



Keynote Presentation, 2 pm Wed 18-Oct-2016

Dr. Gareth Gretton

Chair
AWATEA, NZ



Looking back and looking forwards: A review of past developments and a strategy for the future

The Aotearoa Wave and Tidal Energy Association (AWATEA) was formed 10 years ago to support the development of marine energy in New Zealand. Initial progress, underpinned by Government support, was significant. A number of projects for power supply were proposed and studied, and one wave energy device, WET-NZ, went from concept to sea trials within a short period of time. In the past few years however, progress has slowed. The only project under active development is an evolution of WET-NZ, now named Azura, and being tested in Hawaii.

Looking forwards, what are the prospects for the marine energy industry in NZ, and how should AWATEA continue with its goal? Key drivers for this are the demand from the NZ electricity industry for marine energy, and the opportunities for developing devices for overseas markets. And in both of these areas Government policy is a factor. These drivers and influences will be reviewed, and our future strategy as an organization laid out.

Biography

Gareth is currently chair of AWATEA and an academic staff member at Wellington Institute of Technology. Since moving to NZ in 2013, he has worked on a number of consultancy projects including small scale hydro, solar thermal and solar PV, and others related to his skills in fluid dynamics. Prior to his move, Gareth was a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Edinburgh for a number of years, first working on the academic consortium project "Supergen", and then working on the £8m joint academia-industry project "Perawat". Both of these projects made a significant contribution to UK marine energy research over a significant number of years. Gareth has a PhD from the University of Edinburgh on tidal current turbine hydrodynamics.