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**EDF Energy powers Marine Current Turbine's First Commercial
Prototype**

Partnership to see tidal generated power in peoples homes for the first time

EDF Energy, one of the largest energy companies in the UK, has increased its investment in Marine Current Turbines Ltd (MCT) by an additional £2 million. Bristol-based MCT is the leading marine tidal energy technology company working to harness the renewable power of tidal currents.

The financial injection by EDF Energy will back the commercial development of MCT's 1MW SeaGen tidal current device capable of providing clean and sustainable electricity to approximately 800 homes. The partnership will see electricity generated from the power of tidal currents fed into people's homes for the first time. The prototype is set to be installed in Northern Ireland's Strangford Lough and connected to the local grid in 2006.

EDF Energy is keen to develop the new technology to gauge its potential future commercial application as a tidal farm with up to 30 turbines. While there are some installations around the world which already use the power of waves or the rise and fall of tides to generate electricity, SeaGen will be the first ever commercial prototype to harness the energy of underwater tidal currents.

Chris Daniels, Chief Operating Officer for EDF Energy's Energy Branch said: "The development of clean and sustainable energy is core to our business, core to our environmental strategy and is a commitment we share with our parent company EDF Group.

"We made our original investment in MCT in 2002 and are very pleased to have extended our involvement and to be associated with the world-leading tidal energy company. It is the next step in our long-term commitment to maintaining a diverse and sustainable energy mix in the future including all types of generation, clean coal, gas, nuclear and renewables. We believe this diversity is crucial to

address climate change, ensure security of supply and providing competitively priced electricity for customers.”

The SeaGen project, which will receive grant support from the DTI, was given approval to proceed earlier this month by Northern Ireland’s Environment & Heritage Service. The underwater twin-turbine device with a capacity of 1MW will be three times as powerful as MCT’s existing ‘SeaFlow’ turbine. The earlier 300KW prototype was the world’s first offshore tidal turbine and was installed off Lynmouth, Devon in May 2003.

Martin Wright, MCT’s Managing Director, said: “EDF Energy’s commitment to our business is enormously welcome and underlines the commercial potential of tidal power in the UK, France and others parts of the world. To have the support of one of the UK’s largest energy companies, a subsidiary of EDF, one of the largest energy providers in the world, is a great sign of confidence in MCT’s technology and development expertise.”

Martin added: “Assuming a successful pilot of SeaGen we can expect to see the first commercial tidal farm to be operating within the next five years”.

ENDS

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Notes to Editors:

Marine Current Turbines

Marine Current Turbines has established a wholly-owned subsidiary business named Sea Generation Ltd to take forward the SeaGen project.

Marine Current Turbines is based in Stoke Gifford, Bristol and employs 15 people. Established in 2000, its other main shareholders include BankInvest, Guernsey Electricity and Seacore, as well as a number of private investors.

Solicitors, Lawrence Graham, were legal advisors to MCT on the above agreement.

EDF Energy

EDF Energy is an integrated energy provider, involved in all parts of the electricity supply chain – generation, distribution and supply. The company is a key provider of essential energy services across the UK. It currently employs about 11,800 people at locations throughout South East, North East and South West England.

EDF Energy supplies around 5 million residential gas and electricity customers and major business customers through its regional retail brands SWEB Energy, Seeboard Energy and London Energy and its national retail brand, EDF Energy. The company also accounts for over a quarter of the UK's electricity distribution.

EDF Energy has 5GW generation capacity, operating coal and gas power stations, as well as CHP stations and wind farms. The company is also a key player in national infrastructure projects. These include the electrical upgrading of the whole London Underground system, management of private electricity networks serving four London airports and the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, the UK's first new railway in 100 years.

EDF Energy is a key element of EDF Group, one of the world's leading energy companies.