



Monday, November 4th 2019

## Wave Energy Converter: With wave energy, the Principality of Monaco innovates

**Today, the Prince's Government of Monaco and SBM Offshore presented the press with a key step in the Wave Energy Converter S3® project (WEC), which uses wave energy to produce electricity.**

**A first prototype will be deployed in Monegasque waters by 2021.**

This device is a world first. It is a major technological breakthrough in this field and embodies the importance of converging renewable energy and innovation.

Already tested in the laboratory, the system still needs to be tested at sea before its commercialization, and a prototype will be deployed in Monegasque waters (off Fontvieille heliport) in 2021, for an estimated test duration of one year.

The Prince's Government provides support and all its expertise to SBM Offshore's technical teams in this phase. A dozen Services of the Department of Equipment, Environment and Urbanism have been mobilized to closely support SBM Offshore teams and make this experimentation possible in the Principality. The Mission for Energy Transition (MTE) made the link between the Group and the various State Services concerned to study the feasibility of an offshore test.

The event was held in the presence of Marie-Pierre Gramaglia, Government Counselor-Minister of Equipment, Environment and Urbanism, and Heads of Department, Didier Beynet, Monaco Country Director SBM Offshore, Laurent Verdier, SBM Offshore Renewable Products Director and Ambroise Wattez, Business Development Manager Renewables & Offshore Energy Systems.

The presentation of the wave energy converter has allowed Marie-Pierre Gramaglia to recall that *"If we are alongside SBM Offshore for this world premiere, it is because the Principality, under the leadership of its Sovereigns, has long been a land of innovation. It is in this spirit that the State Services have mobilized to support the SBM Offshore teams for this experiment and make it possible in the Principality"*.

The demonstrator will be in the form of a "floating rubber tube", 60m long and 1.2m in diameter submerged at about 4m deep. The sea footprint of the experimental site is approximately 300m x 80m with the anchors.

### Direction de la Communication

10, Quai Antoine 1er - BP 458

Tel: (+377) 98 98 22 22

Fax: (+377) 98 98 22 15

presse@gouv.mc

www.gouv.mc



As a first step, measurement buoys will be installed in the area concerned, which will be used to evaluate and measure the swell. SBM Offshore will ensure close communication with the Government at each stage of the project.

The installation of this device helps to position Monaco as a facilitator of innovations in the field of renewable energies, especially as the technology is developed by a local company. This project will also eventually bring an interesting complement to Fontvieille's renewable energy laboratory.

Note: WEC S3® is a project created and launched by SBM Offshore several years ago, with the support of "Investissements d'Avenir" of the French State entrusted to ADEME. SBM Offshore diversified into renewable energies over 10 years ago.

More info: [www.sbmoffshore.com](http://www.sbmoffshore.com)

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*Press contact :*

Paula Farquharson-Blengino  
(+377)92.05.15.00.  
(+377) 92.05.15.10.  
[paula.blengino@sbmoffshore.com](mailto:paula.blengino@sbmoffshore.com)

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10, Quai Antoine 1er - BP 458  
Tel: (+377) 98 98 22 22  
Fax: (+377) 98 98 22 15  
[presse@gouv.mc](mailto:presse@gouv.mc)  
[www.gouv.mc](http://www.gouv.mc)