

## **FAIR HEAD TIDAL**

### **June 2015 UPDATE**

#### **Context, environment and consultations**

Our aim is to develop a tidal array of turbines which would be located on the seabed and centred about 2km east of Fair Head. Once fully operational, this array would generate up to 100MW of electricity, enough to power the equivalent of all the homes in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. We propose to develop the project in two phases with an initial demonstration array of up to 10MW.

The various environmental and resource assessments continue apace. We are approaching the end of 24 monthly bird & mammal surveys with the last one scheduled for this month. Two measurement devices on the seabed for almost three months this winter collected further tidal and wave data. Last December we completed onshore survey work to identify possible landfall sites for cables.

Together with our team of assessors, we will be compiling the information into an Environmental Statement, in support of a formal planning application for the development. However, prior to any application we will be undertaking further consultation with the public, local communities and stakeholders to get their feedback on our proposals. These consultations will be carried out through a second series of local open days.

#### **MCT**

We are pleased to see the future of Marine Current Turbines (MCT) has been secured by new owners Atlantis Resources Ltd (ARL). MCT, is our technology partner in the EU 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme funding of €8m for the demonstration project. ARL are also the owners of Meygen, an Edinburgh based tidal developer currently building a 6MW tidal array in the north of Scotland. We are confident their experience will be beneficial to the Fair Head demonstration project. For the larger, 100MW development, we are continuing to keep our technology options open and will provide more information on our plans in the coming months.

#### **Grid connection**

On the grid side we have been working closely with a number of stakeholders including Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI), Utility Regulator Northern Ireland (UREGNI) and Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE), to access available capacity on the existing 33kV network in the Ballycastle area. These discussions are progressing well and again we should be able to provide further details on this and associated onshore works in the coming months.



### **Renewables support package**

DETI recently completed a consultation regarding the implementation of the new UK-wide renewables support package, known as Contracts for Difference (CfD), in Northern Ireland, as part of the UK's Electricity Market Reform (EMR) programme. This is a very important development for the renewable energy industry in Northern Ireland, marking the end of the current Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) scheme in 2017. We have therefore responded to this consultation. Northern Ireland has a very successful renewable energy industry, and relative to its geographic area, enjoys some of the best natural resources in Europe.

As a renewable energy developer and investor, it is important that we have a stable energy policy framework in which to operate and are able to avail of suitable support mechanisms while tidal technology is maturing. Ocean Energy is also high on the EU energy agenda and through our membership of Ocean Energy Europe we continue to engage with European policy makers and seek their support for the tidal sector.

### **Scoping opinion**

In May 2015 DETI and Department of Environment (DoE) issued a scoping opinion in response to our request and submission of Fair Head Tidal Scoping Document in December 2013. This opinion along with Fair Head Tidal's request and accompanying documents can be viewed on the DETI website.

### **Personnel**

Many of you will be familiar with our colleague Blair Marnie. Blair continues to be involved in the project, leading on the navigational, safety and risk assessments elements, while also developing DP Energy's wider portfolio of renewable energy projects.

### **Conclusion**

To conclude, for Fair Head Tidal, our priority continues to be the delivery of a tidal energy scheme which will generate clean, emissions free, predictable and sustainable energy. We believe such a scheme will bring benefits to the local area and the wider Northern Ireland economy, both during construction and operation.

I look forward to speaking to you in the coming months as we develop our plans further. In the meantime please take a look at our project website ([Fairheadtidal.com](http://Fairheadtidal.com)) or if you want to communicate with a real person please feel free to drop me an email or call me.

Thank you

Clodagh McGrath.  
Fair Head Tidal Project Manager

**ENERGY IS IN OUR NATURE**