

MEAD Pre Submission Briefing

Wednesday 2 May 2012

Q&A

1. Will DECC circulate the slides?

A: A version of the slides will be made available. This will not include the session on the Marine [Technology Innovation Needs Assessment](#) (TINA) as this TINA has not yet been published.

2. How does MEAD relate to the Scottish funding?

A: MEAD scheme has been launched by DECC to support up to 2 pre-commercial projects to demonstrate the operation of wave and/or tidal devices in array formation over a period of time. This is not directly linked to the Scottish Marine Renewable Commercialisation Fund (MRCF) or other funding. However, DECC officials are working closely with their Scottish counterparts, including through the [Low Carbon Innovation Co-ordination Group](#), to ensure that the various funding streams which are available for marine energy, including the MEAD and MRCF, operate in a complementary manner.

3. Do you know who, how and when panels are going to evaluate applicants?

A: There will be a two-stage assessment process. Assessment will begin immediately following the deadline for application on the 1st June 2012 and will be carried out by an independent panel which is likely to include experts from industry, academia, government and other public sector agencies. Any projects that do not meet the entry criteria will be informed by 1st July 2012, after which we expect to have a preliminary ranking of all eligible projects by 1st August 2012. We do not intend to publish this ranking or to make public the details of projects that do not meet the entry criteria. All eligible project applications will be assessed using the same assessment procedure which will require responses to every question in the application form. During the period of 1st June to 1st August members of the project team should be available for clarifications or to provide additional evidence to support any claims made in the application form.

4. Are the Channel Islands and Isle of Man included?

A: If projects are within UK territorial Water's and they meet the eligibility criteria for MEAD then they can apply to the scheme. However if they do not have a grid connection then applicants would need to provide credible

evidence that a grid connection will be in place in order to enable connection before 31 March 2016.

5. What are the grid connection requirements? Should there be an agreement in place?

A: As a minimum a letter of intent should be in place. DECC needs to have confidence that applications submitted will have a grid connection in place before 31 March 2016.

6. What if the grid is not ready?

A: This would lead to incomplete milestones and delay to the project which can have an effect on the grant award.

7. Will DECC publicize those projects that were highly ranked/rejected?

A: DECC do not intend to publish the rankings or to make public the details of projects that do not meet the eligibility criteria.

8. Do DECC have a view on single or multiple technologies?

A: Multiple technologies are possible as long as each technology fits the eligibility criteria of MEAD.

9. At what point would DECC consider reallocating to another project if milestones aren't reached?

A: This will be considered on a case by case basis. However, considering the tight timescales associated with delivering the MEAD projects there is little flexibility for this. Therefore all MEAD applications will undergo a thorough technical and financial review process in order to minimise the risks to the project.

10. If the evaluation criteria is not met, do organisations miss out?

A: There are a set of minimum eligibility criteria that will need to be met for a project to be considered for the MEAD scheme – these are outlined in the 'Guidance notes for applicants'. Further to this the assessment panel will evaluate how well projects meet the overall criteria outlined in the guidance notes.

11. Please can you define Value for Money?

A: Value for Money assessments will include considerations of how well proposed projects strike the right balance between cost and likelihood of meeting the project aims.

12. How do DECC intend to publicize information related to the MEAD projects.

A: DECC may publish information relating to the grant on its website, and in any other way it considers appropriate, in particular information highlighted in Section 7 of the Guidance notes.

Please also refer to Page 3 of the Guidance Notes for further information regarding possible disclosure of information provided in the response to the MEAD call.

13. It appears that priority goes to larger arrays- what are DECC hoping to see in terms of learning curve figures (finance)?

A: We are not being prescriptive about learning curves – projects should be submitting their realistic costs rather than trying to achieve an arbitrary learning rate that they think we are looking for.

14. How will you compare the cost of energy?

A: We are looking for a low long term cost of energy and therefore market potential, but also realism in the medium term and long terms hence the request for CoE sheets for a 10MW array (after 10MW previous) and 50MW array (after 200MW previous). We are not simply looking for a low levelised cost of energy for both sheets, but rather an indication that a pathway to low cost of energy is possible and that the applicant is sensible about the cost centres.

15. Over what period can projects costs be considered for the purpose of claiming eligible costs on the grant.

A: Eligible costs will be calculated up to 31 March 2016 for both state aid and grant payment purposes. However we will only make payments on costs that have been incurred and defrayed to 31 March 2015. Those payments won't need to match the aid intensity (e.g. 25%) of the cost incurred by 31st March 2015 (they could exceed it) as long as the total grant paid to 31 march 2015 does not exceed the aid intensity of the total eligible cost to and cost incurred by 31 march 2016.