

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate use

EMEC and CENSIS join forces to support sensor innovation

The European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) and [CENSIS](#) - the Innovation Centre for Sensor & Imaging Systems – are collaborating to support innovation and development of new sensor technologies.

By helping innovative sensor technologies develop through [technology readiness levels \(TRL\)](#) and providing independent performance verification as technologies enter the market, the partnership aims to fast track novel sensor technologies in the energy sector marketplace.

The CENSIS team of commercially experienced technology specialists and cross sector supply chain knowledge base bridges the gap between university research and industrial uptake. The centre assists small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to grow beyond initial models quickly by enabling them to develop new innovations with university research teams.

The support offered by CENSIS can help sensor technologies progress to TRL 6/7, readying them for independent Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) delivered by EMEC.

The Statement of Verification delivered at the end of the ETV process can be used as evidence that the claims made about an innovation are credible and scientifically sound. This reduces the technological risk for potential investors, helping new technologies increase their market share and differentiate from their competitors.

As a Verification Body for ETV, EMEC is accredited by UKAS (ISO 17020) to undertake ETV verifications in accordance with the EU ETV Pilot Programme General Verification Protocol.

EMEC's Research Director, Jennifer Norris, stated:

“Marine energy developers are generally required to investigate the potential effect of their devices on the surrounding environment, as well as being interested in any effect the environment may have on their devices. These investigations require *in situ* monitoring by sensors that can deliver data in high energy environments.

“The better the sensors and other data gathering methods are, the better we can understand how the pioneering wave and tidal energy machines testing at EMEC interact with their environment.

“We want as many companies as possible to benefit from the EU-ETV scheme. CENSIS' support in early-stage technology development will help companies progress their technologies to a point when they're ready to market. EMEC can then verify the performance claims to give more credibility to a new product as it becomes commercial.”

The pilot EU-ETV scheme is applicable to innovative technologies in the energy industry, water treatment and monitoring technologies, and materials, waste and resources technologies, providing they have environmental added-value.

EMEC is currently running a competition which will provide a free ETV to an innovative technology developer. The deadline for submitting applications is 5 June 2015. Terms and conditions are available on the company's website: <http://www.emec.org.uk/services/etv/etv-competition/>

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NOTES TO EDITOR:

About EMEC

Established in 2003, EMEC is the world's leading facility for testing wave and tidal energy converters in real sea conditions. The centre offers independent, accredited grid-connected test berths for full-scale prototypes, as well as test sites in less challenging conditions for use by smaller scale technologies, supply chain companies, and equipment manufacturers.

To date, more marine energy converters have been deployed in Orkney, Scotland, than at any other single site in the world.

Accredited to ISO 17020, EMEC became a Verification Body for Environmental Technology Verification (EMEC-ETV) in 2014. For further information on EMEC-ETV, visit:

<http://www.emec.org.uk/services/etv/>

About CENSIS

CENSIS is the Scottish Centre for Sensors and Imaging Systems, which aims to bring together commercial innovation and academic research, to drive economic activity in Scotland.

Established in April 2013 with an initial £10 million funding, it expects to deliver 150 collaborative R&D projects and assist Scotland's 140 companies in the industry which, between them, contribute £2.5 billion to the economy.

CENSIS is funded by the Scottish Funding Council, with additional support from the Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands & Islands Enterprise.

For further information, visit <http://censis.org.uk/> or follow @CENSIS121 on Twitter

About the EU-ETV Pilot Programme

The EU ETV Pilot Programme is a new tool to help innovative environmental technologies reach the market. Claims about the performance of technologies can be verified by qualified third parties (Verification Bodies).

Innovation is the driving force of European economy. Although new environmental technologies can make a significant difference in terms of resource and cost savings, they often never reach the market simply because they are new and untried.

Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) aims to change this by providing verified evidence that innovative environmental technologies are credible, scientifically sound and perform as they claim.

For further information, visit: <http://iet.jrc.ec.europa.eu/etv/>

Full details of the proposal requirements can be found in 'A Comprehensive Guide for Proposers to the EU Environmental Technology Verification Pilot Programme':
http://iet.jrc.ec.europa.eu/etv/sites/etv/files/documents/etv_guide_for_proposers1.pdf