

Press Info

Centrale Nantes, Ideol and Bouygues Construction Winners of the "Etoiles de l'Europe" 2018 trophy

The Floatgen project, the first offshore wind turbine in France installed on the Centrale Nantes SEM-REV test site, received the "Etoiles de l'Europe" trophy on 5th December from Frédérique Vidal, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. The aim of this trophy is to highlight the French teams that have chosen Europe to develop their research and open up to innovation.

A project that brings together industry and academia: The three partners joined forces and committed their respective know-how. Centrale Nantes has contributed its expertise in ocean engineering and the design of an innovative anchoring system.

A project strongly anchored in the local economy: 80% of tier 1 suppliers are French and almost 20 million euros in orders have been placed with French suppliers.

The wind turbine is installed 20km off the coast from Le Croisic on the Centrale Nantes SEM-REV test site, the first site dedicated to marine renewable energies and connected to the Enedis electricity grid. Floatgen is being tested for an initial period of 2 years, during which time the electricity generated is injected into the French grid. It produces the equivalent of the annual electrical consumption of 5000 people.

The Floatgen project embodies the new generation of offshore wind: floating wind. It allows projects to be developed without depth constraints, i.e., far offshore, without visual impact and where the winds are the strongest. Floatgen bears witness to the reality of this emerging sector in France and the Pays de la Loire region. To date, only four such technologies are being tested around the world.

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.

For more information, visit www.ec-nantes.fr

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