



PRESS RELEASE

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FutureEnergy Wind Turbine To Set Sail For Icy Arctic



A wind turbine launched just 12-months ago by the Stratford-upon-Avon based FutureEnergy, is to be given its sternest test to date when fitted to a scientific research vessel exploring the icy wastes of the extreme Arctic.

Already proven at withstanding the might of Force 12 gales when providing a renewable

source of electricity to the Sealand community housed on a Second World War naval fort in the North Sea, the FutureEnergy wind turbine is currently being installed as part of a major refit of the aluminium hulled icebreaker, the Aurora Magnetica, prior to its maiden voyage to the Arctic in July 2007.

Built in France and launched in October 2004, the 18.50-metre long Aurora Magnetica is a prototype of a new generation of small research ships purpose-designed for the

exploration of the Arctic's remotest regions, where its low 1.40-metre draft and ability to manoeuvre in shallow waters opens up routes currently closed to conventional ice-strength vessels.



The brainchild of French explorer, Pierre Sauvadet, winner of 1995's Grand Prize for 'Innovative Thinking on New Arctic Ship Design' from Geneva's renowned Henry Kummerman Foundation, the Aurora Magnetica includes a number of innovative concepts to extend its application and fulfil its role as a

totally autonomous year-round observation platform with minimum environmental and fuel costs.

With the aim of providing a completely self-contained winter base for its two-man crew and from six to nine-researchers, the ship is designed to be as energy-efficient as possible, relying for its heat and power upon a high-efficiency diesel-powered Whispergen co-generation system supplemented by renewable electricity produced



by a bank of eight 175-watt Shell solar cells and the one-kilowatt FuturEnergy wind turbine. The solar panels and wind turbine will play a vital role in minimising the use of costly and polluting diesel, a scarce resource in the Arctic, particularly when the vessel is moored for scientific observation or icebound for long periods.

Due to be used only when the Aurora Magnetica is stationary - the ship's engine-driven alternators providing the main source of power whilst it is moving - the FuturEnergy turbine will be mounted on the ship's main mast at an obstruction-free height of 12-metres. With a specially designed mount to absorb vibrations from the turbine's rotating 1.80-metre blades, it is anticipated that the Arctic's winter winds will generate between two to five kilowatts of clean non-polluting power each day.

In the 12-months since its launch, the wholly-British designed and manufactured FuturEnergy wind turbine, has been deployed on hundreds of projects around the UK and overseas including farms, homes and even a houseboat, and has rapidly gained a widespread reputation for reliability and high-power generation. Able to produce usable electricity from the lightest breeze upwards, the FuturEnergy one-kilowatt turbine is now acknowledged to be the most powerful in its class, generating 'More Power per Pound' than any of its contemporaries.



“Although there are lots of wind turbines on the market, we were most impressed by the FuturEnergy's performance in the field, its reliability record and the ability to order spare parts quickly online,” comments Aurora Magnetica's project head Pierre Sauvadet. “Contact with the company's specialists was excellent throughout and left us feeling confident that we had made the right choice.” **END**

Editor's Note:

A wholly privately run and funded project, conceived and run by passionate travellers, Aurora Magnetica's main goal is to provide an environmentally friendly educational tool to promote a better understanding of one of the planet's most remote places. During its first winter, the Aurora Magnetica will be moored in Resolute Bay, Canada, to provide a base camp for scientists, photographers, engineers and observers.

Further information on the project is available at www.auroramagnetica.com

Further information on the FuturEnergy wind turbine is available at www.futureenergy.com

Image Captions

1. Soon to be fitted with a FuturEnergy wind turbine, the Aurora Magnetica's unique low-draft design enables it to explore remote shallow waterways that conventional large icebreakers cannot access.
2. The Aurora Magnetica and its FuturEnergy wind turbine will soon be withstanding the worst of the Arctic's winter weather.
3. Canada's remote Resolute Bay and its 200 inhabitants will soon play host to the Aurora Magnetica.
3. British designed and manufactured, the innovative FuturEnergy wind turbine is now recognised as the most powerful in its class.

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