

First UK charging network for electric maritime vessels launched in Plymouth

April 27 2022, by Alan Williams



Credit: University of Plymouth

The UK's first e-marine hub of shore-side charging facilities for electric maritime vessels has been unveiled in Plymouth.

A series of high power DC electric [charging stations](#) has been switched

on in prominent locations along the perimeter of the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park.

This includes the world's first 150kw charging facility at Mount Batten, the UK's first 75kw site at Queen Anne's Battery, and a 25kw installation at the Barbican landing stage.

Further installations are now being developed along the city's [waterfront](#), with additional sites also being identified in Devon and Cornwall with a view to providing electric charging facilities every 10 miles along the counties' southern coastline.

The charging network has been created through the Marine e-Charging Living Lab (MeLL) initiative, a consortium led by the University of Plymouth in partnership with Plymouth City Council, Princess Yachts Limited and Aqua superPower

It directly responds to the UK government's Clean Maritime Plan for maritime net zero and its drive to increase the UK's current percentage of clean electricity to 100% by 2035.

It has also been designed to offer commercial enterprises of all sizes with a sustainable, cost-effective and time-effective means of making the switch from diesel to electric power.

Research by the University, carried out during the planning stage of the project, has shown the network has the potential to reduce port emissions by 96.60% in the next 30 years. As a result it could significantly cut the sector's impact on the climate, and reduce the damage caused by harmful gases on both human and environmental health.

Sarah Fear, Project and Knowledge Exchange Manager at the University

of Plymouth and lead of the MeLL project, says that "the Clean Maritime 2050 strategy underlines how crucial it is that the sector moves forward, and includes a number of ambitious net-zero objectives. That includes the increased electrification of commercial vessels, but if there is no infrastructure in place you cannot support the growing number of businesses looking to employ this technology. This charging network is a game-changer for Plymouth's forward-thinking marine enterprises, and our ongoing research in this field is enabling the city and region to blaze a trail in clean maritime innovation."

Alex Bamberg, CEO of AQUA superpower, says that "this is the realization of an important project that started at the end of last year to further Plymouth's reputation as a center of excellence in clean maritime innovation. In deploying our dedicated marine fast charge network as part of the project, we are creating the right landscape towards decarbonisation of the marine environment, responding to the Maritime 2050 route map for maritime net-zero. We are proud to have delivered our installations on time to challenging deadlines and greatly appreciate the support of our project partners, the University of Plymouth, Plymouth City Council and Princess Yachts."

Dan Turner, Low Carbon City Officer for Plymouth City Council, says that "this is a landmark project boasting the UK's first marine charging network, demonstrating Plymouth's commitment to decarbonisation and strengthening its position as the UK's leading testbed for marine innovation, and tying into the delivery of the National Marine Park and Freeport. The Government's Clean Maritime Plan clearly states the need to reduce [carbon emissions](#) from marine transport and, by delivering this network of charging infrastructure, the partnership has helped to remove one of the key barriers to the uptake of electric vessels. We are proud to have worked with fantastic partners in the delivery of this project without whose support and collaborative working this extraordinary achievement would not have been possible."

Nick Smith, Head of Product Planning at Princess Yachts, says that "Princess Yachts cannot exist without the draw of our oceans and waterways. Therefore, we must work harmoniously to protect and enhance the marine environment. As a business, we have an ambitious sustainability roadmap and are on our journey to deliver on customer expectations as well as prepare for the future of our industry. While a full battery electric yacht may not be feasible with existing technology above around 12m, the MeLL project and its legacy has real world relevance and benefit to the growing interest we see in hotel service batteries and hybridisation. The benefits are marked with charging times nearly 40 times faster than many marina shore power connections, and the launch of this project in our brand home of Plymouth is fantastic for the city."

Provided by University of Plymouth

Citation: First UK charging network for electric maritime vessels launched in Plymouth (2022, April 27) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://techxplore.com/news/2022-04-uk-network-electric-maritime-vessels.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.