



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

News Release

Issued: Tuesday 3 June 2014

PHOTO CALL

**11.30AM, THURSDAY 5 JUNE 2014
FLOWAVE, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
KING'S BUILDINGS, EDINBURGH EH9 3JL**

Large-scale testing tank to make waves in marine energy sector

Complex waves, fast currents and large water spikes will be created to mark the launch of a world-class testing facility for marine energy devices today at the University of Edinburgh's science campus.

Guests at the facility will see the circular pool, 25 metres across and two metres deep, demonstrate how it can recreate waves and currents from coastlines around the UK, Europe and beyond.

The FloWave Ocean Energy Research Facility, managed by University of Edinburgh subsidiary company FloWave TT Ltd, can simulate scale version equivalents of waves up to 28 metres high and currents of up to 14 knots, using 2.4 million litres of water.

Researchers and industrial partners can use the facility to develop and refine full-scale devices such as wave and tidal energy converters, floating offshore wind platforms, and vessels to install and maintain offshore projects.

Testing devices at scale in a tank can enable research milestones to be achieved in days or weeks, compared with months or years in open water. This accelerated development should help bring clean energy products to market more quickly and cost-effectively, at lower risk.

The £9.5 million FloWave facility was funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and the University.

Professor Sir Timothy O' Shea, Principal of the University of Edinburgh, said: "We are delighted to mark the official launch of this pioneering facility, which will speed the development of devices to harness wave and current power, and further enhance the University's position as a centre of excellence in marine energy research."

Professor Philip Nelson, Chief Executive of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, said: "EPSRC's investment in the FloWave facility will help keep the UK at the forefront of marine energy technology research and development. Research here can

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accelerate the deployment of these technologies which, in turn, will help us meet our low-carbon targets create jobs and boost growth.”

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Access to Flowave is via gate one of the King’s Buildings campus on West Mains Road. Please note parking at King’s Buildings is by permit only.
<http://www.ed.ac.uk/maps?building=flowave>