



Press Release

Nantes, 23 September 2020

FARWIND receives an award at Start West 2020

Farwind – a startup in the Centrale-Audencia-Ensa incubator - is developing a solution for converting offshore hydroelectric energy into renewable fuel, a project that won the In Extenso prize at the 20th edition of Start West.

Start West assists start-ups seeking financing for their innovative projects, giving them the opportunity to pitch to panel and to interact directly with investors. For its 2020 edition, 26 projects were selected to pitch for funding ranging from €250,000 to €10 million.

FARWIND is a Centrale Nantes spin-off created by Aurélien Babarit, Félix Gorintin and Arnaud Poitou, currently hosted in the Centrale-Audencia-Ensa incubator. FARWIND was awarded the In Extenso prize at Start West 2020, in recognition of the project's ambitions.

The start-up offers a "packaged" solution for the production of clean energy, available on demand. A wind-powered vessel, under which a high-powered tidal turbine is installed, converts the ship's kinetic energy into electricity. Depending on the market of distribution, this electricity is stored on board in batteries or converted into hydrogen or liquid fuel (methanol).

FARWIND vessels are autonomous and operated remotely from a control centre. A single 80m vessel sailing in 15-knot winds produces 1 MW of electricity.

FARWIND is looking for potential investors as part of the current funding round.

About Centrale Nantes

Founded in 1919, Centrale Nantes is a French engineering school and member of the Ecoles Centrale Group. Its undergraduate, Master and PhD programmes are based on the latest scientific and technological developments and the best management practices. At Centrale Nantes, research and training are organised into three key areas for growth and innovation: manufacturing, energy transition and healthcare. With research platforms ranging from digital simulation to prototyping using full scale models and an incubator with 20 years of experience in supporting start-up projects, the school has two major tools for innovation and creation, working hand in hand with industry. Centrale Nantes promotes its teaching and research capabilities at international level through around 100 partnerships with prestigious universities and schools worldwide.

Centrale Nantes welcomes 2,410 students, including 1,440 undergraduate students, 170 Executive Education and ITII degree apprenticeship students, 270 PhD students, 430 Masters students, and 100 Bachelor/Foundation Master students on its 40-acre campus.

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