

FORCE Monitoring Platforms Unveiled July 14TH



FORCE Director of Operations, Anne-Marie Belliveau and EMO president, Tom Know, explain the FAST-1 platform. (Submitted)

On July 14th the Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy (FORCE) unveiled two advanced underwater monitoring platforms, now in their final stages of testing in Dartmouth before sea trials in the Bay of Fundy. The two sub-sea instrument platforms that will give a clearer, moment-by-moment picture of what's happening under the water.

The Fundy Advanced Sensor Technology (FAST) platforms are recoverable instrument platforms designed to monitor and characterize the FORCE

site. Using a variety of onboard sensing equipment, the platforms enable real-time data from the Minas Passage, including: currents and turbulence; marine life activity; noise levels and seabed stability.

"Many ocean sensors were not designed to operate in the extreme high flows at the FORCE site in the Minas Passage," said FORCE platform manager Simon Melrose. "The platforms help take ocean monitoring to the next level, built by local companies with world class expertise in ocean

technology - proving Canada has the skills to lead this industry."

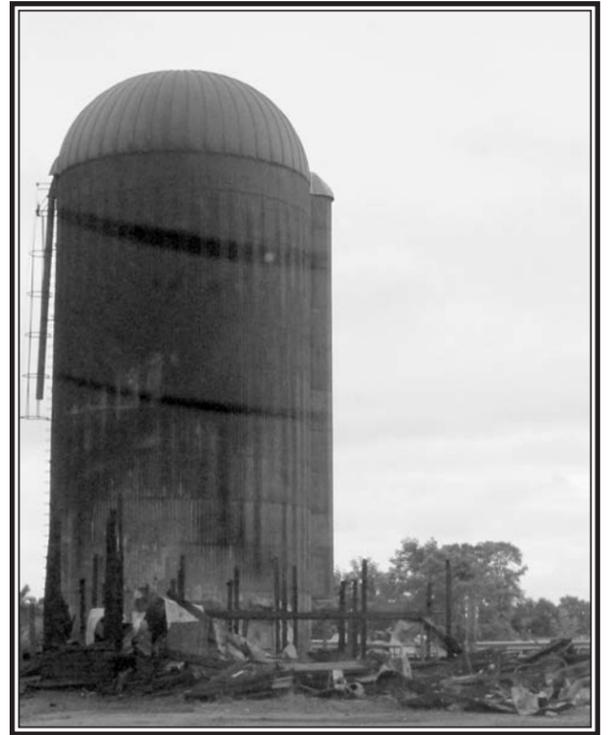
The smaller platform, FAST-1, weighs 650 kilograms and measures 3-metres in length and is designed for subsea data cable connection, enabling access to real-time data from the Minas Passage. FAST-1 will be transported to the FORCE site shortly to begin sea trials. FAST-2, at 4.5-tons and 4-metres in length, is designed for more frequent deployment and recovery to enable instrument testing, and will begin trials later this year.

The platforms are part of a \$6.8 million FAST program that has supported FORCE efforts to better understand the Minas Passage. This has included sub-sea data collection, subsea data cable installation, shore-based radar and meteorological equipment, as well as platform fabrication, instrumentation, and deployment. FAST is supported by Encana Corporation, Natural Resources Canada, and FORCE developers.

Reliable site data is critical to all aspects of in-stream tidal energy development, including the design, installation, and maintenance of turbines, as well as understanding and measuring any effects on the marine ecosystem.

Many companies have been involved in the FAST platform. A partial list of businesses and their contributions includes: ABCO Industries (Lunenburg, NS) built the large platform; Blue C designs (Halifax, NS) designed custom onboard orientation technology with acoustic interrogation; Dominion Diving (Dartmouth, NS) provided the facilities to

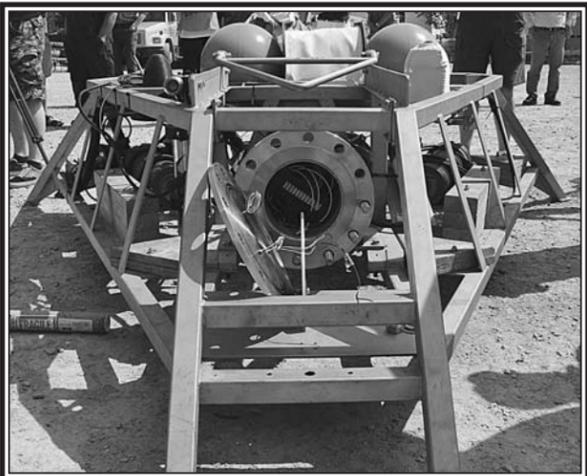
mobilize and assemble all project components; Dynamic Systems Analysis (Halifax, NS) modelled tidal flow loadings and platform deployment; EMO Marine Technologies Ltd. (Dartmouth, NS) designed and built the fibre optic system to bring data ashore; JASCO Applied Sciences (Dartmouth, NS) will use the platform to advance passive acoustic science and technology; Lenkeek Vessel Engineering (Dartmouth, NS) provided the large platform final design; Ocean Networks Canada (Victoria, BC) supported initial concept development and provides real-time data online; OceanWorks International (Vancouver, BC) completed the preliminary design of the large platform and recovery system; Open Seas Instrumentation (Musquodoboit Harbour, NS) designed and built the small platform and Velocity Machining & Welding (Dartmouth, NS) fabricated high precision components for the large platform.



Only the silo remains standing after a fire destroyed a barn belonging to Jim Eisses of Masstown. Brigades from Debert, Cobequid, North River, Valley-Kemptown and Great Village were called in for Mutual Aid assist to Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade. Fire fighters managed to save nearby houses and other outbuildings. (Harrington Photo)



Scientists-make-instrument-adjustments-on-FAST-2



FAST-1 platform. (Submitted)



Chief technician, Murray Scotney adjusts cable connection on FAST-1. (Submitted)



The FAST-2 platform is being delivered to Dominion Diving.




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