



PRE-COMMERCIAL FUNDING CIG

Introduction

Ocean Power Innovation Network (OPIN) is a European collaborative network whose primary aim is to develop both cross-regional and cross-sectoral collaboration. Aquatera are working with Scottish Enterprise to support ocean energy companies and the supply chain under OPIN. Part of this remit is to facilitate the formation of collaborative innovation groups (CIGs) where we seek to find solutions for issues companies are experiencing and/or explore new opportunities.

Collaborative Innovation Groups (CIGs)

CIGs bring together SMEs and research groups in an effort to solve specific problems which are considered barriers to the deployment of ocean energy. Participation in CIGs is considered beneficial as it enables you to:

- **Solve specific problems/challenges you could not solve alone;**
- **Explore opportunities for new products, services, markets;**
- **Expand your network nationally and internationally;**
- **Gain complementary skills and expertise; and**
- **Gateway to other support / Preparatory step to National and EU research calls**

Each CIG will be supported by organisations with technical/business expertise specific to the issue being addressed at no extra cost to the CIG participants. No financial contribution is required from companies but they must ensure company staff/resources are available for tasks.

Pre-Commercial Funding

Funding for technology developers and pre-commercial projects is a well-established issue in the ocean energy sector. There will always be a requirement for early-stage technology development and R&D funding that will facilitate the evolution of technologies and sub-systems that may play a future role in cost reduction and performance improvement within the industry. It is essential that the right support reaches the right projects at the right time and that technology developers are able to navigate the technology readiness levels (TRL) journey, bringing them from concept stage, to modelling/tank testing and ultimately to at-sea deployments with appropriate financial backing.

We are proposing a CIG that brings together ocean energy stakeholders who need guidance on this journey, those who are happy to share lessons learnt after experiencing these issues first-hand to those who are directly involved in funding instruments. The primary objective of this CIG is to share information and experience such that these ocean energy technologies that are at the very start of the TRL and funding journey, leave with sufficient knowledge to be able to take those next steps from a more informed position.



What you can do

As part of this request, we are looking for organisations that are interested in working together to resolve these specific challenges. This opportunity to collaborate is designed to be mutually beneficial.

Get in touch

If you are a company facing similar challenges and would like to come together on brainstorming solutions, please contact us.

Email: jennifer.fox@aquatera.co.uk or
OPIN@seai.ie