**Businesses and Society – The UN Sustainable Development Goals  - *Exploring their relevance and application. The role of tidal range energy in helping to meet the SDGs***

Perhaps it first needs to be emphasised that the UN SDGs are not only relevant for less developed countries. They are also relevant for developed countries – especially where environmental challenges and energy security are driving the need for investment in renewable energy.

Secondly, although the interests of business and society should coincide in relation to the UN SDGs this is not often the case. For example, whereas citizens see many of the SD goals as self-evident and very relevant to their lives, businesses have different objectives and often don’t see a market opportunity. As a consequence, businesses are likely to cherry pick those SDGs that offer an economic opportunity for them to drive growth and increase their market share. Indeed, one of the few SDGs that both business and society strongly identify with is SDG 13 (Climate action).

One way forward for developed countries is to identify those goals that have both a benefit for society and, in addition, offer significant business opportunities for firms. It is likely that, in developed countries, many of these overlapping goals will be related to investment in renewable energy infrastructure because it can positively impact both economic growth and the environment. An analysis the 17 SDGs suggest that there are at least 5 goals that could be better achieved by innovative investment in renewable energy that can then be utilised rapidly in developing countries.

One particular type of renewable energy that is particularly relevant to achieving the UN SDGs is tidal range energy. It is a form of energy that is abundant in many less developed countries and, once it is harnessed in developed countries through investment in infrastructure and innovation, it can easily be used to generate growth, jobs and environmental enhancement in other countries.

Tidal range energy (to differentiate it from tidal stream energy) is a renewable energy source that harnesses the power of the tides to generate electricity. It is a reliable and predictable source of energy that can be used to power homes, businesses, and communities. It has the potential to help both developed and developing countries meet several of the UN SDGs.

1.     SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy - Tidal range energy is a clean and renewable energy source that can help reduce reliance on fossil fuels, which are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions.

2.     SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure - Tidal range energy projects require the development of new infrastructure, such as tidal turbines and barrages, which can stimulate economic growth and create new jobs.

3.     SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities - Tidal energy can be used to power homes and communities in coastal areas, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and improving air quality.

4.     SDG 13: Climate action - Tidal range energy is a clean and renewable energy source that can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

5.     SDG 14: Life below water - Tidal energy projects can be designed to minimize their impact on marine ecosystems and wildlife, helping to protect and preserve the oceans.

The paper then outlines the global market size for tidal range and the innovative technologies needed to harness this energy. It assesses the benefits and opportunities for tidal range and the funding required to unlock and de-risk investment in it for the benefit of both developed and developing countries.

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