

Fugro Renewables Working More Integrated

Plans for new offshore windfarms and wave or tidal device installations are subject to stringent marine environmental impact studies prior to approval. To provide these required studies, Fugro has acquired ERT, an Edinburgh-based marine environmental consultancy, to add another service to those already provided by Fugro Renewables.

ERT's environmental consultants, working with the Fugro team, will be able to ensure that each project has a smooth consent process by developing an effective approach to environmental planning. This involves clear project understanding, effective communication and a flexible approach to project changes. Services of particular relevance to the marine renewables sector include: environmental issues identification workshops; environmental scoping; environmental impact assessment; and stakeholder consultation. These 'tools' are supported by a full range of environmental monitoring and analytical services ensuring an integrated approach to environmental management planning.

Tony Hodgson, Fugro's global business development manager Renewable Energy, states that from feasibility studies and initial assessments to site surveys and investigations, construction services, and ultimately, decommissioning, Fugro provides a full-range of marine renewable energy expertise for the rising challenges and opportunities. Every new marine renewable energy project requires an environmental study. ERT is an invaluable addition to the services Fugro already is providing.

Fugro has been involved in more than 100 marine renewable energy projects, ranging from offshore windfarms to deployment of current and tidal power devices. In 2009 alone, Fugro was involved with site surveys for wind farms offshore the United Kingdom and Germany.

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