



PRESS RELEASE
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WavEC launches licensing guidance for MRE projects in Portugal

WavEC, Offshore Renewables launched on its website, on July 26th, the English version of the Licensing Guidance for MRE (MRE) projects in Portugal. The Portuguese version of this document, also available on the WavEC website, had already been launched in October 2016 during WavEC's annual seminar. The purpose of this Guidance is to describe the various steps of the licensing process for MRE projects on the Portuguese mainland coastal area, excluding the autonomous regions of the Azores and Madeira and the Portuguese Pilot Zone. It intends to support not only the developers of MRE projects but also other stakeholders interested in the process.

The complexity of the licensing process of MRE projects is indicated worldwide as one of the main barriers to the sector development. Understanding the factors that consider licensing as a barrier, as well as the discussion of the necessary measures to minimise their effects on the sector implementation in several Member States, have been topics explored in various European-funded projects. This Guidance has been partially funded by the RiCORE project, under the HORIZON 2020 program, and results from an in-depth study conducted on the licensing processes description in several countries. This Guidance emerges from the need identified during the RiCORE project, by some of the national stakeholders invited to participate, who, together with WavEC, have accepted to develop this compilation.

The authors believe this document contributes to clarify the licensing process at national level as well as to streamline it, as good or best practices are suggested during the described procedures. This document also included the involvement of a group of public and private entities with relevant experience in the area, some with direct intervention in the licensing process, who promptly offered to review and validate the document. Given the constant evolution of the legal regimes, updates to this document will be provided whenever any significant change to the Portuguese legislation is implemented. The English version of the Guidance is available at http://www.wavec.org/en/about_us/reports.

About WavEC

WavEC Offshore Renewables is a consultant company with a deep R&D background founded in 2003, dedicated to promote the development of MRE as a new industry supported by knowledge and innovation. WavEC has now more than 20 very qualified personnel in a wide range of fields relevant to MRE: monitoring & instrumentation, marine environment, site selection & resource assessment, aero & hydrodynamic modelling, economic models and licensing & public outreach.

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