

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Programme:	Marine Research Programme 2014-2020 (co-funded under the European Regional Development Fund Priority 1 – Strengthening Research, Technology Development and Innovation)
Award Type:	Industry-led Awards
Funding Scheme:	Open Call for SME-led Research

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE:

Innovation 2020, Ireland's strategy for research and development, science and technology states that despite the importance of research and innovation for firms, firms under-invest in research. Therefore there is a strong case for the state to encourage firms to undertake research by providing co-investment. However, this investment must be targeted at areas of commercial opportunity that are strategically important. This is the underpinning rationale for *Research Prioritisation (2018-2023)*, which identifies 6 Themes and 14 Priority Areas that present particular market opportunities for Ireland.

The first goal of *Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth* is "A Thriving Maritime Economy", which focuses on the marine opportunities to achieve economic recovery with socially inclusive and sustainable growth. The Development Task Force Report developed a strategic framework identifying three interventions to drive growth across five thematic areas and create economic growth opportunities for the marine sector (please refer to Appendix 1).

As part of the preparation of the National Marine Research & Innovation Strategy 2017-2021, the Marine Institute has carried out a detailed analysis of national marine research capability and the range of supports that are available to the marine research and innovation community. The 15 research themes (and related sub-themes) were analysed in terms of overall maturity under three dimensions: human capacity, infrastructure and networks & relationships.

This call is designed to provide funding for SMEs to raise the maturity levels for their research theme across these three dimensions.

The National Marine Research and Innovation Strategy 2017-2021, produced a series of 16 implementing actions, with Action 8 being to increase opportunities for SMEs to participate in marine research. This is also reflected in action point 2.4 of Innovation 2020.

The interest from companies in the marine sector in the Marine Institute's Specialist Marine Research Equipment and Small Infrastructures Call in 2017 confirmed that there was a need to provide further research opportunities for SMEs as a priority. As outlined in the call

Guidelines for Applicants, Industry-Led Awards funded by the Marine Institute will provide assistance for appropriate research activities that support the goals of *Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth* and are identified as research themes in the National Marine R&I Strategy.

AIMS:

The funding is aimed at supporting research and innovation costs for the development of innovative technologies, products and services from existing or new marine-based business.

Collaboration with HEIs and other public research bodies is encouraged, but the projects must be led by an SME. The call is thus aimed at helping marine companies to progress innovative technologies, products and services.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

The Marine Institute invites proposals under this competitive call which should:

- Provide a full description of the proposed research.
- Convincingly demonstrate how the research meets the SMEs objectives and national marine policy objectives.
- Show value for money.
- Clearly describe the benefit of research to the current and potential future activities of the applicant, and potential benefit to the Irish research and innovation community. This should include a description of how the proposed research will develop one or more of the following:
 - Human capacity, i.e. skills development/training.
 - Infrastructural capability, i.e. the enhancement of an existing or new research capacity or facility.
 - Networks and Relationships, i.e. participation in national or international research consortia.

The proposals must be relevant to one of the themes identified in Appendix 1, and justified according to the policy drivers indicated in this annex.

The proposed research and innovation project must be consistent with the aims and objectives of this call and must relate to one of the sub-themes listed in the thematic areas of this call. The proposal should be novel and not correspond with ongoing or completed projects funded by other schemes, programmes or projects. **Note: Applicants must detail any other state-aid funding in their application form.**

DELIVERABLES & INTENDED IMPACT:

The Industry-Led call is intended to address a need in the Irish SME sector for funding supports to participate in marine-related research.

It is intended that the research should benefit both the applicant and the Irish marine research and innovation community as a whole, and make a measurable impact on the success of the applicant's activities as measured through research output, the development of new networks, the capacity to increase innovation and the leveraging of future funding.

Progress reports and a final report will be required to be submitted.

Previously funded industry-led awards made a significant impact within the marine sector by delivering outputs which included new products or product components, new processes, new technologies, and industrially relevant knowledge or information.

FUNDING:

The amount of funding available will be a **maximum award amount of €200,000**. The total funding available in this call is €2 million.

The project must be led by an SME or other eligible commercial entity, but academic partners can be involved. The consortium size is a maximum of three partners. Sub-contractors may be included in addition to partners, but there is a limit of 20% of the grant-aid allowed for sub-contracting costs (please refer to the Guidelines for Applicants).

The project costs for proposals must be justified and represent value for money given the project goals and taking into account the eligibility criteria in the Guidelines.

Funding up to a maximum of 200,000 Euro will be provided for project with a duration of 18 to 36 months.

It is anticipated that this funding would cover costs for a full/part-time researcher (depending on the duration) or a full-time Masters/PhD student.

In addition the funding will cover travel, lab consumables and other costs, as detailed in the Guidelines for Applicants. The allowable overheads are 25% excluding sub-contracts.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND KEY DATES:

Initial application must be made through the Marine Institute's online research grant management system [RIMS](#) (please refer to the Guidelines for Applicants).

The application closing date will be **Thursday, 21st June 2018**. Applications will be peer reviewed by international and national experts and scored on the criteria as stated in the Guidelines for Applicants. Particular emphasis is placed on how the research funding will impact the economic growth of the SME and the broader policy impacts for the marine sector in the proposed area of research.

Important Dates:

Call opening:	Wednesday, 9 th May 2018
Information Sessions:	Galway - Tuesday, 22 nd May 2018 Dublin – Wednesday, 30 th May 2018 Cork – Tuesday, 12 th June 2018 Applicants interested in attending either date should send an email to funding@marine.ie . Numbers will be restricted, so booking in advance is required.
Closing date for applications:	Thursday, 21 st June 2018
Expected Announcement of Results:	End September 2018

Any queries or clarifications should be submitted by email to: funding@marine.ie

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/REFERENCE MATERIAL:

[National Marine Research & Innovation Strategy 2017-2021.](#)

Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth – An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland (2012), Inter-Departmental Marine Coordination Group. www.ouroceanwealth.ie

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the committee of the Regions, Blue Growth opportunities for marine and maritime sustainable growth /COM/2012/0494 final/. [Blue Growth](#)

Innovation 2020, Irish Strategy for Science and Technology (2015), Department of Enterprise, Jobs and Innovation. [Innovation 2020](#)

Our Ocean Wealth Development Task Force Report to the Inter-Departmental Marine Coordination Group (2015). [Report the of Development Task Force.](#)

Enterprise 2025: Innovative, Agile, Connected (2015), Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation. [Enterprise 2025](#)

APPENDIX 1

The Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland *Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth* identifies three goals:



Diagram 1 below from the National Marine Research & Innovation Strategy 2017-2021 identifies the marine research themes relevant to this call and the national policy drivers significant to the development of research and innovation across these themes.

Applications under this call must be relevant to one of these themes. Furthermore applicants must identify which theme is applicable for their proposal and justify the impact of their proposal in relation to these policy drivers.

In addition applications should demonstrate in their application how they have used the Development Task Force's strategic framework to identify opportunities to create economic growth and increased employment prospects for the marine sector (Diagram 2, 3 and 4 below refers).

Diagram 1 – Research Themes

	EU Integrated Maritime Policy	EU CFP – EMFF OP 2014-2020	JPI Oceans R&I Agenda	EU Strategy for the Atlantic & Action Plan	Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth	Our Ocean Wealth Development Task Force	Innovation 2020	National Research Prioritisation	Enterprise 2025
A THRIVING MARITIME ECONOMY									
Bioresources									
› Aquaculture & Biomass Production	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
› Wild Resources	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
› Processing for Food & Other Use									
› High Value Products									
Advanced Technologies	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Subsea Resources	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Renewable Energy	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tourism & Leisure	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓
Transport & Logistics	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓
Security & Surveillance	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HEALTHY MARINE ECOSYSTEMS									
Biodiversity, Ecosystems & Food-webs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Pollution & Litter	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Climate Change	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Ocean Observation & Seabed Mapping	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
ENGAGEMENT WITH THE SEA									
Ocean Literacy & Education	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Integrated Policy & Governance									
› Socio Economics									
› Law	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
› Planning & Governance									
› Business Development									
Information & Spatial Technologies, Analytics and Modelling	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Engineering	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Diagram 2 – Interventions

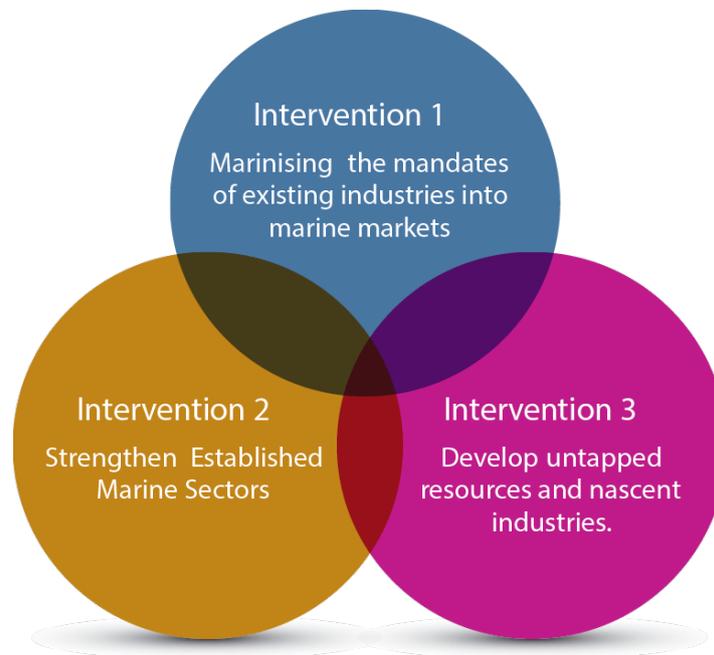


Diagram 3 – Thematic Areas



Diagram 4 – The Opportunity Matrix

		MARINISING		STRENGTHENING			DEVELOPING		
		Maritime Commerce	Marine ICT & Biotechnology	Seafood	Offshore Oil & Gas	Tourism in Marine Areas	Maritime Manufacturing & Engineering Services	Ports & Maritime Services	Marine Renewable Energy
	Food from the Sea								
	Energy from the Ocean								
	Tourism & Business in Marine & Coastal Areas								
	Enterprise & Industry								
	Integrated Marine Capacity and Capability								