

Press Release

## **A new joint venture for the Prince Madog**

Bangor University has today (29.1.21) announced a new joint venture with O.S Energy, P. Madog Offshore Services Ltd (PRIMOS) to manage the *Prince Madog* Research Vessel from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

O.S. Energy ([www.os-energy.de](http://www.os-energy.de)), based in Glückstadt, Germany and Newcastle, UK are a family owned company who specialise in offshore wind industry and environmental survey work in the North and Baltic Seas, operating a fleet of vessels.

Professor Paul Spencer, Pro VC Research and Innovation at Bangor University welcomes O.S. Energy to work closely with the University in our research role offshore:

“The new joint venture with O.S. Energy ensures that Bangor University builds upon our world leading understanding of the environment and physical positioning of marine energy sites by partnering with a leading marine logistics and survey company. Commercial expansion of the marine sector is dependent on scientific knowledge of the marine environment technological development to reduce commercial risk, inform environmental impact assessment and consent, and underpin sustainability, and we are delighted that our expertise both within the School of Ocean Science and via the *Prince Madog* will form an integral part of the new joint venture to support this important industry sector.”

Professor John Turner, Head of the School of Ocean Sciences added:

“With our new partners, the *Prince Madog* will also continue to play an important role in collecting evidence to manage natural resources and support sustainable Blue Growth in Welsh waters and beyond. The ship is vital in supporting our training of the next generation of marine scientists. All of our undergraduate and postgraduate taught students (over 250 in a normal year) benefit from the unique experience of working on a research vessel at sea, using scientific equipment to assess processes, water quality and measure the abundance and distribution of marine life, and this part of the learning experience is set to continue.”

Vincent Nuernberg, Managing Director, O.S. Energy identified that:

“The *Prince Madog* is a perfect addition to our fleet which consists of five similar vessels which are operating in the European offshore wind as well as oil and gas industry. We are proud to take over P&O Maritime Services’ role as manager and join and Bangor University as new partners. We promise to fulfil this task with full dedication. Additionally, this new partnership provides easy access for the University to further specialist vessels in the fleet of OS Energy. We are looking forward to this long-term partnership.”

Bangor University’s School of Ocean Sciences has won over £68 million grant income and published more than 100 papers in international journals that have depended on the vessel.

The RV *Prince Madog* is available to charter by the marine industry through O.S. Energy. The ship was previously managed in a joint venture with P&O Maritime who have operated the vessel since 2011.

ENDS

Date of release: 28.1.2021

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Editor’s notes:

The 34m, 390 tonnes vessel is equipped for physical oceanography (with instruments to study dynamics and structure of the water column), and geological oceanography including high resolution seabed surveying (multibeam sonar) and seabed geology (side scan sonar, sub-bottom profiler, grabs, corers), marine biology including seabed habitats (towed video, grabs, dredges), and marine biogeochemistry including water quality. The vessel is also fully equipped for fisheries surveys of fish and shellfish populations.

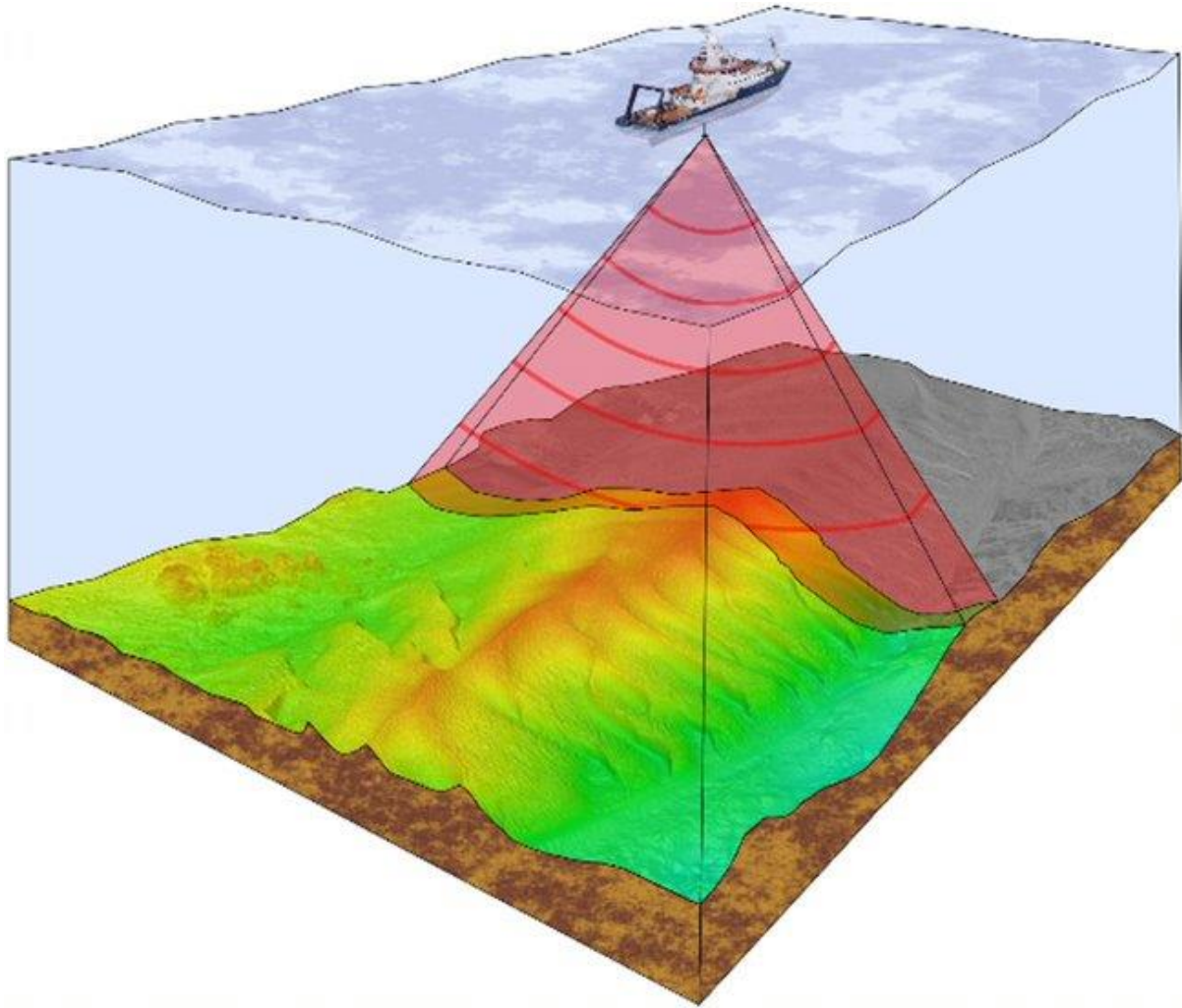
The RV Prince Madog came into service in 2001 under a joint venture between Bangor University and Vosper Thornycroft Marine Services, replacing the former *Prince Madog* which had served the University well since 1968. The current ship is the largest research vessel in the UK HE sector, capable of working in strong currents and most weather conditions and was custom built to undertake scientific surveys across the spectrum of marine science, from coastal waters to the shelf edge, and continues to provide an effective and efficient platform for teaching, research, and marine sector charter.



RV *Prince Madog* at home pier in Menai Bridge



RV *Prince Madog* at sea



Hull mounted multibeam provides very high resolution maps of the seabed, providing key information for identifying bathymetry, seabed morphologies, and navigational hazards such as wrecks which could be a risk to engineering installations



Deployment of Coastal Observatory data buoy at Constable Bank, North Wales  
CoastalObservatory Monitoring buoy deployment, Constable Bank



RV Prince Madog off Penmon Point, Anglesey



Deployment of an otter trawl for a fisheries survey