

News Release

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SEA's DRYMATE CONNECTOR AIDS WAVE AND TIDAL DEVELOPMENT

Cohort company SEA and the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) are showcasing an innovative subsea connector solution at Renewable UK's 13th Annual Wave & Tidal Conference in London on 23rd February 2017.

SEA's Drymate Connector – used to connect marine energy technologies to EMEC's subsea cables - will be on show at EMEC's stand #13.

EMEC is the world's leading marine energy facility, providing the hard infrastructure necessary to test wave and tidal energy prototypes at sea. The electricity produced at EMEC's test sites is fed into an onshore substation through subsea cables, and is then connected into the national power grid.

Connected to the subsea end of EMEC's cable, SEA's Drymate Connector provides pressure balanced make and break connectivity. This enables rapid connection, proven in operation at the EMEC test site.

The connector also includes termination using a Partial Discharge (PD) free, testable stop-end solution allowing full energisation and testing of the terminated cable. This enables the cable to be terminated when it is first laid and left on the seabed until it is needed. It can then be raised and reconnected as required, for example when it is to be connected to a prototype device, or if a cable is damaged.

This overcomes the issue of isolating a cable out of the water for up to 48 hours, while sealants harden, before it can be put back into the sea.

EMEC Managing Director Neil Kermode explains:

"Operations at sea can be very complex. While a connection takes place, vessels must not move more than a few metres off station or the cable could get damaged, so the quicker we can get the job done the better. We've seen SEA's connector installed and running in just 24 hours, using the vessel's time on station very effectively.

"In addition to that, live cables running at 11kV produce complex magnetic fields at the cable end so we need effective termination and testing capabilities to make sure it is safe to electrically 'pressurise' a cable before going live. The SEA termination, with its fibre optics, provide a test end which means we can test a cable from shore electrically and ensure it is in good order before handing it over to our clients. These features offer significant operational benefits."

SEA Subsea Engineering Director Matt Blair adds:

"SEA is delighted to be supporting EMEC again at the Renewable UK Wave & Tidal exhibition this year and to support the cutting edge of renewable energy solutions that is wave and tidal."

Notes to Editors:

EMEC is the European Marine Energy Centre, the world's first and leading centre of its kind providing developers of both wave and tidal energy converters the ability to test equipment in 'real-sea' environments. From an extensive range of testing sites in the Orkney Isles, EMEC offers test capabilities for all stages of development from scale models to full-size prototypes.

Cohort plc is an independent technology company and the parent company of four innovative, agile and responsive businesses, EID MASS, MCL and SEA, providing a wide range of services and products for UK, Portugal and international customers in defence, security and related markets.

www.cohortplc.com

SEA was acquired by Cohort plc in 2007 and today is a major supplier of applied research, technology development, systems integration, specialist electronic systems, engineering and software design services to the defence and security markets. Its engineering and project management skills include naval communications systems, maritime combat systems, through-life support, dismantled soldier systems, subsea engineering and traffic enforcement. Complementing its work for the UK Ministry of Defence, SEA is growing its business overseas and extending its expertise into adjacent markets, including offshore, railways and roads. SEA employs circa 300 high-calibre staff and has offices in Beckington, Bristol, Barnstaple and Aberdeen.

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