



DID YOU KNOW

Commercialisation of a wave power device developed by IRL is being accelerated with support from the United States Department of Energy.

The focus of a research collaboration between IRL and Wellington company Power Projects Ltd, called Wave Energy Technology-New Zealand (WET-NZ), the device harnesses wave power as an energy source and delivers outstanding performance by analysing incoming waves and adjusting the response to changing wave patterns.

A series of quarter-scale prototypes have been producing up to 2kW of power off the coast of Christchurch since 2006 and a half-scale version, designed to produce 20kW of peak power, will be deployed in New Zealand waters in 2011.

The US Department of Energy has provided more than NZ\$2 million to build a quarter-scale version for deployment off the coast of Oregon and for wave tank-scale modelling.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

US funding will allow WET-NZ to bring new skills and capabilities on board and speed up design, development and commercialisation of a 100kW peak device.

The US project is an endorsement of the strength of the New Zealand design, which has significant advantages over many of the competing devices being developed globally.

If successfully developed, the technology will enable New Zealand to take advantage of the abundant renewable energy potential of some of the world's strongest waves along the country's 15,000 km of coastline. A leadership position in the development of the world's best wave energy technology will give WET-NZ the opportunity to earn valuable export earnings for New Zealand.

