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Showcasing Cornwall's marine tech pioneers

A capacity audience attended the Marine Tech Transformers event on 1st November, hosted by Marine-i at Heartlands, Pool. The aim was to showcase the award-winning technologies, products for global markets, and cutting-edge industry and research collaborations which have been supported by Marine-i.

Part funded by the European Regional Development Fund, Marine-i was designed to help the marine tech sector in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly grow through harnessing the full potential of research and innovation.

Prof Lars Johanning of University of Exeter, lead partner for Marine-i, highlighted the key achievements of the project. These include supporting 100 Cornish businesses with market-led RD&I, providing grant support to 61 innovation projects, helping bring 14 new products to market, and leveraging £1.25 million in private match funding. He says:

“Marine-i has helped to transform marine technology innovation in Cornwall. The county now has the potential to play a pivotal role in the sustainable marine industries of the future, including marine energy, marine manufacturing, maritime operations and marine environmental technologies. Cornwall is becoming recognised as a world player in these important growth technologies.”

Delegates saw a new Marine-i video showing the exciting breadth and scope of marine innovation that has emerged from Cornwall over the life of the project. After this there were presentations from eight of the innovative marine businesses who have received support, alongside Business Research fellows from University of Exeter and University of Plymouth.

Delegates then viewed a special Marine-i Showcase Exhibition, featuring some of the new marine technologies in development. Commenting this highly successful event, Prof Lars Johanning says:

“Marine-i has been a powerful catalyst for innovation and has proven that there is huge ambition among marine businesses in Cornwall to develop pioneering solutions to worldwide challenges. Marine-i has helped create an environment where innovative marine businesses in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly now have a much greater chance of long-term success. That is our legacy and we look forward to seeing these foundations being built upon.”

Marine-i has produced a special **Marine Tech Transformers** brochure telling the story of the work that has been done to accelerate marine technology innovation in Cornwall from 2017 to 2019, with profiles of 75 of the Cornish marine businesses that have been involved. You can download a copy at:

www.marine-i.co.uk/assets/uploads/events/Marine-i%20publication.pdf

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

About Marine Tech Transformers

The local marine technology businesses who spoke at the event include:

- AMOG - creators of a revolutionary new wave energy device with global potential
- 3D Kernow – who are developing improved 3D printing techniques for the marine sector
- ARC Marine – inventors of Reef Cubes, a new way to build artificial reefs to preserve precious marine species
- Inyanga-Tech – inventors of HydroWing, a new technology to improve the commercial viability of tidal energy
- Submarine Technology Ltd – who have created a new multi-axis robotic arm for use in the maintenance of offshore installations
- Unmanned Survey Solutions – creators of the new Accession class unmanned survey vessel, designed for long endurance missions in the offshore industry
- Subsea Minerals – designers of a new platform and drilling unit which enables faster gathering of minerals from the seabed
- Imetrum – inventors of a new sensing technology that can analyse the moving parts in a wind turbine or marine diesel engine to optimise performance
- Falmouth Harbour Commissioners – who are developing a new, locally made modular mooring system which could help attract more cruise ship operators to the county

The impact of the Marine-i Project

- 100 businesses have been supported in market led RD&I
- 61 projects have been supported by grant funding (across 49 separate companies, 15 of which are start-ups)
- 9 businesses have been supported through the graduate subsidy scheme, creating new jobs for 11 graduates
- 40 businesses took part in the Innovation Masterclass series
- 14 Discovery Rooms with over 500 attendances
- £1.25 million in private match funding has been leveraged
- 30 collaborative RD&I projects with University of Exeter and University of Plymouth
- 14 new products launched to market
- Over 200 pieces of media coverage worldwide, raising the profile of marine tech in Cornwall
- Inward investment has been stimulated, with seven businesses relocating to Cornwall or setting up a new office in Cornwall.
- Cornish company growth has been supported, with three expanding into new premises within the Marine Enterprise Zone.

The Marine-i Project Partners

Part funded by the European Regional Development Fund, Marine-i is a £9.3m collaboration between the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth, The Cornwall College Group, Cornwall Marine Network, Cornwall Development Company and the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult. It brings together key infrastructure and expertise to enable technology innovation in the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly's marine sector, which has been identified as an area of high growth potential by the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership. Marine-i has received £6,851,462 of funding from the England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020.

Full details can be seen at: www.marine-i.co.uk

