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Lessons Learned in Maturing Novel Renewables

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RWE Renewables and its predecessors have endeavoured for decades to mature novel technologies to a state where they can become a part of the energy mix.

In wave and tidal energy, floating wind, concentrated solar, and Airborne Wind Energy RWE has been at the forefront; challenging and supporting these technologies, hoping to can one day operate them. Through this experience, we have built up a wealth of experience of what works well, as well as what has brought about near inevitable failure.

In this paper, a review of lessons learned is presented, with an emphasis on the parallel maturation of both a technology, and the company developing it. Processes, quality control, and above all safety practices must be proportionate to the risks at a given stage of development. From the intrepid inventor working in their garage, to the equipment manufacturer supplying Gigawatts of generation, understanding these requirements is vital for success.



Example novel renewables concepts from which RWE's experience has been gained.