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Marine Energy Wales Response to the UK Government Decision on Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon

Marine Energy Wales regrets the recent UK Government's decision to not support the proposed Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon project. With significant backing from Welsh Government and the clear "no regrets policy" made by the independent Hendry review, this demonstrates not only a policy mismatch between Wales and the UK Government but a disregard for low carbon ambitions in devolved nations at a Westminster level.

Whilst this will undoubtedly stall progress on the Swansea Bay project the wider marine energy sector needs clarity from UK Government. There are plans for other tidal range projects across the UK and tidal stream and wave energy are creating innovative jobs in peripheral economies, supporting supply chain clustering and resilience and creating maritime export opportunities.

The recent Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult report clearly demonstrated that tidal stream and in the longer-term wave energy, can meet the UK Governments triple test and support the UK Industrial and Clean Growth Strategies. If supportive policy is implemented the sector can become cost competitive with nuclear and other low carbon technologies but with the added benefit of unrivalled UK supply chain content.

David Jones, Project Director at Marine Energy Wales said: *"Along with the other devolved nations Wales views tidal range, stream, and wave as maritime economies where we can build world leading industries and export into growing global markets. Marine energy will follow the cost reduction seen in offshore wind, with companies and communities benefitting from a new blue economy. With Brexit on the horizon it is more important than ever that the UK Government realises and responds to the regions that have prioritised these low carbon emerging markets."*

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Notes to Editors:

Marine Energy Wales

Marine Energy Wales brings together technology developers, the supply chain, academia and the public sector to establish Wales as a global leader in sustainable marine energy generation, making a significant contribution to a low carbon economy.

The benefits of this industry are being felt throughout the country with the creation of green sustainable jobs, growth and skills providing significant development opportunities for Wales.

Marine Energy Wales is an initiative developed and managed by Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum, a Community Interest Company that works to protect and enhance the coastal and marine environment for current and future generations.

For more information visit: www.marineenergywales.co.uk

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