



For Immediate Release

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New Wave Energy Converter Joins the Quest for Renewable Energy

A new invention, which to the untrained eye resembles an underwater windsock, could be at the forefront of technology to develop renewable energy and combat climate change.

The Anaconda Wave Energy Converter (WEC) uses a unique concept to harvest energy from sea waves.

Built largely from rubber, Anaconda operates in an entirely different way from other WEC's. The inventors, Professors Rod Rainey and Francis Farley, have developed the concept of a distensible rubber tube, floating head to sea, in which bulge waves are excited by passing sea waves. The bulges grow as they travel along the tube, gathering wave energy. The bulge waves are then used to drive a turbine generator.

Checkmate Seaenergy, part of the British Checkmate Group, has acquired an exclusive license to develop Anaconda. It is Checkmate Seaenergy's intention to progress the machine through the full-scale prototype stage to commercial production. It is estimated that it will take three years before a full size prototype is tested at sea. This full-scale version would be the largest rubber structure ever made in the world and would need a facility the size of a shipyard to construct. Production will create hundreds of jobs in the UK.



Anaconda has a preliminary stamp of approval from The Carbon Trust, whose studies have indicated that initially 3-5% of the British Isles' electricity and eventually up to 20% could come from this source, utilizing the massive untapped wave energy resources along the western shorelines of Britain and Eire.

Chairman of Checkmate Group, Paul Auston said: "We are enormously excited by Anaconda's potential because of its highly cost effective technology. Experts know that wave energy harvesting needs a breakthrough in operating concept if electricity is ever to be made for a sensible cost. Anaconda offers an excellent chance of that for the first time. There will be many challenges along the road, but we believe the full-scale development of the device is possible because it does not need new materials or science. Initial engineering and cost assessments in 2007 have proved very favourable and we are pressing ahead with our scientifically rigorous research and development programme which will demonstrate the cost of power with sufficient accuracy to allow large scale investment decisions to be made."

Checkmate Seaenergy has today launched a new web site full of information about the Anaconda project. www.checkmateuk.com/seaenergy

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Notes for editors:

Checkmate Seaenergy is part of the Checkmate Group, an SME based in Sheerness, Kent. As well as manufacturing height safety and lifting equipment for shore-based industries and the marine cargo industry, Checkmate's Avon Fabrications Division (in Melksham Wiltshire) is one the world's foremost designers and makers of flexible structures built from

rubber.

These skills are essential for Anaconda's development and industrialisation. Checkmate Group exports to 35 countries and received the Queen's Award for Enterprise in 2004.

For technical information see www.checkmateuk.com/seaenergy

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