

# MASTS

## Collaborating for Marine Renewables

### - where do MASTS go from here?

MASTS Annual Science Meeting  
Workshop 09.00-10.30  
24<sup>th</sup> August 2011

**DRAFT**

Recommendation bullet points from workshop  
(to be expanded later into short report for MASTS Directorate and Executive Committee)

- Following two previous MASTS marine renewables workshops [MRs and Predators - Perth March 2010; and MRs and Mapping future collaborative research (with MREDS) - Orkney, October 2010] this workshop was called to review opportunities and process asking the questions: What research opportunities; What appetite for collaborative venture over single action and when; and What structure and support from MASTS and the institutions to make it work?
- MASTS is currently re-configuring its approach to research and research themes. It is clear that the government and the MASTS membership expect marine renewables (resource availability, exploitation and interactions) to be one of the priority themes of MASTS activities in the immediate future.
- The meeting highlighted collaboration which was already happening with the initiative of individual member institutions and funder programmes such as the NERC 'sandpit' and MREDS. The strategy formulated by MASTS should take a high level approach and a lead in identifying/setting a research agenda building relationships with government, developers and Research Councils etc. Other important links include the EPSRC SuperGen Programme; Scottish Enterprise; and the Scottish Renewables Forum.
- It is thought that the MASTS approach should be pro-active in identifying and publicising the research agenda and consider action like a pre-emptive bid to government and funders for a large collaborative MRs related research project.
- The MASTS approach to Marine Renewables should encompass all potential sources of marine energy including offshore wind, wave, tidal and bioenergy.
- In looking at interactions it is important to research other related sectors and differentiate from issues such as climate change for example. The emerging marine renewables industry should not be saddled with all the questions and those which could be addressed by more well established industries such as offshore oil.
- Marine research structures were suggested to answer generic questions pre-development stage rather than waiting for specific generation devices to be deployed on test.
- The inclusion of Marine Archaeology as one of the core MASTS interests was discussed.