

Tuesday 5 November 2019

## Speech by Didier Beynet, SBM Offshore Monaco Country Director Press conference on the Wave Energy Converter trial in Monaco

Madam Minister, government team leaders, ladies and gentlemen, colleagues,

It is now my turn to welcome you and thank you for coming to the Neptune for this presentation of the Wave Energy Converter designed and developed by SBM Offshore, the S3®.

In the mid-2000s, SBM Offshore, which specialises in the design, manufacture and sale of maritime equipment and systems for the energy industry, embarked on a significant research programme in the field of offshore renewable energy, recognising the expanding role that this technology will play in the energy mix by 2030.

More specifically, for over a decade SBM has been working on a prototype for an innovative wave energy converter at its offices in Monaco and its laboratory in Carros.

The converter uses **electroactive polymer**-based materials which change shape when exposed to the movement of the swell, transforming wave energy directly into electricity without the need for any intermediary mechanical or hydraulic elements.

Once the concept had been validated, development efforts focused on improving the long-term performance of materials submerged in seawater, and on defining and deploying the industrial processes required for serial production.

The feasibility of the concept has been shown through wave basin testing that has been carried out in recent years.

Now, to prove that its Wave Energy Converter can operate effectively at an industrial scale, SBM Offshore has decided to install a prototype at sea that is connected to the electricity grid. As you will have guessed, we plan to install this prototype in Monegasque territorial waters, in 2021.

We are particularly pleased that we are able to conduct this trial in Monaco because – *as the Minister reminded us* – the Principality, at the behest of its Sovereign Prince Albert II, believes strongly in renewable energy, but also because, given that the S3® concept was developed by SBM Offshore teams at our centres in Monaco and Carros (a few kilometres away), this trial in the Principality has special resonance for SBM Offshore

**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](http://www.gouv.mc)



and all of our staff.

Before I hand over to our expert, Ambroise Wattez, who will give you a more detailed overview of the project, I would like to conclude by offering my very sincere thanks to the Minister and all of the government teams – *and I am thinking especially of everyone at the Mission for Energy Transition* – who have offered us their support and shared their expertise as we have worked on this project.

Thank you for your attention.

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