



Second Joint Call 2016: Call Text

OCEANERA-NET Joint Call 2016

Call Text

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Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Aims and Scope	4
3. Call Topics.....	5
4. Funding Organisations and Indicative Funding	7
5. Call Timeline	8

1. Introduction

The European Research Area Network (ERA-NET) scheme is an innovative component of the European Union's Framework Programme providing funding to improve the cooperation and coordination of national/regional research funding programmes in Europe and thus strengthen the European Research Area. Ocean Energy ERA-NET (OCEANERA-NET) (<http://www.oceaneranet.eu>), is a four-year Coordinated Action financed under the EU's Seventh Framework Programme, running from 2013 to 2017. OCEANERA-NET, among its objectives, has set an ambitious goal to establish a transnational funding programme for ocean energy research. This is the second joint call opened under the framework of OCEANERA-NET.

Funding for this call is provided by 12 Funding Organisations (FOs) from 5 countries and 6 regions which have agreed to launch this competitive joint call for transnational research projects under the framework of OCEANERA-NET. Details of the FOs are provided in Section 4.

The funding model used for this joint call is the so called "virtual common pot" which means a joint application and evaluation but national funding. Each FO finances the respective companies or research organisations of their country/region participating in the research consortium. A total amount of 6.4M EUR has been provisionally reserved by the participating FOs for this call.

Project proposals will be reviewed by an Evaluation Panel comprising independent experts, which will agree a ranking list of projects, using the agreed evaluation criteria (please see the Guide to Evaluation for detailed information on the evaluation process). The participating FOs will attempt to ensure that the top ranked proposals are funded to the maximum extent possible.

This document sets out the aims and scope of the call, the participating FOs and funding potentially available. Further information on eligibility of activity and organisations, the application process, evaluation criteria and national / regional funding rules can be found in the Guidelines for Applicants. Information on the evaluation process can be found in the Guidelines for Evaluation.

Eligibility of organisations, research activities and call topics and maximum funding rates vary between national / regional FOs. All applicants which are part of a consortium intending to submit a proposal to OCEANERA-NET should **contact their national or / regional FO prior to submission** of a Pre-proposal, in order to check the fit of their proposed activity with national / regional rules, eligibility criteria and funding policy. Further information and contact details are provided in the Guidelines for Applicants.

2. Aims and Scope

The aim of the OCEANERA-NET Second Joint Call 2016 is to promote the development and competitiveness of the ocean energy sector by supporting projects involving research, technological development and innovation (RTDI) activities, developing, demonstrating or validating innovative technologies of ocean energies: Wave Energy, Tidal Energy, Tidal and Ocean Currents, Salinity Gradient and Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion.

The specific challenges, drawing on reports from the OCEANERA-NET project, FOs priorities, recommendations from the SI Ocean project¹, the European Energy Research Alliance for ocean energy technologies², the SEAS-ERA Marine Research Plan for the European Atlantic Sea Basin³ and the Ocean Energy Forum⁴ are:

- Design and development of components, systems and devices for ocean energy.
- Demonstration and validation in test sites/real sea environment of ocean energy technologies and operations.
- Development of tools for validation, optimisation and improvement.
- Standardisation of solutions and manufacturing and installation techniques.
- Improving the reliability and survivability of devices, systems and components of ocean energies technologies.
- Contributing to significant cost reductions and to limit the environmental impact for ocean energy technologies.

The scope of the call is **needs-driven research** addressing a technology area (Wave Energy, Tidal Energy, Tidal and Ocean Currents, Salinity Gradient and Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion), and, in addition, projects may address environmental and financial/legal issues. The scope of the proposed research should be relevant for more than one country, with clear added value from transnational collaboration.

Proposals could cover innovative projects oriented towards the development, demonstration and validation of ocean energy technologies to improve the performance and reduce the environmental impact and the cost of ocean energy components/systems/devices. Additionally projects could yield an improved understanding of existing full-scale grid connected prototypes, including components and subsystems, with respect to their real performance, reliability and ageing.

¹ <http://www.si-ocean.eu/en/>

² <http://www.eera-set.eu/eera-joint-programmes-jps/ocean-energy/>

³ [http://www.seas-era.eu/np4/%7B\\$clientServletPath%7D/?newsId=19&fileName=Seas_Era_6_1_1.pdf](http://www.seas-era.eu/np4/%7B$clientServletPath%7D/?newsId=19&fileName=Seas_Era_6_1_1.pdf)

⁴ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/en/frontpage/1036>

Project could also consider innovative solutions (such as materials and monitoring systems) to increase the cost efficiency, survivability and the reliability of the ocean energy components, systems and devices. Moreover, they could include innovative systems for cost/time efficiency in the manufacturing process of components and equipment and to optimise installation, operation and maintenance tasks, for example this may include new installation systems, energy storage or intelligent predictive maintenance systems.

Considering the scope outlined above, and taking into consideration that eligibility of activities must be in accordance with national/regional funding rules and criteria, the following activities could be eligible for funding:

- Feasibility / viability studies for research or experimental development projects
- Basic / fundamental research
- Applied / industrial research
- Experimental development / demonstration and validation

Please note that not all FOs are able to fund all types of research and demonstration activity. Detailed information on national priorities and regulations is provided in **Annex B of the Guidelines for Applicants.**

3. Call Topics

The call topics for the OCEANERA-NET Second Joint Call 2016 are as follows:

1. **Development and standardisation methods and tools for ocean energy site characterisation, environmental monitoring and project planning**, with a focus on decreasing uncertainty around array performance and energy yield.
2. **Development of tools and solutions for the design, structural optimisation and performance assessment of ocean energy devices and arrays**, taking into account materials, manufacturing, installation, operation, maintenance and environmental requirements.
3. **Extraction of new or additional value from existing technologies, projects and/or datasets, or the application of innovations from other sectors to ocean energy.**
4. **Design, testing and standardisation of critical components for ocean energy**, with a clear focus and quantifiable impact on improving reliability and survivability, and on ultimately reducing the levelised cost of energy of devices. Examples include:
 - a. Foundations and moorings;
 - b. Power take off systems;
 - c. Intelligent predictive maintenance, condition monitoring systems;

- d. Control and power electronics;
 - e. Electrical and grid integration systems;
 - f. Mechanical systems;
 - g. Sub-sea connection systems;
 - h. Energy smoothing and storage systems.
5. **Demonstration and validation of technological developments in a test or real sea environment.** Specifically, pilot tests for demonstrating and validating full scale, or reduced scale, prototypes of ocean energy devices, components or any other equipment considered as complementary to these systems.
6. **Design and validation of approaches/methods/tools to reduce installation, operation and maintenance and recovery costs for ocean energy devices and arrays.**

The order of the topics does not represent any prioritisation, rather all topics are considered equally important. A proposal may cover more than one of the topics.

Please note that not all FOs are able to fund projects under all call topics. The topics covered by each FO are described in Annex 1 below. For more detailed information check the respective **national priorities and regulations, as described in Annex B of the Guidelines for Applicants.**

4. Funding Organisations and Indicative Funding

Organisation	Acronym	Country / Region	Indicative Funding
Flanders Innovation and Entrepreneurship	AIO	Flanders, Belgium	500 000 EUR
Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland	RVO	Netherlands	200 000 EUR
The Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland	SEAI	Ireland	750 000 EUR
Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia	FCT	Portugal	750 000 EUR
Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Industrial	CDTI	Spain	500 000 EUR
Instituto de Desarrollo Económico del Principado de Asturias	IDEPA	Asturias, Spain	200 000 EUR
Ente Vasco de la Energía (Basque Energy Agency)	EVE	Basque Country, Spain / International	1 000 000 EUR
Agencia Vasca de Desarrollo Empresarial (Basque Business Development Agency)	SPRI	Basque Country, Spain	500 000 EUR
Sociedad para el Desarrollo de Cantabria (Regional Development Agency of Cantabria)	SODERCAN	Cantabria, Spain	200 000 EUR
Gobierno de Canarias - Agencia Canaria de Investigación, Innovación y Sociedad de la Información (Canarian Agency for Research, Innovation and Society Information)	GOBCAN-ACIISI	Canary Islands, Spain	200 000 EUR
Scottish Enterprise	SE	Scotland, UK	£ 500 000 (approx. 750 000 EUR)
Statens Energimyndighet (Swedish Energy Agency)	SWEA	Sweden	8 000 000 SEK (approx. 842 000 EUR)

5. Call Timeline

Date	Step
2 February 2016	Publication of the Joint Call
25 February 2016	Information and Brokerage Event at ICOE 2016, Edinburgh
30 March 2016	Deadline for Pre-proposals submission
1 April – 17 May 2016	National / regional eligibility checks, Joint Call Committee meeting to confirm project to be invited to submit Full Proposals
20 May 2016	Feedback to Coordinators
5 July 2016	Deadline for Full Proposal submission
6 July – 10 November 2016	National / regional eligibility checks Independent external evaluation Evaluation Panel to agree ranking list of proposals Joint Call Committee to agree projects for funding Final funding decision
11 Nov 2016	Feedback to Coordinators
Nov-Dec 2016	Final funding decision at national/regional level
1 December 2016	Earliest anticipated start date of funded projects