

ORJIP OCEAN ENERGY: PROGRAMME BRIEF

1.1 BACKGROUND

During 2013, there was an increasing recognition amongst many in the industry (developers, regulators, their advisors and the research community) that a coordinated, strategic approach would help de-risk and accelerate the consenting of wave and tidal projects in the UK. This is particularly the case for array projects yet to be consented, and those recently consented projects with consent conditions requiring technically challenging, costly and pioneering environmental monitoring programmes.

Given this recognition, throughout 2013 and early 2014 The Crown Estate and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) organised a series of discussions with the UK's devolved administrations, key decision makers and regulators, advisors, demonstration/commercial array-scale developers and others. There was consensus that a coordinated research programme would be a welcome development and was something worthy of continued consideration.

To kick-start development of a potential coordinated programme for the wave and tidal sectors, The Crown Estate commissioned Aquatera Ltd to undertake a desk-based study. The study sought to consolidate the key EIA/HRA issues facing the sectors and identify the current knowledge gaps and priority research areas. In addition to Aquatera involving a large number of organisations in the project's Call for Evidence, the draft report was discussed by some 50 stakeholders at a workshop organised by NERC (Edinburgh, Nov 2013).

The workshop discussions confirmed the work was comprehensive and assisted Aquatera with finalising the report. Along with a summary of the workshop by NERC, the Aquatera report was published by The Crown Estate in January 2014. To access the final report, see <http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/media/151984/consolidation-of-eia-hra-issues-and-research-priorities.pdf>.

Since the Aquatera report was published in January 2014, The Crown Estate, NERC, Marine Scotland and others have continued to progress the programme. A further meeting was held in July 2014 with the regulators, Government, devolved bodies, some first array developers and others to discuss the programme structure/management, membership and funding. There was overall support and commitment shown for the proposed structure and for the programme in general, and all wished to see it progress.

To this end, The Crown Estate, Marine Scotland and Welsh Government (the Sponsors) have committed to fund a Secretariat function to run the programme, now known as **ORJIP Ocean Energy**. Via the Secretariat function, ORJIP Ocean Energy will bring industry, funders and researchers together so that the sectors' consenting risks can be addressed in a timely manner and on a strategic basis. The Secretariat role will be funded for an initial pilot phase, lasting approximately 15 months. The Secretariat function will be run by Aquatera and delivery partners MarineSpace and the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC).

The purpose of the pilot stage is to establish ORJIP Ocean Energy, progress research and monitoring projects in order to de-risk consenting of wave, tidal current and tidal range developments, gain experience of running the programme, and then to evaluate its progress and benefits. The developers, devolved administrations, regulators, Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs), etc. will convene towards the end of the pilot phase to determine if there is merit in continuing the programme further and what format any continued programme should take based on the status of the industry at that time and who would be the most appropriate to fund any future programme.

1.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF ORJIP OCEAN ENERGY

The aim of ORJIP Ocean Energy is to ensure that the principal EIA and HRA consenting risks for early array deployments in the wave and tidal sectors are addressed by facilitating a strategic, coordinated and prioritised approach to monitoring and research which is endorsed by industry, regulators and SNCBs.

Through the establishment of the Secretariat role, the aim of the Sponsors is that ORJIP Ocean Energy will:

- help organisations whose role it is to fund and manage research to do so efficiently and effectively by bringing together knowledge and expertise on needs and practicalities from industry, regulators, etc.;
- make this knowledge available in a way that can be readily understood and acted upon;
- provide a funded Secretariat to coordinate creating and sharing the information and encourage action (one Secretariat to cover both the wave and tidal work streams); and
- support project developers by coordinating research and monitoring to ultimately assist with commercialisation.

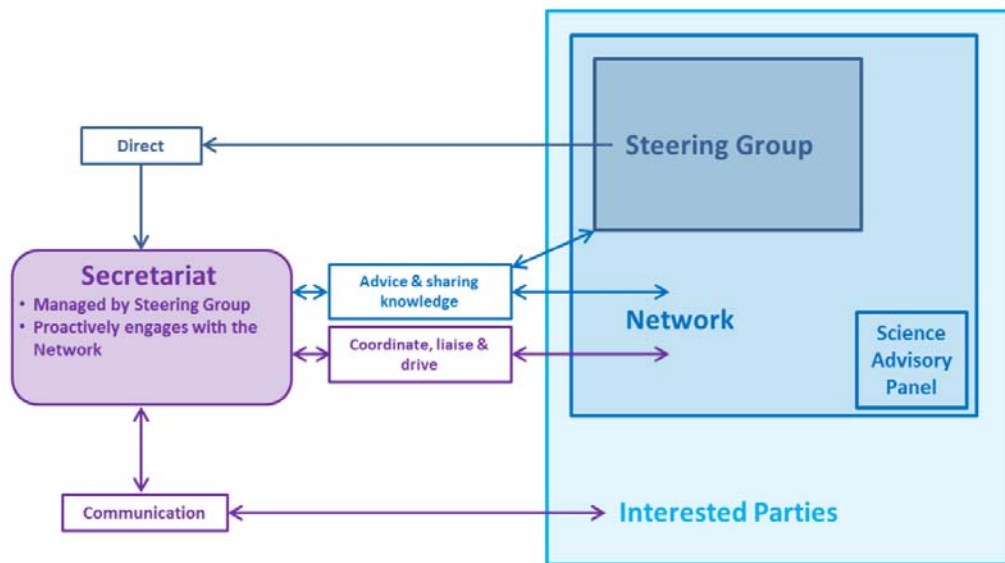
ORJIP Ocean Energy – Key Points

- The basic structure of ORJIP Ocean Energy is public sector funded, given that the wave and tidal developers are not currently in a position to contribute financially. The developers may contribute through the use of project sites and staff resource, etc.
- The original Aquatera report will be used as the basis for a Forward Look produced by the Secretariat.
- Research projects will be funded by a variety of organisations, not by the programme itself.
- The Secretariat has been commissioned to take over the day-to-day running of the programme and to connect and coordinate the ORJIP Ocean Energy members.
- The project management of any research projects will be the responsibility of the members.
- The Secretariat will seek to stimulate the identification and collaborative commissioning of the priority research projects by identifying project leaders and funders from within the network of members. The Secretariat will be the main point of contact for ORJIP Ocean Energy and be managed by a Steering Group.
- The programme will cover wave, tidal current and tidal range.

Via the Secretariat, ORJIP Ocean Energy will produce a prioritised list of major research issues. This list will be presented in the **Forward Look**; a published report which sets out the purpose, required timing and broad scope of the research projects necessary to meet ORJIP Ocean Energy's overall aim. The Forward Look will be produced by the Secretariat and will be informed by consultation with key stakeholders including the Steering Group and the Network. The Forward Look will be approved by the Steering Group and maintained by the Secretariat for the duration of the Pilot Phase.

1.3 STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF ORJIP OCEAN ENERGY

An overview of the structure of ORJIP Ocean Energy is presented in the following diagram. An outline of the roles and responsibilities of the key function groups (Steering Group, Network and Secretariat) is then provided.



Steering Group – the Steering Group will direct the Secretariat’s work, review the Forward Look and monitor ORJIP Ocean Energy’s progress. The Steering Group will be convened by the Sponsors and will include regulators (policy, licencing and advisory) and industry representatives from the wave, tidal current and tidal range sectors. The Steering Group will meet regularly during the Pilot Phase.

Network – The Network is the ‘engine room’ of ORJIP Ocean Energy. Collectively, members will have the capacity to specify, fund, procure and manage research projects. The Steering Group will invite members from a range of organisations including:

- SNCBs
- Conservation bodies including Non Government Organisations (NGO)
- Leading academic/research programmes/groups active in research relevant to the wave and tidal sectors
- Wave and tidal developers (technology developers with full scale devices installed or those planning to install in the next 24 months and project developers planning arrays)
- UK Industry bodies
- Test facilities
- Demonstration Zone Managers
- Funding organisations
- Consultancies/advisors
- Key international stakeholders.

It is envisaged that two Network events will be held during the Pilot Phase. These will be coordinated and chaired by the Secretariat. Members of the Network will commit to actively contribute to ORJIP Ocean Energy; contributions could vary from staff resource, provision of suitable sites/equipment for research/monitoring projects, funding, etc.

Science Advisory Panel – the Network will also contain a Science Advisory Panel consisting of nominated experts from SNCBs, regulators and leading academics. The panel will provide informal peer review of project plans and outputs as required.

Secretariat – A dedicated central function, the Secretariat is the driving force of the programme and will be answerable to the Steering Group and ultimately to the Project Sponsors. The Secretariat will assist with identifying the projects to be undertaken by creating and maintaining the Forward Look and will facilitate Network members to ensure that research projects are commissioned and progressed in accordance with the Forward Look. The Secretariat will ensure that the Network is operating efficiently and that the wave and tidal sectors' priorities are being addressed at the appropriate scale and within suitable timescales. The Secretariat will ensure effective and appropriate communication amongst and coordination of the relevant work of Network members. The Secretariat will maintain and, via input from the Network, update the Forward Look. It will seek to stimulate the identification of Leader(s) and Funder(s) for projects on the Forward Look, and will assist Network members with funding bids, dissemination of project outputs, etc.

1.4 NEXT STEPS

A number of key tasks will be undertaken in the coming months:

- Invitations and Terms of Reference will be issued to all Steering Group members in April 2015
- Invitations and Terms of Reference will be issued to all nominated Network participants in April 2015 and the Network will be established
- A Call for Evidence will be issued to all ORJIP Ocean Energy participants; information will be used to inform the development of the first Forward Look
- The first Forward Look will be drafted in May 2015
- The Steering Group will be convened and meet to review the Forward Look. It is anticipated that this meeting will be held in May/June 2015
- The Forward Look will be published and issued to the Network in June 2015
- The ORJIP Ocean Energy website will be launched in summer 2015
- The first Network meeting will be held in August/September 2015.

1.5 CONTACTS

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