

Albany Advertiser | Great Southern | Regional WA | Science

UWA M4 Wave Energy device celebrates official launch, marking start of Albany's journey as sustainability hub





Albany Rebecca Stephens, UWA Deputy Vice Chancellor Anna Nowak and Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre's CEO Dr John Whittington at the launch. Credit: Laurie Benson



as Albany's first renewable wave energy project is prepared for deployment into the King George Sound. The ribbon was cut on the Moored MultiMode Multibody (M4) Wave Energy Demonstration Project at an official launch on Tuesday at the MCB construction yard where it was assembled.

Commuters can expect to see a giant yellow rig-device travelling down to the port in the coming weeks,

Economy Cooperative Research Centre and the State Government, the M4 device — a 24m-long, 9.5mwide sunflower yellow hinging frame kept afloat by four buoys – is Australia's only active wave generating project. The device will be anchored in the ocean for six months, generating clean energy from the movement of

Run by the University of Western Australia's Marine Energy Research Australia and funded by Blue

MERA and UWA Oceans Institute director Christophe Gaudin said the project would put Albany on the map as a sustainable energy hub.

As such, this project is of international significance.

"It is a world-first, a fully open-sourced wave energy generator for which all data gathered during the operation will be displayed on the specific website and be made available to the public domain," he said.

"As such, this project is of international significance."

month.

he said.

community.

the world is globally significant."

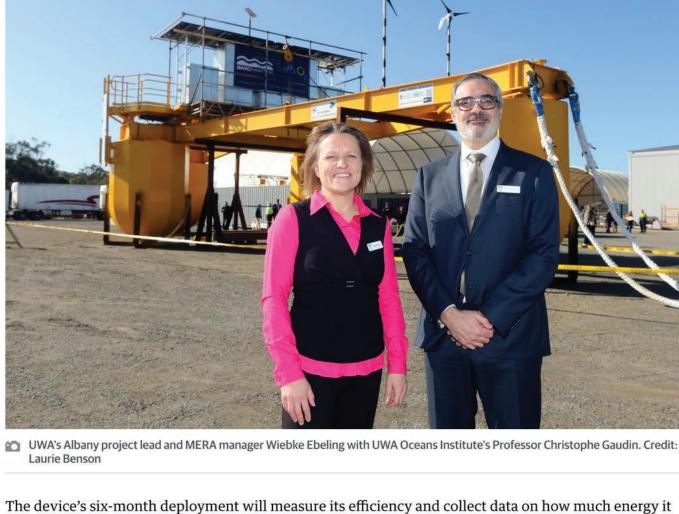
all able to add something new to their resumes.

website.

Christophe Gaudin

the waves and transmitting real-time data on its effectiveness.

"By doing so, we plan to uplift the whole wave energy industry, sharing the lessons learnt during the project and bringing confidence to investors and users.



produces, allowing scientists to create larger-scale devices in the future. It will feature prominently at the International Conference on Ocean Energy hosted in Belgium later this

The ceremony was graced by the likes of UWA scientists and staff, Albany MLA Rebecca Stephens, City of Albany mayor Greg Stocks and deputy mayor Paul Terry and Science Minister Stephen Dawson, who said the launch marked a significant milestone.

"This innovative project is bringing together top research bodies and local businesses to conduct this important academic trial examining Albany as a potential nursery test site for wave energy developers,"

"The deployment of the M4 prototype into Great Southern waters is a significant project milestone. "It will be equipped with sensors to collect real-time data on device performance, including energy production, that will be publicly available."

Science Minister Stephen Dawson, UWA Oceans Institute's Professor Christophe Gaudin, Albany MLA Rebecca Stephens, UWA deputy vice-chancellor Anna Nowak and Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre CEO Dr John Whittington at the launch. Credit: Laurie Benson

"Something really important to us is the value of doing our research in rural communities," he said.

"We hope that it can be recognised that the ideas and the work that's being done in this remote part of

BECRC chief executive John Whittington said the project had opened up huge opportunities to

"The stock, the construction, the supply chain, so much value has come and can come from this

demonstrate the local supply chain's capability in creating sustainability projects.



More information about the device and access to the data it collects is available on the MERA - M4.

