

WATTS 2009

Venue	Leasowe Castle, Wirral, Merseyside
Conference	22 September 2009, from 9:30am
Drinks	21 September 2009, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm
Dinner	21 September 2009, from 7:30pm



Outline The UK has long-regarded itself as the world leader in marine renewables. This reputation was established through our impressive performance in device development, with both clear leaders and a long and innovative tail. The WATTS conference – the Wave and Tidal Technology Symposium - was launched in 2003 to showcase this remarkable diversity. Yet how well deserved is this accolade six years on?

It takes more than smart technology to develop a marine renewables industry. Technologies will ultimately converge – and it's not always the best that wins out. And device development needs to be nurtured in an environment where there is a healthy domestic market. One only has to witness our wind energy heritage. A 3MW wind turbine was installed in Orkney in 1987 – well before its time. Yet Denmark, where the focus was deployment rather than R&D, and turbines started out small and then evolved into the giants we see today, has emerged as the leader. Deployment needs a healthy environment which fosters project development. This requires financial incentives and appropriate consenting regimes. Can the UK maintain its position as world leader when it arguably has only one leg of the stool (i.e. device development) firmly on the ground? The other two - financial incentives and consenting regimes - are wobbly. Are there lessons to be learned from other countries to help us build a firm platform from which this promising industry can take off?

Come to WATTS and find out!

Cost	REA members: £175 + VAT Non-members: £250 + VAT Dinner: £50 + VAT Exhibition stand: £250 + VAT
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Hotel	Rooms are available at the Leasowe Castle from £80/night. To book your room, please call +44 (0)151 6069191
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More info	events@r-e-a.net or 020 7925 3570
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Programme

09:00	Coffee and registration
09:30	Legislative and financial incentives for marine renewable energy <i>Chair: Martin Wright, Marine Current Turbines</i>
	Other countries are encouraging the development of marine renewables, by providing financial and legislative support. Westminster continues to drag its feet. We look forward to hearing about the innovative policies and subsequent outcomes from territories around the world. <i>Contributors include: Morna Cannon, Scottish Renewables and Chris Campbell, OREG</i>
11:00	Tea and coffee
11:30	Grid connected technologies: global developments <i>Chair: Max Carcas, Pelamis Wave</i>
	The challenges of deployment, operation and maintenance of marine devices, alongside issues of legislative compliance and fund-raising, will be described in this session by device developers who have achieved their goal of installation in the marine environment and connection to the grid.
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Marine Energy Technologies and protection of the environment <i>Chair: Stephanie Merry, REA</i>
	This session will cover the potential impacts of marine renewable technologies on the marine environment and the need to comply with European legislation and the Marine and Coastal Access Bill currently under debate in the Westminster parliament. We will also look at how the cost of environmental monitoring could threaten to overwhelm our nascent industry. <i>Contributors include: Dr Helen Philips, Natural England; Justine Saunders, ABPMer; Mike Cowling, Crown Estate and Luis Mingo Reiz, APPA</i>
15:30	Tea and coffee
16:00	Early stage projects: global framework for support <i>Chair: Neil Kermod, EMEC</i>
	“Technologies will ultimately converge – and it’s not always the best that wins out”. Although there are a handful of front-runners in wave and tidal stream technology, many inventors claim to have better devices, as yet unproven outside a laboratory environment. Do we accept that the current front-runners are the winners, or should further device development be nurtured? <i>Contributors include: Paul Jordan, OPT and Jamie Grimwade, NAREC</i>
17:30	Conference ends