

Tenth session of the IRENA Assembly

Thematic meeting

12 January 2020, 13:15 – 14:15

St. Regis Hotel, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi

Ocean Technologies in the Energy Transition Sectoral Update and Actions to Reach Commercialisation

Background

Scaling up the commercialisation of ocean energy (OE) technologies such as wave, tidal, ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) and salinity gradient, along with other marine energy technologies such as offshore wind and floating photovoltaics, would result in significant benefits for countries with coastal areas and island territories.

In recent years some efforts have been put in place towards the commercial viability of ocean energy technologies, but the sector is still in need of further actions to reach commercialisation. Stronger focus is required in terms of policy, technology development, funding and business models.

Following Members' interest in identifying strategies and mechanisms that can accelerate the ocean energy markets growth, in 2019 IRENA expanded its work in OE, bringing together policy makers, private sector leaders, entrepreneurs and academia in different events and facilitating channels to discuss and agree on the next steps needed for the OE sector.

Objectives

The event will provide an overview of the sector's market status, country experiences and action areas that can enable a faster commercialisation of wave, tidal and OTEC technologies. The event will also explore innovative business models to enhance the ocean energy economic case, such as OE technologies used in applications such as seawater desalination, buildings cooling and aquaculture.

Furthermore, the event will offer the opportunity to discuss the synergies between OE and other marine technologies. Panelists will highlight ongoing projects and initiatives based on their experience and will expand on the measures needed to upscale OE. The event will provide participants with information on future OE activities by IRENA and other actors.

Guiding Questions

- How can IRENA support countries in the development and roll-out of ocean energy technologies? What additional information is needed by policy makers to make well informed and robust decisions on ocean energy? What activities should IRENA undertake in the next 5 years in this area?

- How can policy-makers implement policy frameworks that foster complementarity between OE and other offshore energy technologies?
- What are the best business models for OE technology? How can these be applied to improve ocean energy business cases?
- How can knowledge exchange between emerging economies interested in these technologies and economies that already have OE technologies in place be facilitated?

Associated Publications

- [Ocean Energy: Technologies, Patents, Deployment Status and Outlook](#) (August 2014)
- [Unlocking the potential of ocean energy around the globe](#) (Forthcoming)

For more information please contact:

Roland Roesch, Deputy-Director, IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre,
RRoesch@irena.org

Paul Durrant, Programme Officer, IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre,
PDurrant@irena.org

Alessandra Salgado, Associate Programme Officer, IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre,
ASalgado@irena.org