

## Marine Current Turbines Ltd Case Study

Marine Current Turbines Ltd (MCT) has a world lead in the field of tidal current turbine development. The company's former parent company built the world's first tidal turbine in 1994 (a 10kW system which now sits on a plinth in the car park outside the company offices next to Bristol Parkway station) and MCT subsequently went on to install the world's first "full size" tidal turbine, the 300kW Seaflow system installed off Lynmouth in 2003. Very recently, April 2008, MCT has completed and installed the world's first commercial Scale tidal turbine – the 1200kW SeaGen system installed in Strangford Narrows, Northern Ireland, which is by far the largest and most sophisticated device of its kind world-wide.



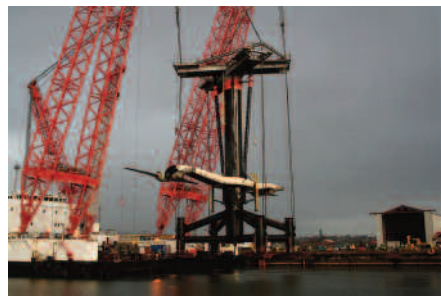
MCT has a highly qualified team of twelve engineers working from the company head office in Stoke Gifford. Tidal turbines have much in common with wind turbines and small hydro systems other than that they need to be installed in the open sea and therefore there are major and complex engineering issues related to the aggressive environment. The company was originally based in Basingstoke after its formation in 2000, but one reason for the move to Bristol in 2004 was to facilitate recruitment of the highly experienced and well-qualified engineering team needed to succeed with such innovative technical developments.

**Martin Wright, Managing Director of MCT, says “Bristol has proved to be exactly the right kind of location to start a new high tech industry, thanks to synergies with its thriving industrial base and the excellent transport infrastructure serving the city”.**

**Marine Current Turbines Ltd  
The Court  
The Green  
Stoke Gifford  
Bristol BS34 8PD**

**Tel: 0117 979 1888  
www.marineturbines.com  
Contact Peter Fraenkel peter.fraenkel@marineturbines.com**

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