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Making wave energy work

2nd July 2009

Cornwall's teachers go back to college to learn about marine renewables

Orecon was delighted this week to be invited to present to some of Cornwall's teachers and help them learn about how the South West is set to become a centre for the marine renewables industry. The "Harnessing the Power of the Ocean" event was held on Wednesday 1 July at the Tremough Campus, Penryn, Cornwall. Teachers from across the county, from Bodmin to Penzance, attended event which was run by Cornwall Education Business Partnership and the University of Exeter.

The event focused on the South West RDA's (Regional Development Agency) Wave Hub project, which is a wave test facility due to be installed off the north coast of Cornwall next summer (2010). Teachers from the science, mathematics, technology and engineering disciplines got the latest news about Wave Hub from Nick Harrington, head of marine energy at the RDA.

Nikki Meek from Orecon presented the company's technology and gave an insight to what it has been like starting a wave energy company in such a young industry. Nikki also highlighted the importance of educating the students on marine renewables now because they are the ones that will really help the industry to grow.

Other speakers at the event included University of Exeter academic Dr Lars Johanning and his postgraduate students as well as Richard Parkinson of Falmouth-based Mojo Maritime and Chris Bale from Ocean Electric.

Helen Field of Cornwall Education Business Partnership said: "These sorts of events are a fantastic way for teachers to update their business and careers knowledge and gain vital industry links to take back to the classroom. The event enabled teachers to explore cutting edge technologies and the development of an exciting industry, which offers great opportunities for young people in Cornwall. Many of the teachers will be going back into the classroom after today inspired by the Wave Hub Project and keen to undertake classroom projects."

Teachers attended the event from the following schools;
Bodmin College
Liskeard School and Community College

Mounts Bay School, Penzance
Newquay Tretherras School
Penair School, Truro
St Ives School
Truro College

The event was part of the STEPS at Work initiative designed to offer placements within industry for teachers of science, technology, engineering and maths. Sponsored by the Royal Academy of Engineering a large number of short industrial placements have been run specifically to enable teachers to raise the knowledge and understanding of engineering careers for young people.

Quotes from Teachers:

"A great opportunity to make links with industry, in a pioneering field of engineering, for our students at Liskeard School" Jed Lewis, Liskeard School

"A really super day which highlighted the cutting edge technology happening right here in Cornwall. Not only did we see the exciting development of the Wave Hub project in Cornwall, but met employers from companies who work in the renewable energy technologies industries. Good to relay information back to students about the exciting job opportunities available in this sector" Janet Cotton Truro College

"What an opportunity for Cornwall to be at the forefront of these new technologies and for us, as teachers, to be able to feed back to students and develop an awareness

of renewable energies as a growing local business" Rebecca Treloar, Hayle Community School

"A very interesting day with fantastic opportunities for local students in an exciting and vital developing industry" Dave Packer, Truro College

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