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RiCORE Project Interim Report (Deliverable 1.2)

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1. Introduction

RiCORE is a HORIZON 2020 funded project which aims to promote the successful development of offshore renewable energy in the European Union. This is to be achieved through three broad strands of activity:

1. Understanding the offshore renewables consenting process in different Member States. Specifically:
 - The consenting process
 - Application of legislation
 - Legal and administrative barriers to ‘standard’ approaches...
 - ...what is required to overcome those barriers
2. Looking at the potential for developing and using *risk profiles* to speed up the consenting of offshore wind, wave and tidal energy, particularly for:
 - Small arrays...
 - ...of known technology...
 - ...in areas of low environmental sensitivity
3. Seeking more standardisation in post-deployment environmental impact monitoring. Standardising data collection would allow policymakers to compare and better understand the environmental effects of different devices.

The six project partners come from five EU Member States:

- Robert Gordon University (Scotland – lead partner, representing the Offshore Renewables Institute)
- Marine Scotland (Scotland)
- AZTI (Spain)
- WavEC (Portugal)
- University College Cork (Ireland)
- E-CUBE (France)

There are also two organisations sub-contracted to the project to provide specific expertise:

- The European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) will undertake data and logic checking of the project deliverables
- Aquatera will support the work undertaken by Marine Scotland, in particular through the use of their extensive databases and proprietary analytical models

The project commenced in January 2015 and has a scheduled duration of 18 months, due to complete in June 2016. This report provides an overview of the activities undertaken in the first half of the project, to the end of September 2015.

2. Achievements in the first half of the project

2.1 Inception Meeting

The project inception meeting was held at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen on 21st and 22nd January 2015. Representatives of all project partners attended.

Presentations were given by each partner to introduce themselves and their project responsibilities, with additional presentations on data management and financial management from RGU and an overview of Risk Based Consenting from Marine Scotland referring to their Survey, Deploy and Monitor policy.

A discussion of expert workshops resulted in agreement to combine two of the proposed workshops, due to be held early in the project, into a single event and to organise an additional workshop early in the second half of the project to ensure that the research undertaken later would align with the project aims. A draft schedule was devised, with some workshops to be held in association with industry events to maximise attendance.

The membership of the project Steering Group was agreed and a preliminary schedule of meetings confirmed.

2.2 Project Website

At the inception meeting a number of possible URLs were suggested, with www.ricore-project.eu agreed as the best option. This domain was obtained for a period of five years, and the website became live on 10th February 2015. A Twitter handle of @ricoreproject was also created.

2.3 Branding and publicity

The required elements of a Project logo were agreed at the inception meeting and design proposals created by RGU's Design and Print centre, The Gatehouse. These

were reviewed by the Steering Group and a design chosen, with several versions in colour and monochrome made available for all project members to use.

Templates for project documents were created by the project communications team, incorporating both the project logo and the EU logo and funding statement.

A range of publicity material has been printed by The Gatehouse:

- Postcards providing information on the project, distributed to the project partners for circulation at local events and outreach opportunities
- Pop-up banners for use at internal and external events such as conferences where the RiCORE project has a presence
- Folders to be used at expert workshops
- USB sticks branded with the RiCORE logo

In addition AZTI provided an early version of the folder, used in the first two expert workshops, and pens branded with the RiCORE logo.

External events at which RiCORE has been publicised include:

- All-Energy 2015 in Glasgow
- OCEANOISE15 in Vilanova i la Geltru
- Marine Energy Week in Bilbao
- Assises des EMR and THETIS-EMR in Nantes
- AENOR in Madrid
- EWTEC in Nantes
- OEE Conference 2015 in Dublin

- Pro-Tide 'Making Monitoring Significant' Workshop in the Isle of Wight

RiCORE will be represented at more such events during the second half of the project.

2.4 Expert Workshop 1

The first expert workshop was held in Bilbao on 20th April 2015, as a private International sectorial meeting as part of Marine Energy Week, which took place at Bilbao Exhibition Centre. The workshop was organised jointly by WavEC (Work Package 4) and Marine Scotland (Work Package 5), with logistical assistance from AZTI. It combined the first two planned workshops, Deliverables 4.1 and 5.1.

The workshop title was *Marine renewables and environmental risks – Current practices in pre and post consent monitoring*. The morning session dealt with the pre consent environmental requirements in the different countries (D4.1) and the afternoon with the post consent ones (D5.1). A report on the workshop is available on the RiCORE website at <http://ricore-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/RiCORE-Workshop1Report-locked.pdf>. The presentations given at the workshop may be viewed from <http://ricore-project.eu/events/>.

2.5 Expert Workshop 2

The location of the second expert workshop was Paris on 21st May 2015. The workshop organisation was led by UCC in partnership with E-CUBE as part of Work Package 2 (Deliverable 2.1).

The workshop title was *Marine renewable energy licensing and regulatory systems*. This sought to explore current national consenting practices and determine operational experiences and difficulties. Approaches to the implementation of overarching EU legislation such as EIA, Birds & Habitats Directives, were discussed as well as the Survey, Deploy & Monitor (SDM) policy. The workshop culminated with a discussion on what was required from both a regulatory and administrative

perspective to enable a risk-based management approach. Full details of the workshop can be found in the associated workshop report, available from the RiCORE website at <http://ricore-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/RiCORE-Workshop2ReportFinalencrypt.pdf>. The presentations given during the workshop may be viewed from <http://ricore-project.eu/events/>.

2.6 Expert Workshop 3 preparation

The third expert workshop will be held in Dunkeld in Scotland on 9th and 10th November 2015. This workshop is an addition to the deliverables listed in the project plan and is being run by RGU in association with Marine Scotland. The workshop will present the project findings to date, with detailed discussion of the already identified barriers and options for their resolution.

2.7 Interim project meeting

A meeting was held in Lisbon on 17th September 2015 attended by the project partners. The purpose of this meeting was to review the work undertaken so far and discuss among ourselves the way forward for the remainder of the project in order to have a consensus on what should be done to achieve the project's goals. This included a detailed discussion of the agenda for expert workshop 3, initial planning for workshop 4 and the final project conference, a mid-term review of budgets, and consideration of a number of communications elements.

2.8 Deliverables produced

In addition to the workshop reports described in sections 2.4 and 2.5 (D4.1, D5.1 and D2.1) the following eight deliverables have been produced and submitted on ECAS.

- D1.1 Project Management Plan, written by RGU (confidential)
- D1.2 Interim report, written by RGU (public)
- D3.1 Review of the state of the art and future direction of the Survey, Deploy and Monitor policy, led by Marine Scotland (public)

- D3.2 Novel technology selection, led by E-CUBE (public – changed from confidential)
- D4.2 Report on the commonalities and differences in approaches to pre-consent surveys, led by WavEC (public)
- D4.3 Sensitivity analysis based on ‘subsampling’ from long-term monitoring programmes, and recommendations for industry standards, led by UCC. Final version delivered October 2015 and passed to EMEC for checking. (public once any final amendments are applied)
- D6.1 Project website, created by RGU (public)
- D6.2 Communication, engagement and impact strategy, written by RGU (confidential)

The deliverables available as public outputs can be found on the Project Outputs web page at <http://ricore-project.eu/downloads/>.

3. Tasks for the second half of the project

3.1 Expert Workshop 4

Early planning for the final expert workshop has started to determine a suitable date in the spring of 2016 and a location, with Cork the primary candidate as this will ensure a workshop or meeting has been held in each project partner country. The precise nature of the workshop will be decided later in 2015 based on the conclusions reached at workshop 3.

3.2 Final Project Conference

The partners have committed to hold a conference at the end of the project to present recommendations. Some initial discussion took place to consider a suitable location to hold this and a date in June 2016. One option proposed is to hold the conference in

conjunction with the European Union Sustainable Energy Week taking place in Brussels 13th – 17th June 2016, as key members of the potential audience are likely to be present.

3.3 Remaining Deliverables

The following deliverables have scheduled dates during the second half of the project:

- D2.2 Legal and institutional review of national consenting processes, led by UCC. Originally due 1st September 2015, a draft is expected for review by the end of November 2015.
- D2.3 Legal feasibility of a risk-based approach, led by UCC. Due 1st March 2016.
- D2.4 Matrix of habitat, species and technology compatibility, led by Marine Scotland. Due 1st May 2016.
- D3.3 Development of risk profiling, led by AZTI. Original due date 1st October 2015 (incorrectly listed in ECAS as 1st June 2015), extended to 16th December 2015 in order to incorporate feedback gathered at expert workshop 3.
- D4.4 Pre-consent survey guidance, led by AZTI. Due 1st April 2016.
- D5.2 Recommendations on standardisation of post-deployment monitoring strategies, led by Marine Scotland. Due 1st March 2016.
- D5.3 Expert workshop 4 report, leader to be confirmed. Due 1st April 2016, but this may change depending on the chosen date for the workshop.
- D5.4 Recommendations on data availability, led by Marine Scotland. Due 1st June 2016.
- D6.3 Project movie, led by RGU. Due 1st May 2016, filming is scheduled to take place following expert workshop 4.

- D6.4 Targeted communication tools, led by RGU. Due 1st July 2016, although some elements, such as the email distribution list for the project newsletter, are already implemented.
- D6.5 Conference presentations at external events, led by RGU but devolved to all partners. Due 1st July 2016 but ongoing throughout the life of the project.
- D6.6 Publication of academic journal articles, led by RGU. Due 1st July 2016, planning started at the interim project meeting in Lisbon.
- D6.7 Final project conference, led by RGU. Due 1st July 2016, see section 3.2 in this document.

4. Project financial review

The table below summarises the effort expended by each of the partners between January and September 2015.

Partner	Total Person Month Budget	Total Person Months Consumed	Percentage of Budget Consumed
RGU	23	10.62	46%
AZTI	15	13.63	91%
WavEC	15	9.68	65%
UCC	20	6.50	32%
Marine Scotland	22	8.91	40%
E-CUBE	7	4.58	65%