

Offshore renewable developments in the North of Scotland: achievements and challenges

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Scotland has an estimated 20% of the European Union's (EU) offshore wind, wave and tidal energy potential and the region is leading the way in developing, testing and deploying marine renewable energy devices. Scottish coastal waters and communities offer a living laboratory for scientists to study the nature of the resource (wind, wave, tides) and the environmental and societal effects of offshore renewable energy developments. The University of Highlands and Island (UHI) is a conglomerate of 13 previously independent academic partners spanning over the north of Scotland. It is particularly well positioned to investigate the multi-dimensional nature of offshore renewable energy, especially with the contribution of an EU-funded Marine Energy Research and Innovation Knowledge Accelerator (MERIKA) to UHI staffing and equipment. UHI is working hand-in-hand with developers, test-sites managers and authorities towards achieving a resource-extraction sustainable at all levels. In this presentation, Dr Marie-Lise Schläppy will be introducing the offshore renewable sector in Scotland, highlight the progress made over the last decade and outline the remaining challenges that industry, the government and society are currently facing.