Questionnaire regarding Framework Programme 10 - input to Waterborne TP working group

Thank you for your interest in responding to the questionnaire for members of the Waterborne Technology Platform on the possible Partnership in the context of Framework Programme 10!

Purpose

The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather input from all members of the Waterborne Technology Platform to the working group preparing the grounds for a possible Partnership in the context of Framework Programme 10 (FP10). This initiative will include both zero-emission technologies, as well as digitalization for the Waterborne sector.

The working group will build upon the results of the previous working group on digitalization as well as on the activities of the Co-Programmed Partnership (cPP) Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport (ZEWT). The objective is to prepare the grounds for a Partnership in the framework of the next Research, Development and Innovation Programme of the EU, FP10 from a content perspective. This exercise includes both a policy context and a technical context, it thereby requires a broad level of input from the Waterborne TP members. This questionnaire is the first input in a series of engagements with the members.

The initial feedback from the European Commission is to keep the structure of a possible Partnership similar to the Zero Emission Waterborne Transport partnership that is ongoing. This means to structure the content as described in the Waterborne SRIA with six parallel activities:

1. Use of sustainable alternative fuels

2. Electrification

3. Energy efficiency

4. Design and retrofitting

5. Digitalisation

6. Ports

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* 2. The next Framework Programme Partnership's aim is to achieve a resilient, competitive and sustainable waterborne sector. What challenges must the partnership aim to tackle?
(max 200 characters)

Energy Efficiency, Digitalisation& HF, Wind assisted propulsion & offshore wind energy, Climate change & new arctic opportunities, Safety&Circularity, Underwater technologies, Nuclear ship.

* 3. What shall a next Partnership enable for Europe and in particular the Waterborne sector? Are there specific targets and objectives that should be set?
(max 200 characters)

It should enable EU to become a world leader in competitive technologies limiting non-EU dependence. Moreover, it can support EU leadership in dual-use technologies, with commercial and defense goals.

* 4. What are the expected benefits or opportunities for your organization within a new Partnership?
(max 200 characters)

The main benefits are :
- propose topics / be heard at EU level
- increase our network with Partners for projects
- Participation to events

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* 5. What are the research, development and innovation needs of your organization?
(max 200 characters for each answer)

a. Short term (up to 2035)

- Propulsion systems, frictions & EE solutions
- Ship automation (AI, robotic, autonomous navigation…)
- Ship dynamics and safety
- New materials & processes
- Ice-going Vessels

b. Medium term (2035-45)

- Integration of Sustainable Alternative Fuels and electrification
- Port electrification and alternative fuel bunkering infrastructure
- Fully autonomous navigation

c. Long term (2045 and beyond)

Nuclear energy for maritime

* 6. What are the major drivers for the Waterborne sector with regards to resilience, competitiveness, sustainability?
(max 200 characters)

- Investment in R&D & breakthrough technologies
- Reduce fuel & energy consumption
- Digitalisation
- Increase ship safety
- EU rules & incentives
- dual-use security & defense (autonomy, drones…)

* 7. The proposal from the European Commission is to follow the structure of the current partnership focusing on the parallel activities within use of sustainable alternative fuels, electrification, energy efficiency, design and retrofitting, digitalization and ports. Are these the relevant activities or are there other activities that should be covered?
(max 200 characters)

Add: transversal enabling tech, wind-assisted propulsion (distinct from Energy Efficiency), Ice-going navigation, circularity, safety, dual-use platforms, and maritime security as new activities.

8. What are the lessons learned or best practices from participation in past Waterborne TP partnerships or related EU-funded projects?
(max 200 characters)

Processes are more transparent, but it's harder to be heard as members grow. Main concern: limited budget for low/medium TRL projects—few RIA, mostly IA.

9. The current partnership focusses on 6 product categories, notably: inland waterway transport, ferries, short sea shipping, cruise, intercontinental shipping and offshore. In our recently published SRA, a seventh category, blue economy, has been added. Are there other categories that should be included?
(max 200 characters)

Include icebreakers and Arctic navigation as a sub-category—Arctic routes are growing, and the EU leads in design (80%) and construction (60%) of icebreakers.

10. Are there any other input or questions that you have for the working group?
(max 350 characters)

The partnership should balance zero emissions and digitalisation, giving digital a key role. Ensure fair support for low/medium TRL research. Support dual-use innovation and security, fostering synergies with EU defense initiatives and larger funding.