

ASL performs current and wave surveys for new tidal power project

Thanks to an innovative partnership between Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific, EnCana Corporation, Sustainable Development Technology Canada and Clean Current Power Systems Incorporated, Canada's first free-stream tidal power project will be built at the Race Rocks Ecological Reserve, offshore Vancouver Island in British Columbia.

The tidal power project will enable the world famous marine park to tap into surrounding ocean currents and convert tidal energy to electric power for its needs beginning in early 2006. It will be the first sustained field testing of new electricity-generating technology in the harsh marine environment.

Officially known as the "Pearson College - EnCana - Clean Current Tidal Power Demonstration Project at Race Rocks", the project is enabled by a \$3-million investment from the EnCana Environmental Innovation Fund. This investment will cover 75 percent of the expected \$4-million total cost of the demonstration project. The federal government's Sustainable Development Technology Fund will provide most of the remaining funding.

In order to determine the optimum site for the turbine in terms of depth and tidal current, ASL Environmental Sciences of Sidney, BC Canada was contracted by Triton Consultants of Vancouver to collect ADCP (Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler) transect data to verify Triton's numerical model and to narrow down the potential installation sites. ASL then collected current and wave data over the course of a lunar month at one, and 15 days later, at another of the selected sites. The system is planned to be operational in early 2006.

For more information see: www.aslenv.com and www.racerocks.com/racerock/energy/tidalenergy/tidalenergy.htm

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