

The Floatgen floating platform was successfully launched

25 August 2017 – The construction phase of the concrete floating foundation designed by **Ideol** and built by **Bouygues Travaux Publics** has taken a major step forward with its floatation in the **Louis Joubert Lock at Saint-Nazaire**.

After several months of construction in the Penhoët basin (Saint-Nazaire), the floating foundation that will equip the first offshore wind turbine in France has been launched. The three assembled barges on which the floating foundation was built were towed to the Joubert lock, a dry-dock marking the entrance to the port of Saint-Nazaire.



The platform successfully floated in dock. ©Ideol/Bouygues Travaux Publics

After the barges were immersed, the concrete hull was floated with perfect control. It was then towed towards the Quai des Charbonniers to await the addition of the transition piece (a steel part at the interface between the floating foundation and the mast) and then the wind turbine.

This key step illustrates an advantage of floating wind turbines and the Floatgen technology: construction is carried out in a sheltered port environment, as is the case in Saint-Nazaire. Risk and cost control are therefore more effective than at sea.

The final tow to Centrale Nantes' offshore installation will take place in the autumn.

This new operational success follows the installation a month ago of the anchorage system on the SEM-REV offshore test site, which will host Floatgen, 22 kilometers off the coast from Le Croisic.

Floatgen

The project began in 2013 bringing together seven partners each with a specific role to play: **Ideol**, design of the entire floating system (foundation, anchoring system and electricity export cable) as well as the wind turbine; **Centrale Nantes**: ocean engineering expertise, provision of the anchoring system and access to its offshore test site; **Bouygues Travaux Publics**: floating foundation construction. It is supported by the European Union as part of the FP7 programme, by the French National Research Agency and the French Environment and Energy Management Agency as part of the national Investments for the Future Programme, and by the Pays de la Loire region. As the **first offshore wind turbine in France**, this project is a precursor to the installation in coming years of first pilot, then commercial, offshore wind farms. It highlights the **potential for local employment creation** linked to the construction of the Ideol floating foundation and the opportunity for France to become a leader in this emerging market of offshore wind power.

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