

Innovating Portugal “The Ocean as a driver of Innovation”

Companies Biography

1 – ACL/Portuguese Chamber of Commerce

Bruno’s presentation will be on the Hypercluster of the Sea Economy in Portugal and the role of the business sector. Based on the conviction that the Sea is Portugal’s greatest potential, in fact the one that distinguishes it from most of our European partners and that this potential is yet to be fully developed, the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce and Industry ordered Prof. Ernâni Lopes, former Portuguese Finance Minister and consultant, a practical paper that, with concrete measures, would show us the way to explore this unique resource in several areas. We will take this opportunity to give a short glimpse of the work developed and will tell the steps taken to put this work into practice

2 - EMEPC –Defence Ministry

The EMEPC (the Portuguese Task Force for the Extension Continental Shelf) was created in 2005 by the Portuguese Government to implement UNCLOS article 76^o premises and to develop the national capacity to promote research and technological development on the scope of deep-sea activities.

The EMEPC is composed by a multidisciplinary team of 25 researchers covering a wide spectrum of marine science disciplines such as Geology, Geophysics, Oceanography, Geographic Information Systems, Biology, Hydrography and maritime legal affairs. It has strong links with the Portuguese Research Development and Technology System comprising the state labs, associated labs and research centers from Portuguese Universities. Additionally it has protocols with private companies and international partners in the framework of cooperative efforts in marine research.

The EMEPC is developing a marine database infrastructure (InforM@r) accessible via ArcGIS map server interface and is currently upgrading this database with a marine biodiversity information system (M@rBis program). Furthermore, it manages a batch of state of the art equipment both stand alone and mounted on board of Portuguese oceanic class oceanographic vessels, (the N.R.P. D. Carlos I and N.R.P. Almirante Gago Coutinho).

3 - Naval Ria

Founded in 1978, Navalria accumulated over the years knowledge and experience in naval construction and repair. It is part of Martifer Group since January 2008 and it is integrated in the development of technology for the use of wave energy.

Navalria’s significant growth in the last few years is due, essentially, to the risk it took by investing in an almost non existent sector in Portugal. Navalria complemented the demand for the naval refit industry by building the first prototype for wave energy recovery. Navalria’s turn over went from 2.8 million Euros in 2008 to 13.5 million Euros in 2009.

4 – Principle Power

Principle Power Inc. is a US company with a growing global footprint, incorporated in 2007 by industry professionals, its corporate objective consists of developing and commercializing an economically viable offshore wind installation solution.

Principle Power targets the emerging 40 meter and deeper offshore wind sector by eliminating current depth limitations with an innovative solution. WindFloat is a floating support structure for large offshore wind turbines (5 MW and higher) with a patented simple and elegant design. The unique features of the WindFloat dampen wave and turbine induced motion, enabling wind turbines to be sited in previously inaccessible locations where water depth exceeds 50m and wind resources are superior. In addition, WindFloat allows for reduced offshore operations during final assembly and commissioning, leading to maximized economic efficiencies.

Principle Power is currently engaged in a three stage commercial project in Portugal beginning with a full scale prototype in 2011, is in various stages of project development in the United States and is the recent recipient of a US Department of Energy Grant (DOE) linked to further R&D leveraging the WindFloat substructure.

Supporter