



The State/Federal Marine Energy Technology Acceleration Partnership

July 2010

The Marine Energy Technology Acceleration Partnership (METAP) is a new federal-state funding and information sharing project that aims to accelerate the commercialization of marine hydrokinetic energy technologies (tidal, wave and current) in the U.S. The value proposition for participating states is to leverage significant U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) funding and technology expertise, to join a network of leading states supporting marine energy technology, and to achieve faster progress in marine energy commercialization.

Background

Wave and tidal current energy have the potential to provide significant clean energy generation to the U.S. However, public funding and support are critical to accelerate progress and achieve cost reductions for these technologies.

DOE and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) are interested in accelerating the pace of development and commercialization of marine energy technologies through a cooperative partnership with interested states. Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA), the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) and the Association of State Energy Research and Technology Transfer Institutions (ASERTTI) (Project Team) have been asked to establish and facilitate this state-federal marine energy partnership project. The initiative is funded by NREL and implemented in cooperation with the DOE Wind and Hydropower Technologies Program.

The project's overall purpose is to demonstrate the merits of a new model for state/federal technology collaboration on clean energy that could be replicated with other emerging clean energy technologies beyond marine energy. The concept is to create new federal and state partnerships with joint funding to accelerate clean energy innovation, commercialization, and deployment.

Project Objective

The Initiative's objective is to accelerate the pace of development and commercialization of marine hydrokinetic energy in the United States through a partnership between coastal states and DOE.

Project Activities

1. Marine Energy Learning Network

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The Project Team has established a marine energy working group to allow for efficient information sharing and coordination among states, universities, DOE/NREL, and the international community on marine energy activities. The working group serves as the primary forum for informing and guiding the project's activities and is open to any state agency or stakeholder that is interested in marine energy related issues.

2. Information Sharing Webinars

The Project Team is organizing a series of interactive webinars on important marine energy topics, such as technology and industry status, environmental effects, siting and regulatory best practices, and test facilities, designed to advance understanding and collective action to address the major challenges facing marine energy deployment.

3. State Survey

The Project Team has surveyed state agencies and research institutions on their marine energy activities and goals. The results of this survey will be released in August 2010 and will help to inform the focus of DOE's future marine energy funding solicitations, as well as the focus of the state/federal marine partnership.

4. State Input to National Marine Energy Roadmap

The Project Team is facilitating input by the states into the development of a new DOE/NREL national Marine Energy Roadmap, drafted by NREL, to ensure state support for and cooperation in effective implementation of the Roadmap.

5. Advance Support for Test Facilities in States

The Project Team is collecting information from states on existing and planned state marine testing facilities that will be shared with DOE/NREL's ongoing test facility planning activities. The goal is to advance state-federal cooperation in the development of a comprehensive and effective marine test facility capacity in the U.S. to serve the industry.

6. Pursue Joint Project Funding and Solicitation for Demonstration Projects

On behalf of DOE, the Project Team is reaching out directly to state agencies to explore their interest in providing a cost share to leverage significant new DOE funding for marine technology projects that are competitively selected within the partnering state. DOE expects to develop and issue a major funding opportunity announcement in the federal Fiscal Year 2011/2012 timeframe to offer substantial funding (amount not determined at this time) for several marine energy demonstration projects, test facilities, and/or possibly other regulatory/siting support work. DOE is looking for state agency partners to provide some level of state cost-share commitment to join in this

first-of-a-kind federal/state technology advancement effort. A state cost-share commitment will leverage significant federal funding in a cutting-edge marine energy project and related industry development in your state (subject to the in-state project(s) competing successfully in the national solicitation). The DOE/state funding partnership likely will include state/federal coordination in administering, managing and reporting results of selected projects.

The Project Team now is working with DOE and with interested states to evaluate and develop a coordinated federal/state project application, selection process and cost sharing arrangement to support several marine energy demonstration and/or testing facility projects in the 2011/2012 timeframe. We hope to finalize a comprehensive memorandum of understanding between DOE and interested states in early 2011 that addresses specific commitments and issues related to coordinated or joint funding of specific marine energy projects and all major related issues to this cooperative arrangement.

How to Participate

Steering Committee. Interested State agencies that are willing to consider committing some funding to and participating in the DOE-State partnership to support marine energy demonstration projects are invited to participate as members of the METAP “Steering Committee.” The Steering Committee will develop recommendations for implementing the funding partnership and a structure for advancing cooperation. The Steering Committee also will establish the process for information sharing across funded projects and test facilities. The Steering Committee members will be involved in the following implementation steps:

- ***Funding level and timeframe.*** Steering Committee members are asked to use their best efforts to identify and seek state-based funding to contribute to the DOE funding opportunity to advance marine technology RDD&D activities, including support of several marine energy prototype projects. Because of state-specific procurement policies, restrictions, and requirements, there may be several different approaches used and tailored to participating states to accommodate broad participation in the cooperative arrangement with DOE. There is no required funding amount to participate. However, states are strongly encouraged to consider providing at least a funding level of \$1 million to leverage DOE marine demonstration project cost-share support in the 2011-2012 timeframe. States will retain full discretion to apply state-specific criteria to any projects where state funding is awarded as a cost share.
- ***Timeline.*** During the summer and fall of 2010, CESA and DOE will be meeting individually with interested states to discuss and agree on the details of the co-funding arrangement, including clarifying state interests, priorities, and questions. Then, the entire Steering Committee will meet as a group in late

October 2010 to review and attempt to finalize a project selection process and cost sharing arrangements with DOE.

Interested states are invited to participate by contacting CESA's project director Jessica Morey (Jessica@cleanegroup.org).

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