

VICTORIA NICHOLLS, 08 November 2008 06:27

Wave power machine unveiled in Southwold



The revolutionary wave power machine

The inventor of an electricity generator which will harness wave power off the Southwold coast unveiled his model yesterday.

And if it proves its worth the Trident generator could lead the way for projects like it around Britain's coastline.

The generator will be moored five miles offshore from early next year for trials. Floats, which move up and down with the waves, will drive generators which convert the motion into electricity, which is piped via sub-sea cables onshore and linked to the national grid.

The Trident generator, the first of its kind ever to be built, will be left in the North Sea initially for three months, before it is converted into a full-size model.

Its inventor Hugh-Peter Kelly said: "Wave energy has been neglected. It is the hardest but most rewarding form of renewable energy. Forty percent of our entire national energy needs for electricity can come from harnessing wave power around the UK."

Trident Energy, which is based in Southend, commissioned marine engineers Small & Co in, Lowestoft to build the framework rig, which is in the final stages of construction.

Energy and climate change minister Lord Hunt, who visited the rig before opening of the Orbis Energy centre at Ness Point, said: "I think it's a very exciting project by Trident. It has great potential for developing experts and developing much more renewable energy. The test will be to scale it up."