



Brussels, 24th November 2011

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to attach a new Position Paper, **“Towards European industrial leadership in Ocean Energy in 2020”**. This paper has been produced by the European Ocean Energy Association, in close collaboration with participants in a newly created Member States Ocean Energy Interest Group.

This Paper is a high level statement of our collective willingness to work together and co-operate in this technology area. Also, of our keenness to form a strategic partnership with the European Commission, to achieve a strong European ocean energy industry and capability to secure low carbon jobs, skills and growth.

The overarching intention is to see ocean energy play a more prominent role under the EU’s Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan, with significant support for the sector under the EU’s technology development funding programmes. A medium term goal is that ocean energy should be launched as a new European Industrial Initiative under the SET Plan.

The Paper seeks to identify the positive developments that have been occurring recently in the ocean energy sector; related activity being undertaken by Member States; and the desire of the participants in the Member States Ocean Energy Interest Group, to work together with industry and the European Commission to accelerate this progress.

The Annexes to the Paper on Member State activity are intended to offer a snap-shot of the current position rather than a complete picture. They will be further developed in the months ahead. The intention of this partial mapping is, however, to give an idea of the breadth of activity and the scope for co-operation and collaboration between us.

Renewable Energy House, Rue D’Arlon, 63-65, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium.

T +32 2 400 10 40 F +32 2 791 90 00 E member@eu-oea.com W www.eu-oea.com



This Paper is supported by Belgium with longer term interests; Denmark; France; Ireland; Netherlands with longer term interests; Norway; Portugal; Spain; and the UK. It also has the full support of the British-Irish Council member administrations. We hope that others will join us in due course.

In the meantime, we are pleased that the Position Paper has received a very positive reaction from European Commission colleagues that we have shared it with informally over the summer. We are also very pleased, that the latest version of the SET Plan Technology Map acknowledges the potential of ocean energy and the progress that is already being made in developing the sector.

The European Ocean Energy Association and participants in the Member States Ocean Energy Interest Group, hope that the European Commission will join us in a dynamic partnership, to develop and protect the EU's leading position in this technology area and to help us to maximise the benefits of developing this industry in the EU. This includes the clear synergies we can all take advantage of in doing so, with offshore wind technology development and deployment.

We hope for your support!

The European Ocean Energy Association and the participants in the Member States Ocean Energy Interest Group

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