

## Marine Renewable Energy Workshop

The MRE workshop was kicked off by three brief presentations to set the scene and stimulate discussion:

- Jonathan Williams (MSE) gave an overview of the MRE segment of the blue economy, with a focus on supply chain opportunities and innovation needs;
- Lucy Harris (CMN) outlined MRE activities in Cornwall and suggested a potential collaborative proposal to build cross-border supplier networks;
- Stuart Anderson (Conwy) focused on the MRE potential in the Irish Sea, especially from tidal barrages, and the strong maritime expertise to exploit.

A wide-ranging discussion centred on two key priorities: a need to focus on specific market needs and business opportunities, using capabilities within leading UK clusters; and a need to improve coordination between key stakeholders (clusters, government departments, LEPs etc) to avoid fragmentation of effort. There is already some momentum behind inter-cluster cooperation, and this should be extended. Although regional clusters will be essential to engage the wide community of SME suppliers, it was agreed that the ORE Catapult could play a unique role in providing a national focus for MRE initiatives. Simon Cheeseman (OREC) confirmed their willingness to perform this role, and requested contact details of those attending the workshop. This Catapult role could provide some UK market-focused resource into the Atlantic Action Plan support team.