

## **Charles Hendry MP, Minister of Energy and Climate Change, to visit CS Sovereign and European centre of excellence for renewable energy in Orkney**

**Chelmsford UK, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2010:** Charles Hendry, the Minister of Energy & Climate Change and MP for Wealden, is visiting the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) today in Orkney, Scotland.

As part of his visit, Mr Hendry will be taken on board Global Marine's vessel, the CS Sovereign, and will be briefed about the vital contribution that the ship is making to the UK offshore industry. Usually docked in Portland, Dorset, the vessel has an extensive track record in the offshore wind market. With a storage capacity of 2800 cubic metres and a load capacity of 6,200 tonnes, the CS Sovereign has worked on a number of offshore installation projects, making a vital contribution to moving the UK to a new low-carbon economy.

Mr Hendry will be welcomed on board the vessel by Neil Kermode, managing director of the EMEC, this afternoon. "We're honoured that the Minister of Energy and Climate Change is visiting our facility which plays a crucial role in advancing renewable energy markets such as wave and tidal and helping the UK to meet its CO2 targets," he explained.

Earlier this year, the CS Sovereign successfully completed the direct shore end landing and lay of two new power cables at EMEC's tidal test site at Eday, Orkney Islands and one new power cable at EMEC's wave test site at Billia Croo, Orkney Islands. This cable work was sponsored by the Department of Energy & Climate Change as part of its work to enable the development of the marine renewables industry. As part of his visit, Mr Hendry will also be travelling by launch to Lyness to see EON's Pelamis P2 device, which will undergo a test programme at EMEC's site for wave energy technologies off Billia Croo.

"Coming on board the CS Sovereign will enable Mr Hendry to experience firsthand the innovation within our industry and to see where the Department of Energy & Climate Change's investments are being made," said Michael Finnerty, Project Manager, Global Marine Systems. "It is vital to have the support of the Government and we are delighted to have the opportunity to show the Minister how the UK is taking the lead in the renewable market".

Following Mr Hendry's visit, the ship will be open to the public on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September. Local visitors are invited to arrive on the quay-side for tours every half hour. They will be educated about the vital role that EMEC plays in developing marine-based renewable energy.

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**About Global Marine Systems**

Global Marine Systems, the largest independent provider of submarine cables, installation, maintenance and related engineering services worldwide, has been in business for well over 160 years. Operating the world's largest fleet of cable ships and subsea vehicles, it is a market leader in marine cable installation and maintenance for telecommunications; subsea cable maintenance, installation and related services as well as offshore power; cable installation and maintenance for renewable energy and subsea inter-connects; oil and gas life of field services. We are headquartered in the United Kingdom, with resources throughout Europe, Asia Pacific and the Americas.

For further information go to: [www.globalmarinesystems.com](http://www.globalmarinesystems.com)

**About EMEC**

EMEC is at the forefront of the development of marine-based renewables – technologies that generate electricity for homes and businesses by harnessing the power of waves and tidal streams. As the first centre of its kind to be created anywhere in the world, EMEC offers developers the opportunity to test full scale grid connected prototype devices in unrivalled wave and tidal conditions. For more information about the centre visit their website at [www.emec.org.uk](http://www.emec.org.uk).