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EU flagship tidal energy project gets green light for next stages of delivery

The €20 million flagship EU tidal energy project, *Enabling Future Arrays in Tidal* (EnFAIT), has received approval from the European Commission to proceed to its next stage after a very successful first full year of design development and operations.

The project, led by Edinburgh-based Nova Innovation in collaboration with eight European partner organisations, aims to prove that the reliability and availability of tidal energy arrays can be significantly increased and that the cost of tidal energy can be reduced by at least 40%. The project builds on Nova's existing operational tidal power station in Bluemull Sound off the Shetland Islands in Scotland, which was the world's first grid-connected offshore array of tidal energy turbines.

Key highlights of the project's first year have included re-instrumenting the existing three turbines to collect improved performance data, extensive tidal resource monitoring activities to build up a detailed understanding of the array site and its characteristics, gaining the necessary site consents and permissions for the planned expansion of the array to six turbines, and developing and verifying detailed designs for the new turbines and their subsea connections.

The European Commission's approval for the project to progress on to its next stages follows a 'go/no go' gateway review by three independent technical experts, to confirm that the project has progressed as planned and put in place the key ingredients for success.

Simon Forrest, Nova Innovation's Chief Executive Officer, said: "This decision from the EU is a huge vote of confidence, not just in the EnFAIT project, but in the future of the European tidal energy industry.

"Working with our partners, we've made significant progress in Year 1 in putting in place the project's operational and technical foundations, and we are extremely excited to be moving into the next stages, in which we'll focus on scaling up and optimising the array configuration.

"I'd like to thank our consortium partners and the European Commission for their continued support for this truly ground-breaking project that represents a major step change in the development of the European tidal energy sector."

Over the next four years, the EnFAIT project will extend the Bluemull Sound array to six turbines and demonstrate that high array reliability and availability can be achieved using best practice maintenance regimes. The layout of the turbines will be adjusted to enable array interactions and optimisation to be studied for the very first time at an operational tidal energy site.

Ends

About the Enabling Future Arrays in Tidal (EnFAIT) Project – www.enfait.eu

The EnFAIT Project was awarded under call LCE-15-2016 'Scaling up in the ocean energy sector to arrays', from the EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (2013/743/EU) to develop marine energy sources and demonstrate technologies in European waters.

About Nova Innovation – www.novainnovation.com

Nova Innovation is a leading tidal energy industry player headquartered in Edinburgh, Scotland.

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. It also develops sites for arrays of these tidal turbines.

Founded in 2010, Nova has grown rapidly over the last few years: it now employs over 30 staff. 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](#). It was in recognition of this that Nova won the Judges Award at the Scottish Green Energy Awards 2016.

In addition to further UK opportunities, Nova is developing projects in Canada, France and South East Asia. Along with recent substantial project funding wins, this promises an exciting future for the company.

The EnFAIT Consortium

The consortium includes the following nine partner organisations:

- *Nova Innovation (UK)* - world-leading tidal technology specialist.
- *ELSA (Belgium)* - renewable energy project developer.
- *ORE Catapult (UK)* – UK's flagship technology innovation and research centre for advancing wind, wave and tidal energy.
- *HMK Technical Services Ltd (UK)* - the largest Integrated Drive Systems provider in the UK.
- *SKF GmbH (Germany)* – expert in the simulation and delivery of bearing and sealing solutions, with extensive experience with tidal energy companies in developing a range of solutions for tidal stream turbines.
- *The University of Edinburgh (UK)* - world leaders in marine renewable energy systems, electrical power conversion, grid integration, and the inter-disciplinary assessment and socio-economic modelling of energy systems.
- *Wood (France)* - world leader in offshore technologies and renewables having assessed over 160 GW of renewable energy developments internationally. Decades of experience in assessing and verifying renewable technologies.
- *James Fisher Marine Services (UK) (formerly Mojo Maritime Ltd)* - specialist in project management, engineering and consultancy services for the marine renewables industry.
- *RSK Environment (France)* - leading multidisciplinary environmental consultancy.

About the EU Horizon 2020 Programme

Horizon 2020 is the largest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020). The goal of the programme is to ensure that Europe produces world-class science, removes barriers to innovation and makes it easier for the public and private sectors in creating innovation.

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