

**Offshore Renewable Energy Steering Group**  
**Job Creation Working Group**  
**Draft**  
**7th meeting – 25 July 2018**

**Attendance:** DCCAE: Eamonn Confrey (EC), Deirdre Durnin (DD) Philip MacFadden (PMF); DJEI: Joseph Cummins (JC); IDA: Gavin O’Loughlin (GOL), EI: Tom Kelly (TK); SEAI: Declan Meally (DM), MDT: Liam Lacey (LL)

**Apologies:** DBEI Maria Ginnity

- 1. Tour De Table** – EC opened the meeting with a brief tour de table to introduce new members.
  
- 2. Policy Updates DCCAE and SEAI** – EC began by giving an overview of the governance structure of the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPA) and the various steering and working groups that oversee its implementation. DM and EC explained the scale of, and limited window to exploit, the opportunity presented by Offshore Renewable Energy. The following three components have been identified as key to the successful development of offshore renewable energy (ORE) in Ireland.
  - i. A support tariff – The RESS scheme which has recently been approved by Government aims to support the diversification of renewable energy in Ireland and it is envisaged that ORE projects will be included in this mix.
  - ii. Consenting framework – Ongoing work on the Maritime Area and Foreshore Amendment act (MAFA), aims to provide a robust consenting regime for *inter alia* ORE activities. A number of participants highlighted in stark terms the need for this legislation and the potential missed opportunities that may result if the bill is not progressed in a timely manner.
  - iii. Grid Connection

A wide ranging discussion developed during which the group heard updates and suggested actions on the following areas.

- i. LL gave an update on the IPORES REPORT
- ii. DM spoke on the status of the 3 test sites

- iii. DM noted that offshore floating wind is at commercial stage, tidal energy is showing promising signs of technology convergence and wave energy requires a lot more convergence before it will be commercially viable.

**ACTION: OREDP and Interim Review report to be circulated to the group. Status: complete**

**ACTION: RESS press release to be circulated to the group. Status: complete**

**ACTION: Draft IPORES report to be circulated to group. Comments on the draft report to be returned by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of August.**

**3. Recommendations of the OREDP Interim Review – JCWG Implementation**

DM and EC introduced the work program and explained the context of the OREDP Interim Review and its recommendations. The draft updated work program was examined by the group with each item in the plan discussed in turn.

**ACTION: Group to respond to PMF by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of August with comments on the Job Creation Working Group.**

**4. Communications Strategy – SEAI Update**

DM spoke about the communications strategy and it was agreed that a draft would be circulated to the group.

**ACTION: PMF to circulate 2018 Communications Strategy. Status: complete**

**5. Date of Next meeting – A date in late October/Early November was suggested**

**ACTION: PMF to circulate suggested dates for the next meeting.**

**6. AOB – Group to consider inviting additional representatives from other agencies to participate in the Working Group.**