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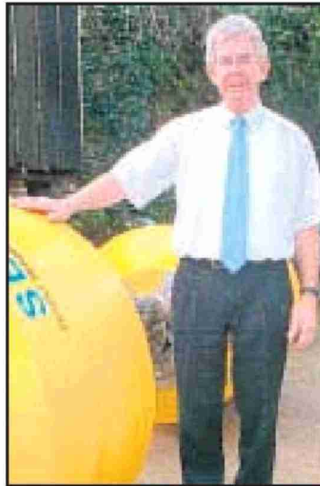
## Simple invention uses sea power

**W**HERE are the 'buts' with this product?" The words of Environment Secretary Ed Miliband on first hearing about the Searaser, a simple water pump that South Devon-based inventor Alvin Smith believes may hold the answer to the world's long-term energy generation and fresh water challenges.

There are no buts. For while the Searaser contains just four moving parts and is, in Alvin's words, "as mechanically simple as it gets", this is no ordinary pump.

Anchored to the sea-bed with a single chain and with an extending column to cope with rises and falls in the water level, it takes energy from the swell (not the breaking wave) which enables seawater to be pumped into a higher, land-based receptacle such as a tank, lagoon or even a disused quarry.

Allowing the water to run downhill enables the generation of hydro-electric power. It even allows desalination, by passing the water under pressure through polymer screens. What this means in practice is that by harnessing an



**Alvin Smith**

infinitely renewable resource, just 11,000 Searasers working at full capacity could meet all the UK's domestic power generation needs.

Today, Alvin's biggest challenge is to get the Searaser into pro-

duction. 2008 saw him and colleagues Nigel Hart, Geoff White and Steve Price launch a company – Dartmouth Wave Energy Ltd – to own patents covering the invention, to raise finance and possibly to enter a joint venture with one or more large engineering businesses.

Alvin said: "Having got so far, I really want to be around still to see the Searaser in full production and helping in the fight against global warming and drought."

What makes Searaser a Challenger business? Original thinking, mechanical simplicity and proven capability lie at the very heart of this pioneering enterprise which is now on the threshold of a significant commercial breakthrough.

Business Link adviser Lloyd Brina said: "Taking steps to identify and protect their intellectual property rights brings the company real credibility and, coupled with the startling simplicity of the Searaser, will stand them in very good stead as they seek to move forward."