

SIN Europe plays a key role in Creating UK-European Collaborations on Low Carbon Research & Innovation



2016 has seen unprecedented levels of climate disruption across the globe, with record-breaking temperatures and the smallest Arctic sea ice since records began. The UK is taking the lead in activities supporting the move to a low carbon economy, and international collaboration will play a critical role in this. 2015-16 has seen SIN Europe at the forefront of facilitating UK-European collaboration across a variety of these challenges.

SIN France and Germany hosted a series of workshops on energy storage in the run-up to COP21 in Paris in December 2015. The workshops led to the formation of a trilateral working group in partnership with the European Association for the Storage of Energy which now meets on a regular basis. The workshop is formed of researchers and government representatives and facilitates knowledge exchange, strengthens R&D collaboration, identifies joint funding opportunities between the countries, and informs government policies based on international best practice.

In 2015, SIN Sweden together with the SuperGen UK Centre for Marine Energy Research and the SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden, hosted a roundtable meeting on ocean energy in Stockholm, which resulted in several bilateral R&D collaborations in areas such as antifouling surface materials, reliability methodologies and subsea cables.

Early in 2016, SIN Finland helped establish a policy research partnership between University of Manchester and Aalto University to explore how ways to facilitate bioenergy deployment in the UK based on Finnish expertise and experience.

A new partnership between the UK's Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult and Spain's Tecnalia was a result of a Catapult delegation visit to the North of Spain in March last year. The visit jointly organised by SIN Spain and UKTI and led to the Catapult joining the European project RECODE which successfully attracted €110k in funding for the Catapult. Finally, the UK Catalysis Hub and the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) are currently working on developing a formal agreement for a research collaboration on catalytic reactions for energy production and harvesting, as a result of an introductory meeting brokered by SIN Switzerland last April. This collaboration will utilise a new unique X-ray Free Electron Laser facility that is currently being build by PSI.

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