

Preface to the special issues of the Fourteenth European Wave and Tidal Energy Conference (EWTEC 2021)

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THE 14th European Wave and Tidal Energy Conference (EWTEC 2021) was organized by the University of Plymouth from 5th – 9th September 2021. It was the first time the conference had been hosted in the South West of the UK, and with the impact of COVID-19, it was also the first time the event was held in a full hybrid format with presenters and audience both in person and online from as far away as Alaska. Live questions were submitted by the audience in the venues and from around the world. In total there were 363 delegates – 146 face-to-face and 217 online.

The event received 369 abstract submissions, of which 128 were either withdrawn or rejected. In total, 241 full papers were submitted with 221 accepted for oral presentation, 20 for poster presentation, and of the 221 oral presentations an additional 28 took up the offer of a poster presentation.

The scientific papers were presented across 45 sessions from Monday afternoon until Thursday lunchtime, with every session live streamed and both presenters and audience members able to join in person in Plymouth, or virtually. Additionally, there were 17 physical posters, and 48 electronic posters displayed for delegates to view.

The event attracted three sponsors (Supergen Offshore Renewable Hub, Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult, and the WESE Project), reflecting the challenging uncertainty during the COVID pandemic. We thank the sponsors for their support.

There were also 13 side events held during the conference, all of which were also streamed to the virtual audience.

The thematic tracks of the conference once again covered fundamental hydrodynamics, environmental impact assessment, economics, social and policy implications of wave and tidal energy. The tracks also included numerical modelling and engineering studies, all specifically dedicated to the development of wave and tidal energy conversion devices. As the Chair of EWTEC 2021 and a member of the Editorial Board of the International Marine Energy Journal (IMEJ), together with Prof A.S. Bahaj, the Editor-in-Chief, we have decided to dedicate a special section of the forthcoming three issues of the journal to present the best papers selected from EWTEC2021 conference with the criteria: (a) reviewed by at least two peer reviewers; (b) recommended for publication by at least two reviewers. We hope that the quality, depth and range of the papers will demonstrate the continuing commitment of EWTEC to scientific rigour in the field of marine renewable energy. On behalf of the EWTEC Committee, I would like once again to warmly thank all the authors, reviewers and Track Directors for their work without which the Conference and the IMEJ special issues would not have been possible.

Prof Deborah Greaves
Chair, EWTEC 2021