

Preface to the special issues of the 15th European Wave and Tidal Energy Conference (EWTEC 2023)

Jesús M. Blanco and Jose L. Villate

THE 15th European Wave and Tidal Energy Conference (EWTEC 2023) was organized by the University of the Basque Country from 3rd – 7th September 2023 in Bilbao, awarded in London with the “Best European City 2018” prize by the international academy of Urbanism, counting with a population of approximately 350,000 inhabitants. It was the first time the conference had been hosted in the North of Spain. Finally, it was also supported by the JRL-ORE (Joint Research Lab. on Offshore Renewable Energy), which counts on a number of national and international collaborative institutions such as universities, public administration, research centres, private companies and other associations. In total there were registered 382 delegates.

The event received 507 abstract submissions, of which 110 were either withdrawn or rejected. In total, 397 full papers were submitted, being 382 accepted for oral presentation, and 15 for poster presentation.

The scientific papers were presented across 43 sessions from Monday afternoon until Thursday lunchtime, with every session live streamed.

The event attracted six sponsors (Supergen Offshore Renewable Hub, Sandia Lab (WEC-SIM Team and TPL Team), University of Edinburgh, AZTI, EVE and Bilbao Convention Bureau). We thank the sponsors for their support.

There were also 9 side events held during the conference, all of which were also streamed to the virtual audience. Besides, 5 exhibitors were placed close by the posters sessions to facilitate networking.

The 12 thematic tracks of the conference once again covered fundamental hydrodynamics, development and testing, grid integration, 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. All members 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 special sections of the journal in Issues 8(1) and 8(2) of IMEJ to present the best papers selected from EWTEC2023 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 organizing Committee of EWTEC 2023, 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 Jesús M. Blanco and Jose L. Villate
Chair and co-Chair, EWTEC 2023