

23/02/2016

Normandy joins the International Conference on Ocean Energy in Scotland as French leader region of MRE (Marine Renewable Energy)

Following up on the last three editions, Normandy will exhibit during the International Conference on Ocean Energy (ICOE) this year held in Edinburgh from February 23th to 25th.

First Ireland in 2012, then Canada in 2014, this worldwide renowned MRE conference will this year be held in Scotland. The whole MRE sector will take part in ICOE to discuss MRE major development stakes throughout the whole exhibition and during the numerous seminars and workshops.

The meeting will gather about 900 delegates and 125 exhibitors from 25 different countries.

Due to its incredible potential, **Normandy is a major stakeholder for the development of MRE in Europe.** For that very purpose it will ensure a strong presence on ICOE with exhibitions and speeches.

The whole sector is under pressure in the context of very low oil & gas prices. **In these circumstances, how could new and emerging technologies - such as tidal and wave energy converters- continue their growth? This is one of the questions WNME intends to address, standing at its important Europeans partners' side, Ireland and Scotland.**

West Normandy Marine Energy's delegation is led by Valérie Nouvel, department of Manche vice president.

Normandy, where MRE is harnessed

With three offshore wind farms and the first commercially available site for tidal energy generation (Raz Blanchard, 5,000 MW), Normandy is a major global actor in the MRE field and becomes the first French territory for marine renewables.

a/ The first tidal potential for commercial operations

The Alderney Race, or so-called Raz Blanchard, is one of the most powerful tidal streams in the world, and is located off Normandy's coastline. It also is closely located to harbor facilities, able to welcome heavy industries. Besides, it is close to a powerful transmission grid that can carry 2,500 MW.

This extraordinary combination does not exist anywhere else in the world. It confers the Raz Blanchard an immediate ability to become a commercial site for tidal energy generation.

b/ Three offshore wind farms: three industrial projects reaching a total capacity of 1.5 GW

- Courseulles-sur-Mer led by EMF (EDF EN/DONG/WPD/General Electric),
- Fécamp led by EMF (EDF EN/DONG/WPD/General Electric),
- Dieppe - Le Tréport led by « Eoliennes en mer de Dieppe –Le Tréport » consortium (ENGIE, EDP Renewables and Neoen Marine).

Normandy, with its three wind farms, is about to become the French territory with the highest offshore wind installed capacity.

c/ The dynamics of regional stakeholders, with West Normandy Marine Energy

Faced with the development of MREs and with the challenges of the sectors, the Normandy Region, the Manche Department and Cherbourg en Cotentin decided to develop an organization that would serve as the one-stop shop for all major customers, and would be able to coordinate the actions of stakeholders in the region to be translated into a global strategy.

WNME builds relationships with companies involved in MREs, as well as players in research and innovation, outsourcing, human resources & training. It ensures the adaptation of port infrastructures in connection with Ports Normands Associés.

About :

West Normandy Marine Energy (WNME) is a local public company founded in 2012 by the Normandy Region, the Manche Department and Cherbourg en Cotentin. WNME structures and develops the MRE sector in Normandy in close collaboration with major contractors and all the actors involved in the associated supply chain, R&D, education and training.

WNME participates actively in the development of MRE markets taking part in major national and international networks of MRE.

Normandy benefits from numerous advantages for the development of offshore wind and tidal energies, with :

- Three offshore wind farms in Courseulles-sur-mer (450MW), in Fécamp (498 MW) and in Dieppe-Le Tréport (496 MW),
- The world's first tidal potential for commercial use, located in the Alderney Race (Raz Blanchard, 5,000MW),
- Five large industrial ports: Cherbourg, Le Havre, Caen-Ouistreham, Dieppe and Fécamp.
- A research network dedicated to MRE, called GREENMAR, gathering 21 research centers and laboratories,
- 150 MSMEs with recognized expertise in the MRE field.

Media Contact : Laure Lethimonnier – l.lethimonnier@spl-onem.fr – +33 (0)6 74 84 24 40