

Kuźniewski's type of WEC – its potential and directions of development

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Professor Bolesław Kuźniewski (June 22, 1935 - August 20, 2017) was a specialist in the field of fluid mechanics [1]. His research concerned, inter alia, sea wave energy conversion. His inventions are, among others, an innovative method of extinguishing sea waves [2, 3] and two versions of a vane motor driven by sea waves operating in a horizontal [4, 5] and vertical [6, 7] system. The inspiration for the development of Kuźniewski's vane motor was the movement of seagull wings [1]. The solution is potentially an alternative to the known and currently developed sea wave transducers, such as oscillating water columns, attenuators with hydraulic systems or point absorbers based on floats. The advantages of Kuźniewski's motor are its relatively simple design and the associated high operational reliability [6]. In addition, the solution can operate as a multi-module system, which allows to increase the efficiency of the sea area where the system of energy converters is installed. It is proposed to continue prof. Kuźniewski's work by building numerical models of the system and carrying out their simulation studies, and as the next step studying the physical model in the model tank. The research should particularly focus on analysing the influence of water wave characteristics and size of the vanes, the vane profile and the inter-vane angles on the operating indicators of the motor, such as the rotational speed of the motor shaft, developed power and general efficiency of the motor.

References

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