

Further wave and tidal leasing to accelerate technology development

22 May 2013



The Crown Estate has announced plans to lease further wave and tidal sites in a bid to encourage and accelerate technology development.

In line with responses to our recent industry engagement exercise, the leasing will focus on test and demonstration projects to be installed in waters around the UK.

The further leasing adds to the numerous ways that we are supporting industry growth, including the recent announcement that we are considering investing up to £20 million in the UK's first wave and tidal stream array projects.

We are enhancing our approach to leasing wave and tidal sites by introducing two new features.

- **Demonstration zones:** to help the industry focus on the best seabed locations, we are creating new zones for test and demonstration activities. Utilising our specialist knowledge of the UK seabed and working in partnership with statutory marine planning organisations, we are defining zones that offer appropriate wave and tidal energy resources and access to necessary infrastructure, including ports and the electricity grid.
- **Third party management of zones:** once the zones are defined, we plan to invite third party organisations to manage them and sublet areas within the zones for test and demonstration activities. The third party managers may be public or private sector organisations and, before subletting, may choose to undertake preparatory work, such as installing infrastructure to make the zones attractive for use. To ensure the zones are managed sustainably, we plan to include, in the selection criteria, a requirement that interested parties demonstrate a strong understanding of local interests.

Announcing the initiative in Aberdeen at All Energy, the UK's biggest renewable energy event, Huub den Rooijen, Head of Offshore Wind said: "The emerging wave and tidal industry has already taken great strides, but we want to encourage faster progress in technology development and rapid cost reduction. By introducing managed demonstration zones we're offering a key opportunity to other organisations to lend tangible support in their local areas."

The new leasing is planned to commence in September 2013.

In the UK 41 wave and tidal sites have already been leased with a total potential installed capacity of approximately 2 GW. This is the largest development pipeline of wave and tidal projects in the world.

Further information

[Wave and tidal: Working with us](#)

Prior Announcements

[CCS report supports government ambition](#)

16 May 2013

[New wave and tidal knowledge sharing hub launched](#)

24 April 2013

[Offshore Wind Market Study confirms the sector can deliver government's ambition](#)

01 March 2013

[Looking to invest in wave and tidal energy arrays](#)

16 January 2013