

Thursday 11th March 2021

Bombora Welcomes Welsh First Minister on a Virtual Tour of the World's Most Powerful Wave Energy Converter

Bombora recently welcomed the Welsh First Minister, Mark Drakeford to Pembroke Dock via a video link to witness first-hand the industrial full scale mWave™ device being engineered and built in Wales, contributing to the global efforts for more consistent and reliable renewable energy generation.

Short clip of the virtual tour: <https://youtu.be/rdDY3GsBLfs>

After the tour the **First Minister, Mark Drakeford** commented:

***“I was delighted to take part in the virtual tour of the Bombora Assembly Centre, home to the world’s most powerful wave energy device, mWave, being engineered and built in Pembrokeshire. This shows the manufacturing and resource capabilities of Pembrokeshire at its best.*”**

“The Welsh Government is committed to the marine energy sector and supporting companies like Bombora. Wales can make a significant contribution to delivering renewable energy and there’s a huge potential to build a thriving industry and create jobs in regions where skilled employment has been in short supply.”

“Renewable energy is at the heart of our vision for Wales’s future and generating sustainable marine energy from our abundant natural wave and tidal resource is an essential step towards creating a low carbon economy.”

Bombora’s ground-breaking 1.5MW mWave Pembrokeshire Demonstration Project is placing Pembrokeshire at the forefront of the wave energy industry. At the same time it is building a new and sustainable industry engaging the existing supply chain and creating highly skilled employment opportunities both today and for future generations. Over 50% of the current Pembrokeshire Demonstration project is supplied from the local supply chain indicating great potential for the region.

Sam Leighton, Managing Director of Bombora said:

“We were delighted to have an opportunity to showcase our progress on this significant renewable wave energy project to the First Minister. Our team of four has quickly grown to 29 demonstrating our strong commitment to the region. Bombora has ambitious growth plans that will see significant additional inward investment to Wales and result in further job creation and export opportunities.”

Mark Drakeford was keen to stress that the Welsh Government would continue to make the case to UK Government to support energy production from the ocean. A clear commercialisation pathway is required for the emerging marine energy industry, similar to support received by the wind and solar industries as they scaled up operations.

Jess Hooper, Programme Manager at Marine Energy Wales, the industry body representing the sector, welcomed the First Minister's continued support saying:

“The businesses, activities and support that we have here in Wales are enabling the marine renewable sector to grow to the benefit of Wales. Technologies like Bombora's mWave further the opportunity for a diverse and resilient energy mix, that we can call home-grown and export to the world.”

Bombora moved its headquarters from Australia to Wales in 2017 to build and test its innovative technology at full scale in Welsh waters. Bombora's operations are supported by a European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government.

Bombora has recently signed partnership agreements with major multi-nationals that will help drive future product demand. In response, the wave energy company intend to consolidate and grow their operations by establishing the Bombora Assembly and Export Centre within Pembroke Dock. This facility will initially support the operations of the £20m 1.5MW Pembrokeshire Demonstration Project and then be scaled to provide mWave power modules to Bombora's global marine energy projects.

ENDS

Image:



Bombora's Chief Operating Officer Dave Rigg leads the Assembly Centre tour stopping to explain how the innovative mWave cell module will be covered in a flexible rubber membrane



Bombora's team meet First Minister Mark Drakeford to brief him on company growth plans to establish the Bombora Assembly and Export Centre at Pembroke Dock

Notes to editor:

About Bombora and mWave™

- Bombora has developed a membrane style wave energy converter called 'mWave™'. Located 10 meters beneath the ocean's surface, mWave is similar to a fully submerged reef. As ocean waves pass over mWave, the membranes deflect, pumping air through a turbine to generate electricity. Electricity is directly transferred to shore via a submerged cable.
- mWave is unique among wave energy converters as it simultaneously addresses the 'cost of energy' and 'ocean wave survivability' challenges whilst delivering a utility scale solution.
- mWave can be located in both nearshore and offshore sites with good wave resources to generate sustainable clean energy.
- Bombora is currently completing the **1.5MW mWave Pembrokeshire Demonstration Project** in Wales part funded by £13.4 million European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Welsh Government.
- Bombora is working with global EPCI contractor TechnipFMC on the **InSPIRE** project to develop a floating offshore wind foundation incorporating Bombora's mWave. The InSPIRE project is targeting a 18MW combined wind and wave platform. The TechnipFMC and Bombora partnership marries strong marine offshore engineering heritage with ground breaking multi-MW mWave technology.
- Bombora is progressing further wave energy opportunities in Lanzarote, Japan, Ireland and Australia.
www.bomborawave.com