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**Romax helps shape marine windfarms of the future**

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A Nottingham company is taking part in a national initiative to cut greenhouse gases.

Romax has won money to take part in one of four innovative projects aimed at helping the UK meet targets for carbon emissions.

The Energy Technology Institute-based across Nottingham, Leicester and Birmingham Universities, has a £1.1bn fund for research projects to meet the country's energy and climate change projects.

Romax, which has its Nottingham premises at the Science Park, has joined a consortium, Project Deepwater Turbine, led by Blue H Technologies.

Other members include BAe Systems, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Agriculture, EDF Energy and SLP Energy.

The project aims to design and determine the feasibility and potential of an integrated solution for a 5MW floating offshore wind turbine for use in deep water of between 30m and 300m.

Romax, which employs 65, will design the main shaft, gearbox and generator for the wind turbine.

Andy Poon of Romax, said: "This allows the rotating motion to be converted into electricity.

"We have been designing wind turbine components such as gearboxes and bearings for the last five years in mainland Europe, America, Korea and China.

"The ETI is looking to establish a manufacturing capability in the UK for wind turbines."

All four projects are being funded by ETI and have the ultimate aim of providing the public with more affordable, low carbon electricity.

They have the potential to deliver cheaper renewable electricity from 2020 onwards.

The initiative is also geared at making the UK more energy efficient, protecting energy supplies for present and future generations, and improving the country's skills base.

Dr David Clarke, the ETI's chief executive officer said: "The projects will demonstrate new technologies which can deliver significant cost savings compared to current renewable energy sources.

"Through the skills, capabilities and market access of our members, we have the potential to deploy new technologies on a mass scale."

Government policy is for 25 per cent of UK electricity coming from off-shore wind and marine sites by 2020.

"That in itself is challenging," added Dr Clarke. "But the bigger challenge is to engineer these structures so they deliver energy at a more affordable price than today.

"Today, offshore wind is about twice the price of central fossil fuel plant and marine is four times the price, but no one has built a commercial farm to find out."

Dr Clarke said there was a big issue about cost reduction and the opportunity to deploy more than 3,000 new wind turbines and 2,000 marine energy devices.

The funding for the projects comes from ETI's private sector partners, BP, Caterpillar, EDF Energy, E-on, Rolls-Royce and Shell.

Lord Hunt, minister for sustainable development and energy innovation, said: "The announcement is a key milestone for the ETI.

"The UK has pledged to increase dramatically our use of renewable energy to further secure our energy supplies and help fight the damaging effects of climate change.

"In order to meet these challenges we need to turn the best innovative ideas in wind and marine power in to reality.

"The ETI is an excellent example of government working with the private sector to achieve a quantum leap forward in these vital low-carbon technologies."

The UK's target for 2050 is an 80 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions on 1990 levels covering all sectors of the economy. To help deliver that, 15% of energy should come from renewable sources by 2020.

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