



Media Release

[23 February 2010]

Sustainable Energy Ireland Commences Wave Energy Monitoring

~Wave monitoring buoy deployed to determine ocean energy potential off Mayo Coast~

The Ocean Energy Development Unit (OEDU) of Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) has deployed a weather buoy off the coast of North Mayo to monitor wave and weather conditions. The buoy which is 10km off Annagh Head on the Atlantic coast of the Mullet Peninsula, was launched last week and will transmit information collected via satellite link to the OEDU at the civic offices in Belmullet. This information is the first of its kind available in Ireland and will facilitate the development of a full scale wave energy test site off the coast of North Mayo.

SEI's OEDU is working to accelerate the deployment of ocean energy in Ireland and as more full scale wave energy devices are designed and developed there is an increasing demand for a suitable open ocean test facility.

As part of this exciting development SEI will host an information day for interested members of the local community at the civic offices in Belmullet at the end of April. There will be an exhibition area with full details of the proposed wave energy test site and an opportunity to meet with members of SEI's OEDU team to explain the plans and opportunities for Belmullet and Ireland as a whole.

Commenting on the announcement, Chief Executive of SEI, Professor Owen Lewis said: "Ireland has the potential to become a world leader in supplying wave energy technologies internationally and in generating electricity from our abundant waves. The establishment of a wave energy test site is a vital step to reach this ambition. We must harness the potential of ocean energy off our extended coastline, not only to reduce carbon dioxide emissions but also to reduce our reliance on imported fossil fuels."

Professor Lewis continued; "With its open Atlantic wave climate and with deep water close to the coast, North Mayo is an ideal location for the harnessing of our wave energy potential. Investment in this area will be a key driver in future economic growth and job

creation. There is a real opportunity for North Mayo to lead the way in this area internationally, and the OEDU team is looking forward to bringing details of this project to the local community at our information day and exhibition at the end of March."

Ends

Note to Editors:

The wave energy buoys are capable of measuring the shape and height of every wave crossing a specified point. Using the data collected from this project, the OEDU will provide detailed assessment of the wave conditions off Mayo.

The Marine Institute which has been involved with SEI in this project from the beginning will make the data from the buoys available in forthcoming months on their website www.marine.ie

About SEI:

Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) is the statutory authority charged with promoting and assisting the development of sustainable energy. It is financed by Ireland's EU Structural Funds Programme co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union.

The SEI Ocean Energy Development Unit (OEDU) has been established to implement the Government's policy decision to accelerate the development of Ocean Energy (wave and tidal) in Ireland. Its objectives include:

- The creation, in Ireland, of a centre of excellence in ocean energy technology and the stimulation of a world-class industry cluster.
- The initial connection of 500MW of ocean energy by 2020 (Programme for Government and White Paper) as a step towards the larger-scale harnessing of our marine renewable energy resources.

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