

16 September 2011

Scottish Government
Marine Scotland
Marine Laboratory
PO Box 101
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

Dear

European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre

I am writing to express SCDI's support for the proposed development of the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) off the coast of Aberdeen.

We are conscious that there has been much discussion and debate on this proposal already and the importance of the agreement between the developers and the shipping industry to ensure a safe shipping lane to and from Aberdeen Harbour is clearly critical in allowing the opportunity for the proposal to proceed to full consent.

That having been achieved, SCDI's position is that in addition to being important to the development of offshore wind, which, in turn is necessary to help meet the Scottish and UK Government's ambitious renewables targets, it is clear that the deployment centre element of the plans offers a great opportunity to help secure Aberdeen's long-term position as an all-energy hub for the Eastern Hemisphere.

Improvements in technology, equipment, installation, operation and maintenance are all required if ambitions for offshore wind are to be realised and this facility is intended to help achieve this. SCDI believes that the benefits for Scotland will include developing world leading skills, facilitating the transfer of skills and experience from the oil and gas industry, reducing the costs of offshore wind development and supporting the delivery of the Scottish round of offshore wind.

I trust our views will be considered as you take forward this important application.

Regards



Ian Armstrong
Regional Director