

## Marine Renewable Energies – European FORESEA PROGRAMME

# SEM-REV to host two new technologies in 2017

November 8, 2016

**On November 8, the European FORESEA (Funding Ocean Renewable Energy through Strategic European Action) Programme has awarded a ‘Recommendation for Support’ to ten ocean energy technology developers. The support will help commercialise these technologies by providing free access to open-sea test centres. Among the awarded companies, Geps Techno and Pytheas Technology are to test their technologies at the SEM-REV test site, operated by Centrale Nantes. With the launch of the wind turbine FLOATGEN project, these two projects mark the excellent start taken by SEM-REV, a test site at sea unique in Europe, strongly funded by the Pays de la Loire Region.**

Tests in open-sea conditions are a critical stage in validating a technology but they require significant levels of investment. The FORESEA project addresses in a very concrete manner this challenge providing access to open-sea test centres (up to 60% of testing costs funded). Any low carbon energy technology deployable at the FORESEA consortia test centres is eligible. This includes ocean energy devices, sub-components, sensors (device-related and resource-related), supply chain products, processes and services.



The Pays de la Loire region is among the European leading territories for testing facilities dedicated to marine renewable energies. It is therefore very logical that SEM-REV is participating in this project alongside other European test sites on the international North Atlantic facade: EMEC in Scotland, Smart Bay in Ireland, Tidal Testing Center in the Netherlands

*“The Region is supporting the sector by funding leading-edge test infrastructures such as the SEM-REV,”* said Bruno Retailleau, President of the French region Pays de la Loire and President of the Atlantic Arc Commission of CPMR. *The FORESEA project demonstrates that the European Union foster these bottom-up developments by supporting R&D projects and facilitating commercialisation. Congratulations to the Centrale Nantes teams, widely recognized at European level, who bear high the colors of the research of the Pays de la Loire!*” concluded Mr Retailleau.

For Christian Berhault, SEM-REV test site Director, *“FORESEA and the selected test projects demonstrate the attractiveness of the SEM-REV site. Today more than ever, the test site at Centrale Nantes is a centerpiece of the MRE sector in Pays de la Loire and a decisive asset for the industrial development of MRE.”*

On November 8, **FORESEA programme has awarded ten ocean energy developers.** Concerning **SEM-REV**, two companies will access the test site:

- Geps Techno : *“We are very proud to obtain this FORESEA award. It will help us finance sea trials on the SEM-REV site and then to reach sea-proven status with a new power range for our technology. Being selected as a promising technology is also a very positive sign for our future investors,”* said Jean-Luc Longeroche, chairman & CEO of Geps Techno – a wave energy powered autonomous platform developer from The Pays de la Loire and recipient of a FORESEA award. It will test in 2017 the prototype wave of the IHES project (18m \* 10m \* 7m high). In addition to demonstrate the technology under operational conditions, the project IHES will enable the development of design tools, including computational models that will optimize tomorrow products. The innovations of this program are hybrid energy storage (batteries and supercapacitors), controlled stabilization, regulation without mechanical sensor .

- Pytheas Technology: the PywEC project aims to develop an innovative generator dedicated to renewable energies (adapted to slow and variable movements) and to test it on the first French wave system installed on the SEM-REV site.

Rémi PASCUAL, Operations Director of Pytheas Technology: *"The FORESEA program allows us to test our generator at sea, on the site of SEM-REV, where many of our partners are implanted. This phase of testing under actual operating conditions is a necessary step maturation of our technology and will allow us to specify a pre-commercial demonstrator at the end of the project."*

SEM-REV is the first European site for multi-technology offshore testing that is connected to the network. It has all the equipment - offshore and on land - to develop, test and improve energy recovery systems (mainly from wind and wave sources). It is operated by Centrale Nantes, with the aim of helping industrialists develop new energy production capacities.

#### SEM—REV offers

The scientific objectives of the experimental site in the field of MRE are as follows:

- Evaluating and improving prototype performance
- Developing components and subsystems
- Analyzing the interaction with the electricity grid
- Defining and implementing environmental impact assessment protocols

SEM-REV will also support initial and in-service training on MRE, particularly for installation, maintenance and dismantling operations.

The Pays de la Loire Regional Agency is a partner of Centrale Nantes in the FORESEA project. As such, the Agency's missions consist of identifying technology developers (complete systems, subsystems, components, logistics solutions, own products, etc.), helping them to find partners in the local supply chain for the testing phase on SEM-REV, and accompanying them in their search for funding for the commercialisation.

#### FORESEA - un deuxième appel à candidatures lancé le 8 novembre

The FORESEA (Funding Ocean Renewable Energy through Strategic European Action) Programme's second call for support package applications was opened on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2016. Support packages will help technologies to commercialise by providing free access to FORESEA's network of world leading test sites.

- EMEC (Orkney Islands, Royaume-Uni)
- SEM-REV (Nantes, France)
- SmartBay (Galway, Irlande) Tidal testing Center (Den Oever, Pays-Bas).

The applicant must be ready to start testing their technology prior to OCT 2018; Preference will be given to technologies available for testing in 2017. This 2nd Call for Applications is open from the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 until the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017, at 17:00 UTC

More informations : <http://www.nweurope.eu/media/1462/foresea-call-text-second-call-for-applications.pdf>

Technologies developers located in the Pays de la Loire interested in this call for applications are invited to contact the Renewable Energies Department of the Pays de la Loire:

Charlotte Sugliani [c.sugliani@agence-paysdelaloire.fr](mailto:c.sugliani@agence-paysdelaloire.fr) - 02 40 48 32 95

#### Press Contact

- L'Agence régionale – Pays de la Loire Territoires d'Innovation :  
 Virginie Priou – [v.priou@agence-paysdelaloire.fr](mailto:v.priou@agence-paysdelaloire.fr) – 02 40 89 89 87
  - Centrale Nantes
- Valérie Chilard – [valerie.chilard@ec-nantes.fr](mailto:valerie.chilard@ec-nantes.fr) - 02 40 37 16 87