

INNOVATION NUADHAS

The Highland Council, supporting the development of **Marine Renewables**



PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE
EÒLAS DRÌJCHDAIL

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
LEASACHADH SEASMIHACH

BACKGROUND EACHDRAIDH

The Council's renewable energy strategy (HRES 2006) recognised the potential of the area's marine renewable resources, but acknowledged that at that time, the industry needed to develop the necessary technology to fully exploit its potential. Targets were set to reflect this, 400MW of installed capacity by 2020. However, as an indication of the speed of technological change, that target now seems conservative. The amount of installed capacity estimated to be generated by 2020 from the world's first commercial scale leasing round for wave and tidal energy in the Pentland Firth, is now expected to be in the region of 1000MW.



For further information on the continued development of renewable energy in the Highlands please visit The Highland Council website:
www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/planning/

COMMUNITY INTEREST
MATH COIMHEARSNACHD

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CURRENT SITUATION AN - DRASTA

The Council's Highland Wide Local Development Plan sees Caithness and Sutherland developing as a centre of excellence for marine renewables. As well as a spatial strategy and vision for the Highlands, it provides policy guidance for marine energy developers, and is designed to assist with the delivery of economic development to the area, while at the same time safeguarding its environmental quality. It will create a simpler and more transparent planning process. The Proposed Plan is on consultation until 5pm on Friday 3 December 2010, and further information about the consultation, as well as on the proposed plan is available on The Highland Council website: www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/planning/

An award winning pre-application service gives developers in the Highlands the opportunity to discuss their proposals with representatives of relevant key agencies involved in the planning process. At the end of this procedure developers are provided with an advice pack to assist them with the submission of a formal planning application. A number of marine renewable developers have already used this service, and have found it an invaluable aid in the initial stages of their development. For further details contact **01463 702261**.

Along with its partners, The Highland Council is working to ensure that Caithness and Sutherland maximises the economic opportunities that the development of a marine renewables industry can bring. The area has a lot to offer:

- ▶ A skilled workforce experienced in the Oil and Gas and Nuclear energy industries.
- ▶ A top quality higher and further education sector working to ensure that we can provide the necessary technical and professional skills required by the marine renewables industry.
- ▶ A well developed engineering and energy supply chain capable of supporting marine renewables developments.
- ▶ A port and maritime infrastructure with all the necessary skills, expertise and local knowledge to support marine renewables developments.
- ▶ A "joined up" public sector looking to work closely with potential inward investors to Caithness and North Sutherland and to lobby Government to ensure the necessary grid infrastructure is in place to allow the growth of the marine renewables industry.

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