

**PRESS RELEASE | 18 February 2020**

## **A scientific tribune rich in innovative results in the field of offshore renewable energies**

**On 20 March, France Energies Marines is organising its 3rd Scientific & Technical Tribune dedicated to offshore renewable energy (ORE) at the Ecole des Ponts ParisTech near Paris. This event will bring together the main players in the sector to discuss technical issues and present scientific advances in the field.**

**Representatives from the French Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition and the General Secretary for Investment will open the day, proof of the State's reaffirmed support for our Institute for Energy Transition.**

**The keynote speaker is Dr. Andrea Copping, an internationally renowned specialist in the study of the environmental impacts of ORE. 20 scientists from academia and the private sector will speak at 4 round tables on the following topics: seabed dynamics, influence of biofouling, environmental recommendations and farm optimisation.**

### **An event with high added value**

France Energies Marines' mission is to develop the research ecosystem for offshore renewable energy. Its annual tribune, which aims to exchange on the technical stakes of the different actors of the sector and the scientific advances in the field, is a unique event with high added value, due to its tight format favourable to the reflections shared with its public. This year it is being held on 20 March at the Ecole des Ponts ParisTech near Paris, a member of the Institute.

### **A strong and reaffirmed support from the French State**

Last August, France Energies Marines obtained an agreement from the French government to become the Institute for Energy Transition (ITE) dedicated to offshore renewable energy. This strong support from the French State is reaffirmed during our tribune. Indeed, we will have the honour of opening this day with speeches from:

- **Laurent Michel**, Director General for Energy and Climate, who will represent the Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition,
- **Karine Vernier**, Energy and Circular Economy Programme Manager, at the General Secretary for Investment.

### **A keynote speaker of international renown**

The keynote speaker is Dr. Andrea Copping, Head of Research for Ocean and Offshore Wind Energy Development at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory of the US Department of Energy. Her projects focus on the environmental impacts of ORE and the role these impacts could play in technology development and project initiation. Using risk-based approaches, his team combines laboratory experiments, field measurements, and modelling to provide decision support tools for site selection and permitting.

## Academic research and the private sector at cross-purposes

20 speakers from academic research and the private sector will present the results of collaborative R&D projects conducted by France Energies Marines, its members and partners. Four round tables will punctuate the day:

- **Dynamics of the seabed** | How to reduce the costs necessary to characterise the seabed and adapt structures to the specific nature of the soils?
- **Influence of biofouling** | How to secure projects against induced modifications and improve maintenance?
- **Environmental recommendations** | Which scientific tools to take into account the stakes of a territory?
- **Farm optimisation** | Which methods and tools should be chosen to reach the optimum cost/productivity?

## Innovative results and solutions for the future

Several innovative results will be presented throughout the day, including:

- Soil characterisation with light and relatively inexpensive means;
- Sediment dynamics at hydro and wind sites;
- The optimisation of foundations for offshore wind turbines to be installed in carbonate soils, currently little studied and yet very present on the French coasts;
- Taking into account the effects of biofouling on cables and mooring of wind and tidal turbines;
- The prioritisation of the environmental challenges of ORE projects by committees of independent experts;
- Recommendations for an integrated and global approach to the choice of ORE farm siting areas;
- The development of a software suite for the design of tidal and wave systems.

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### Press contact:

Mélusine Gaillard, communication officer

[melusine.gaillard@ite-fem.org](mailto:melusine.gaillard@ite-fem.org) - T. 02 98 49 98 27

