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[sent by email  
Brian.Mulhern@uregni.gov.uk]

30<sup>th</sup> May 2013

### **Connection Arrangements for Offshore Renewable Generation Consultation**

Dear Mr. Mulhern,

OpenHydro is a tidal energy technology company whose business is the design and manufacture of tidal current turbines for generating renewable energy from tidal streams. Founded in 2004, OpenHydro has developed an innovative turbine capable of producing electricity at competitive prices. OpenHydro is a technological and commercial leader in the tidal energy market, where it has strong growth potential. The company has formed commercial partnerships with leading electricity suppliers in order to develop some of the world's best tidal sites. OpenHydro is deploying turbines in various areas in Europe and in North America.

OpenHydro is part of a joint venture with Bord Gáis Energy called Tidal Ventures Ltd. (TVL) which, in October 2012, was awarded an Agreement for Lease (AfL) from The Crown Estate (TCE) to investigate the development of the tidal energy project with an export capacity of 100 MW. TVL proposes to develop the commercial scale tidal energy array in the waters offshore of Torr Head, located on the north coast of County Antrim in Northern Ireland.

The most significant risks to the delivery of the overall project are associated with access to the grid and the current uncertainty relating to the grid connection process and associated planning issues. We welcome this consultation and others which we hope will provide greater clarity to this process.

OpenHydro supports the position as set out in the accompanying letter from Tidal Ventures Limited and DP Marine Energy Limited.

We appreciate being given the opportunity to express our position in relation to this consultation and look forward to a favourable outcome.

Many thanks for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely,

**Kieran O'Malley**

Project Manager

OpenHydro

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