

Centrale Nantes completes the installation of the Floatgen floating wind turbine anchoring system

July 27, 2017 - **The positioning of the Floatgen mooring system off Le Croisic marks an important step in the progress of this project and paves the way for the installation of the first offshore wind turbine in France.**

The elements of the anchoring system were assembled and installed on the SEM-REV test site, 22 kilometers off Le Croisic.

This very innovative system, developed by the start-up Ideol in collaboration with Centrale Nantes, consists in particular of 6 synthetic mooring lines (nylon) - a first for permanent anchoring of this dimension.

The installation of the mooring system has been completed while the concrete floating foundation is under construction by Bouygues Travaux Publics on the port of Saint-Nazaire. Once equipped with the wind turbine, it will be towed before the end of 2017 to SEM-REV, the first multi-technology sea testing site dedicated to renewable marine energies.

The anchoring system must meet two contradictory challenges:

- Be inexpensive to produce electricity at the best price
- Resist extreme environmental conditions: swell, fooling, storms ...

This system will therefore be the object of a particular attention from the engineers: several research projects are already committed to analyze and improve its performances.

The specialized vessel *Far Sapphire* for anchorages led the operations at sea @CentraleNantes



“One of the FLOATGEN project challenges was to install an innovative mooring system that needs to meet the production conditions criteria of the floating wind turbine. This demonstrates the value of an experimental site to test innovative technological developments, their implementation and project management when in production. Competent and dedicated teams have highly contributed to the success of the operation”, said Christian Berhault, Head of SEM-REV at Centrale Nantes.

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Floatgen

The project began in 2013 bringing together seven partners each with a specific role to play: **Ideol**, design of the entire floating system (foundation, anchoring system and electricity export cable) as well as the wind turbine; **Centrale Nantes**: ocean engineering expertise, provision of the anchoring system and access to its offshore test site; **Bouygues Travaux Publics**: floating foundation construction. It is supported by the European Union as part of the FP7 programme, by the French National Research Agency and the French Environment and Energy Management Agency as part of the national Investments for the Future Programme, and by the Pays de la Loire region. As the **first offshore wind turbine in France**, this project is a precursor to the installation in coming years of first pilot, then commercial, offshore wind farms. It highlights the **potential for local employment creation** linked to the construction of the Ideol floating foundation and the opportunity for France to become a leader in this emerging market of offshore wind power.

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