SWANTURBINES PRESS RELEASE

Release date (14/12/2011)

Swanturbines supporting GSK Montrose tidal project

BEGINS

Swanturbines Ltd is working with pharmaceutical and healthcare company GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) on what could become the first ever commercial scheme in the world to generate green electricity from a farm of marine turbines in the tidal flow of a river.

GSK is hoping to install an array of 15 turbines in the River South Esk close to its Montrose manufacturing facility as part of an ambitious scheme to meet all of its electricity needs from renewables sources and low carbon technology.

Contracted by GSK Montrose for the past 18 months, Swanturbines has been working towards obtaining the necessary leases and licences to deploy the turbines.

Environmental monitoring and consultation is continuing into potential effects of marine turbines on the river's wildlife, including fish, birds and marine mammals such as seals.

With specific challenges owing to the sensitive environmental aspects of the adjacent Montrose Basin Local Nature Reserve, Swanturbines is consulting extensively with stakeholders and experts to find acceptable environmental solutions.

On behalf of GSK, Swanturbines earlier this year successfully bid for a Crown Estate Lease for the river bed from Montrose Bridge to the sea, securing a tenancy lease for a 25 year operational period.

Applying for a Marine Licence from Marine Scotland, which is responsible for giving permission for the project to go ahead, will be the next step in the approvals process. An extensive Environmental Impact Assessment has been undertaken over the past year in support of this application and this will be presented in an Environmental Statement produced by Swanturbines to be published in the coming weeks. This includes an assessment of the expected effect on marine navigation aspects at the site.

The turbine technology proposed for use at the site is the Swanturbines Cygnus Inshore Tidal Turbine (Cygnus ISTT). The technology has also been undergoing development this year with a series of tests and investigations, some of which have been supported by the SMART: Scotland Feasibility programme. Aspects of the turbine system including the blade and support structure have been manufactured and tested under a series of operational conditions. The test results were as expected, validating the ongoing design work. Further testing is proposed in 2012 prior to installation.

The tidal project forms part of the broader energy strategy for the GSK Montrose site involving a combination of wind and marine generation and a combined heat and power (CHP) plant. GSK is working towards reducing the emissions of greenhouse gas carbon dioxide from Montrose from 14,500 tonnes in 2010 to being carbon positive by 2014.

ENDS

Quotations:

Swanturbines representative:
“Swanturbines is pleased to be supporting GSK on their progressive and ground breaking tidal energy project. It is very encouraging to see a large manufacturing organisation taking their environmental commitments so seriously.

We are obviously aware of the challenges facing the marine energy industry as a whole in terms of consenting these first projects, but it is positive to be working for a team that is prepared to try to find ways to make it happen and to share this learning with the industry.”

Notes for editors:

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Available images:

An artists impression of the completed Montrose Tidal Array at low tide with the blades exposed.