

Marathon, UK/Europe Wave Technology



Dr. Ally Price is in the fortunate position of being paid to do her hobby. This happens to be wave energy: a new type of renewable energy that is currently under development by several small companies around the world. She did her undergraduate degree at Edinburgh University. Not content with one type of engineering, she studied Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. Her PhD (also at Edinburgh) was about how to make wave energy converters (WECs) more cost effective. During her PhD she visited Ecole Centrale de Nantes in France to conduct a study on the use of artificial neural networks for prediction of sea waves. This research prompted the question of how information about future waves could be useful for controlling WECs. After her PhD she worked with a couple of maths professors on this question.

Since December 2009 she has worked for a wave energy company based in Inverness, called Archimedes Wave Swing (AWS), where she “does maths” and is learning about data acquisition: collecting information from sensors on experimental models and then using it to understand how things work.