

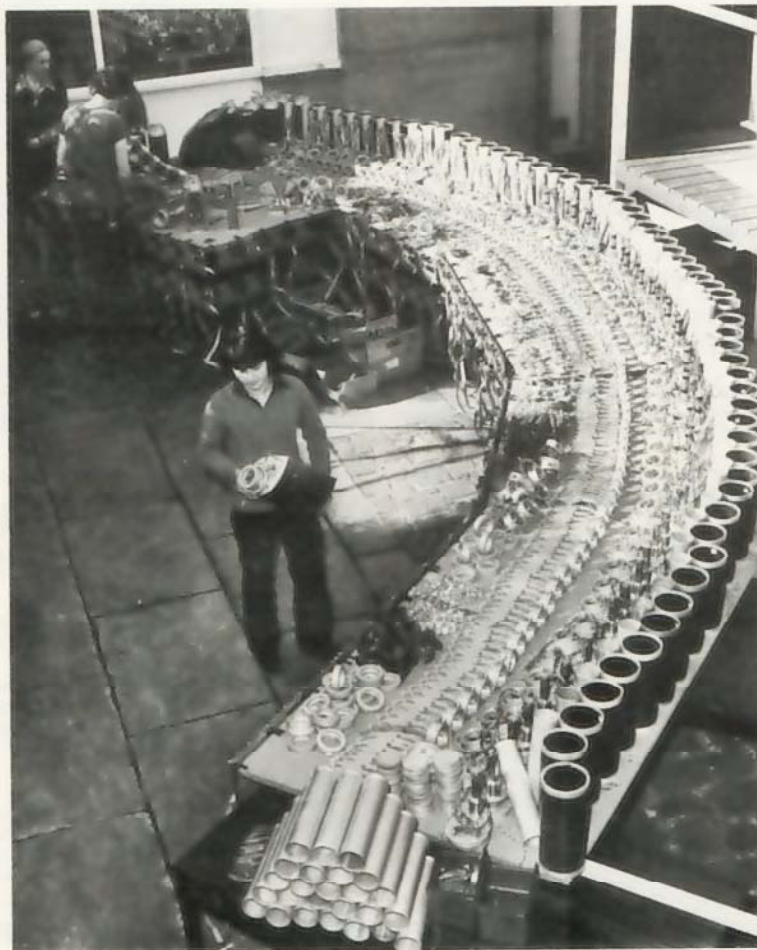


University of Edinburgh Bulletin

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The Ducks line up preparing for the next stage in Edinburgh's wave-power project



Stretched out along the bench (LEFT) are the innards of 80 rather special ducks, to take to the water for the very first time later this year. The birds in question are obviously not zoological but mechanical specimens designed to generate electricity in a future where the prices of fossil fuels will apparently continue their steady rise.

Shown (ABOVE) in more detail are two of the individual nodding duck units.

The pre-assembly ducks on the bench have been designed and made on site by the Wave Energy Group within the University's Department of Mechanical Engineering. Built at 1/75 scale (the eventual full-size ducks will be as high as a two-storey house), these model units will later be launched in series, providing the first test data based on linked units along a spine, in the 90' wave tank at King's Buildings.

(Another indication of the scale of the eventual full-size units may be gauged from the fact that the radius of the arc in which the 80 duck components are laid out (LEFT), is the same as that of one full size duck.)

Wave energy research at the University of Edinburgh is supported by the Department of Energy, and the Project Group works in collaboration with engineers from the Scottish Offshore Partnership and the Laing Organisation.

*The Bulletin and the Extra are produced by the University's Information Office, Old College (667 1011 ext 4254/5). Contributions on matters of interest—written, photographic or cartoon—from staff and students are welcomed by the Editor. Close for receipt of copy for the October Bulletin will be 12 noon on 12 September (by internal post please, not telephone). Queries on Bulletin Distribution should also be addressed to the Information Office.
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