with a combination of grant funding and commercial investment.  Investment is provided through the Renewable Energy Investment Fund, which was launched in October 2012 and is delivered by the Scottish Investment Bank, the investment arm of Scottish Enterprise, on behalf of the Scottish Government and its enterprise agencies.

**About Nova Innovation –** [www.novainnovation.com](http://www.novainnovation.com)

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. The UK is at the forefront of developments in tidal energy, and Nova Innovation is a leading industry player headquartered in Edinburgh.

Nova designs, builds and operates tidal energy devices, and develops sites for arrays of tidal turbines.

Founded in 2010, Nova has grown rapidly over the last few years: now employing over 20 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. The strength of the team and Nova’s capability are demonstrated by the successful deployment of the world’s first offshore tidal array in Shetland: in recognition of which Nova won the Judges Award at the Scottish Green Energy Awards 2016.

In addition to further UK opportunities, Nova has received interest from around the world for its technology, including South America, Asia, France and Canada. Along with recent substantial project funding wins, this promises an exciting future for the company.

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