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Press Release

SMEC Tidal Fence selected by SETS Group for Severn Estuary study

VerdErg's Spectral Marine Energy Converter ("SMEC") took another step forwards today with the award of a contract to confirm SMEC's suitability for installation across the Severn Estuary. SMEC was selected under the Severn Embryonic Technologies Scheme ("SETS") in competition with several other technologies. The funding, to be matched by VerdErg, is supported by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Welsh Assembly Government, the South West of England Regional Development Agency, and the Department of Energy and Climate Change. Further details are available on the DECC website at:
http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/severn_tidal_power/embryonic_tech/embryonic_tech.aspx.

Managing Director Peter Roberts commented: "VerdErg has calculated that a SMEC Tidal Fence across the Severn Estuary will produce nearly as much electrical power as a full conventional Barrage, but at two thirds of the cost. A full conventional Barrage, moreover, is unsuited to the Severn Estuary because it permanently inundates three quarters of the inter-tidal wetlands behind it which are a vital habitat for millions of migratory birds. By complete contrast, an equivalent SMEC tidal fence preserves three quarters of this vital environmental resource. This is because the tidal flow is not trapped by a SMEC, as with a Barrage, but flows continuously through the device."

Two configurations of SMEC will be assessed for suitability to the Severn estuary: