

Basque Country explores marine collaboration with Ireland

*A delegation of **eight Basque companies**, led by the Basque Energy Cluster, travelled to IRELAND from **16 to 18 May** to **identify possible opportunities for technological and commercial cooperation** with Irish institutions and companies of the marine energy sector.*

IRELAND represents another leading market in the development of marine energy in Europe, due to the existence of relevant R&D activity, infrastructures for validating and testing devices, a business network with skills and extensive experience in this environment and energy potential (from the waves and the tides) representing around a third of the total for Europe. Its goal for 2020 is to produce 500 MW of energy from wave and tidal energy.



The technical and business mission was carried out precisely during this period, taking advantage of the different support systems for offshore renewable energy (OREDPA) put in place by the Irish Government at the beginning of this year. These include the initial support tariff to the wave energy sector equivalent to 260 €/MWh for pre-commercial developments of up to 30 MW and the investment and aid programme for demonstration and validation of marine energy technologies.

The delegation of Basque companies which visited Ireland consisted of eight companies of the marine energy work group representing the different segments of the value chain: **AZTI-TECNALIA, BIMEP, DITREL, NAVACEL, SAITEC, SENER and ZUNIBAL**, and supported by the **Basque Energy Cluster**.

The mission consisted of three working days in Cork, Galway and Dublin, and included a full agenda of meetings coordinated by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).



Among the most relevant meetings are those with representatives of the **Tyndall National Institute, Marine Renewable Energy Centre Ireland (MAREI), the Maritime Cluster (IMERC), the Marine Development Agency, Marine Institute** and the validation and test centres **LIR Ocean Test Facility** and **Smartbay**.

Similarly, business meetings were held every day during which presentations were given and where bilateral meetings were held between Basque and Irish companies. For Ireland's part, there was participation from companies such as SEA-Tech, Marine Technology Limited, JFC Manufacturing, ESB, Swirl, Sea Power, Limerick Wave, TFL, Techworks Marine and Ocean Energy.

This mission has given companies and the Basque Energy Cluster the **opportunity to learn first-hand the possibilities offered by the Irish market** in the marine energy sector and **kick start technological and/or commercial cooperation**. Moreover, the meetings helped to **reinforce the Basque value chain position** in this sector and **showcase the potential** that companies of the **Wave Energy Basque Country brand** can offer in this sector thanks to their skills and experience.

About the Basque Energy Cluster

The Basque Energy Cluster is a non-profit organization which was set up in 1996 with the mission of improving global competitiveness of the Basque energy sector companies by facilitating an industry-driven collaboration along the value chains and seeking public-private partnerships. Our vision is to contribute to the positioning the Basque Country as one of the European references in the energy industry sector in specific energy fields.

The Basque Energy Cluster is made up of 104 members, including the leading companies in the energy sector located in the Basque Country (energy operators, component and equipment manufacturers), agents of the Basque Science, Technology and Innovation Network and public administration bodies involved in the energy field.

The Basque Energy Cluster will keep you regularly informed of any actions launched!