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Faber Maunsell | AECOM Appointed on Marine Spatial Plan

Faber Maunsell | AECOM, in association with Metoc plc, have won a contract to produce a Marine Spatial Plan of the Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters in the north of Scotland.

The Scottish Government will bring forward a Marine Bill this spring that will ensure sustainable seas around Scotland. The Marine Spatial Plan will be a key part of the future management of the Pentland Firth and waters around Orkney.

One of the key objectives of the plan will be to map areas of opportunity for the development of tidal and wave power.

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment Richard Lochhead said: "The Marine Spatial Plan will set out opportunities for our main marine energy resource area and act as a planning tool for developers, regulators and existing users of the marine environment. This will help us reach balanced decisions on the locational opportunities for new development, while respecting the environment and the other activities, such as fishing and shipping."

Iain Bell, Regional Director at Faber Maunsell | AECOM's Edinburgh office said: "As one of the first of its kind, the production of this Marine Spatial Plan is a major challenge. Key to its success will be the active engagement with a wide variety of stakeholders representing all sectors. Over the next few weeks Faber Maunsell and Metoc will be holding initial discussions on the plan with the Highland Council and Orkney Islands Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the Scottish Renewables Forum, the Crown Estate and others".

A draft planning framework will be available by April and this will be developed into an initial marine plan. The plan will fit with the outcomes of the Marine Bill process.

Note to editors:

About Faber Maunsell | AECOM

Faber Maunsell | AECOM is an award-winning, international consultancy specialising in buildings, transportation and environmental services. With an outstanding reputation for quality and innovation, we are directly addressing today's major sustainability challenges throughout our work.

With an annual turnover in excess of £160m, we employ more than 3,000 people through a network of over 30 office locations across the UK and Europe.

We derive additional strength from our parent company AECOM. One of the world's largest providers of professional, technical and management support services, they are responsible for some of the most complex and demanding projects currently being undertaken globally.

Our vision is to 'enhance and sustain the built, natural and social environment' - creating a better world in which to work and live.

About Metoc

Metoc is a leading project management and advisory company with over 25 years' experience in the marine, coastal and river environments. Metoc provides environmental design and risk management services to add and retain value throughout the life cycle of engineering and other infrastructure assets by understanding how the project and asset affects, and is affected by, the environment. We operate from offices across the UK, working with key clients on their international projects across the Oil & Gas, Water, Marine Cables and Offshore Renewable Energy markets. For further press enquiries call Louise Thomson on 0131 313 7600 or email louise.thomson@fabermaunsell.com