

Tuesday 5 November 2019

Speech by Marie-Pierre Gramaglia
Minister of Public Works,
the Environment and Urban Development
Press conference on the Wave Energy Converter trial in Monaco

Ladies and gentlemen,

Hello and thank you for joining us this afternoon for our presentation on the Wave Energy Converter developed by SBM Offshore, which is set to be tested in Monegasque waters.

The reason that we are working with SBM Offshore on this ground-breaking project is because the Principality, at the behest of its Princes, has long been a land of innovation.

Many initiatives have originated here, such as the first trials of asphalt and the early stages of helicopter flight at the Oceanographic Museum.

The country's size and unique status as a city state mean that our review and decision-making processes are quick.

It is in this spirit that government teams have been mobilised to support their counterparts at SBM Offshore, helping to make it a possibility in the Principality.

I would particularly like to thank the teams from my Ministry who are here and who are helping to facilitate progress on this project.

Our country is a pioneer in renewable energy: we installed the first seawater heat pumps in the 1960s and the number of these pumps continues to grow, now generating 17% of the electricity we consume.

Today, we are entering a new phase of development with the creation of two ocean thermal energy loops in Condamine and Larvotto.

On the subject of renewable energy, I would also like to discuss the State's commitment to solar energy, with the publication online of a map allowing residents to simulate the solar photovoltaic generation capacity of every roof in Monaco.

To support this development, the State has offered grants for the installation of solar PV and thermal panels since 2008.

This year two power plants, comprising a total of nearly 3,500 m² of photovoltaic panels, were installed on the roofs of the Monte-Carlo Bay and the Grimaldi Forum.

In addition, through the company Monaco Energies Renouvelables, founded in partnership with SMEG, the Principality has purchased eight solar power plants in France, covering 10% of the Principality's electricity consumption.

This quick overview shows the strength of our belief in renewable energy, particularly given our commitments on reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

We will be following this trial of the Wave Energy Converter, which is now moving from the laboratory out to sea, with interest.

With this Wave Energy Converter, we may have a promising new source of energy.

I wish your trial every success.

Thank you.

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