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**Barcelona, Spain**

**KIC InnoEnergy celebrates success of Spanish start-up at EIT Awards**

KIC InnoEnergy, the European company for innovation, education and business creation in sustainable energy, is celebrating the success one of their start-up projects in the prestigious EIT Awards earlier this week.

EOLOS LiDAR, the Barcelona based creator of wind measurement tools, won the EIT Innovators Award at this weeks' InnovEIT conference being held in Budapest. This award recognises teams made up from across the KIC communities that have developed a product that has the potential to have a significant societal and economic impact.

The business was set up when founder Rajai Aghabi identified that there was a need to develop a more cost-effective way to measure wind speed at prospective off-shore sites for wind farms. The business was selected by KIC InnoEnergy to go through their Highway® Business Creation programme, which provides tailored support, funding and access to partners across the European energy eco-system.

Diego Pavia, CEO at KIC InnoEnergy, says: "We are delighted by the success EOLOS LiDAR has had at these awards. The EIT Awards recognise the best in innovation and commitment to advancing sustainable growth and competitiveness in the field of sustainable energy, and this business really embodies success in this field."

Mikel Lasa, CEO of KIC InnoEnergy Iberia, said: "We are really proud of the success that ELOS LiDAR is demonstrating – it's a great example of the innovative businesses that we support across the region and looks set to have a big impact in the field of offshore wind."

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**About KIC InnoEnergy ([www.kic-innoenergy.com](http://www.kic-innoenergy.com))**

KIC InnoEnergy is the European company dedicated to promoting innovation, entrepreneurship and education in the sustainable energy field by bringing together academics, business and research institutes. KIC InnoEnergy's goal is to make a positive impact on sustainable energy in Europe, by creating future game changers with a different mind-set, and bringing innovative products, services and successful companies to life.

With its headquarters in the Netherlands, KIC InnoEnergy develops its activities across a network of offices located in Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Poland and Sweden. More than 150 partners contribute to KIC InnoEnergy's activities, forming a first class and dynamic network that is always open to new entrants. The company's 27 shareholders are committed to a 7 year industrial plan in which they pledge to mobilise €700 million of resources during the period 2011-2015 alone.

KIC InnoEnergy is financially supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and, while a profit-oriented company, has a "not for dividend" financial strategy, reinvesting all its profits back into the organisation's activities.

**EOLOS LiDAR**

EOLOS LiDAR buoy can take wind measurements from sea surface up to 200 meters with a precision similar to a met mast, but only for the 10% of its cost. Additionally, the buoy measures wave and current data, which up to now had been done by a smaller buoy.

EOLOS LiDAR buoy offers a low cost, accurate and reliable offshore wind data source, allowing the performance of measurements at heights over 200m above sea level, and at much lower costs (up to 10 times less) than conventional bottom-fixed offshore met masts. Moreover, it offers positional flexibility and can be reused in other areas within a wind farm site (or on other sites), potentially reducing the uncertainties of wind speed measurement.