

BOOST YOUR OCEAN ENERGY PROSPECTS WITH A FREE TAP

The Technology Assessment Process (TAP) is one of the free services offered to developers and businesses through the **Ocean Power Innovation Network (OPIN)**. If you have an innovation for the ocean energy sector, a TAP gives you a roadmap for risk reduction, development and commercialisation, as well as independent evidence for investors.

Wave, tidal, floating wind and **floating solar** are all innovation areas supported by OPIN.

How does TAP work?

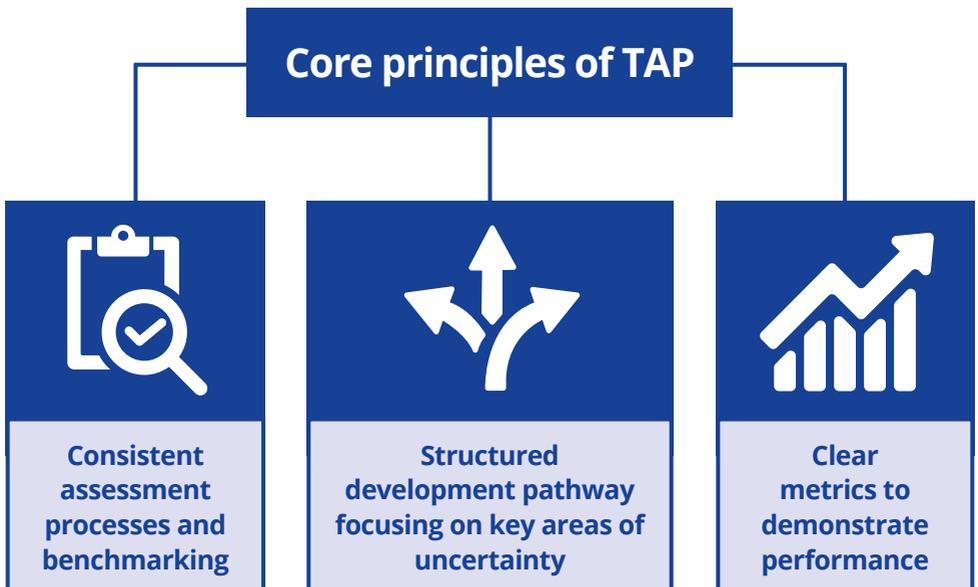
A Technology Assessment Process (TAP) is a standardised framework for the assessment of new and emerging ocean energy technologies and services.

OPIN experts can work with your business to understand key uncertainties and risks associated with costs and performance, resulting in a less expensive, faster and more focussed development pathway.

An evidence-based dossier – a TAP Report - will help to map your company's journey through the development process, identifying commercialisation milestones and future sources of support.

A TAP provides your future investors with:

- Better matching of investment to strong, feasible technical ideas
- Better information on risk and commercial prospects when making decisions
- Better visibility of respective technical strengths when evaluating competing ideas
- Better ongoing confidence thanks to periodic independent review



Case study:



HelioRec
FLOATING SOLAR POWER PLANT

HelioRec is a new developer with a concept for a floating solar power plant with a circular economy approach. Approaching the prototype stage of their development, they contacted OPIN for a TAP in early 2019. Over the following months, they worked through the assessment with a team of engineers from the Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult, the UK's leading research and innovation centre for renewable energy, as well as the Dutch Marine Energy Centre, Sirris and École Centrale de Nantes.

HelioRec's idea was to mount solar panels on floaters made from recycled plastics to create a 1MW array that would comprise around 3,000 panels, an area equivalent in size to a football pitch. An innovative cooling system and a stackable design for ease of transportation and build were important unique selling points for the design.

ORE Catapult's engineers conducted an in-depth survey of each component before assessing the functionality of the entire system. The primary concern of TAPs at this stage is to ensure a thorough concept exploration, identification of practical barriers and fine-tuning ahead of prototyping. They offered recommendations on adapting the design to reduce costs, ideas for alternative materials and guidance on necessary steps for market readiness.

ORE Catapult and its partners offered advice on cable design, including electrical loading and temperature effects, maintenance and cleaning regimes, hydrodynamics, mooring numerical model and testing.

Over the past year, the company has won numerous international awards for its concept and begun building out its first array, returning to the OPIN network for consultancy and support.

"We were at a tipping point with the technology development and we wanted independent scrutiny of every detail before building the prototype. ORE Catapult's approach was collaborative throughout, helping us refine our design and pinpoint where our technology could sit on the market. The TAP helped us to avoid unnecessary costs further down the line."

Polina Vasilenko, Founder and CEO, HelioRec



The Ocean Power Innovation Network (OPIN)

OPIN is a £2 million programme, funded by the European Regional Development Fund, that is designed to accelerate the growth of European SMEs in the ocean energy sector.

Membership of the network is free and brings full access to a range of technology development services and guidance.

Support goes beyond the TAP to include:

- Workshops and masterclasses for the latest insights from companies and trade bodies working across the sector and the North Sea region.
- Collaborative Innovation Groups (CIGs) for SMEs to join forces with researchers and industry bodies in order to resolve barriers to trade.
- Attendance at the OPIN Annual Symposium for networking with other players in the European supply chain for ocean energy
- Paid travel expenses for attendance at overseas OPIN events (subject to eligibility)

Visit the website



The Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult

ORE Catapult was established in 2013 by the UK Government and is one of a network of Catapults set up by Innovate UK in high growth industries. It is the UK's flagship technology innovation and research centre for offshore wind, wave and tidal energy and helps to reduce the cost of offshore renewable energy, supporting the growth of the industry and creating UK benefit.

Alongside OPIN, the Catapult is helping to deliver some of the biggest tidal energy projects in the world, including the €47 million Tidal Stream Industry Energiser Project (TIGER), also funded by the European Regional Development Fund, and €20 H2020 EnFAIT (Enabling Future Arrays in Tidal) project.

Visit the website



Contact Us

For queries related to OPIN and the TAP service, please contact:

Neil Farrington
Regional innovation Manager
Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult

neil.farrington@ore.catapult.org.uk

Tel: 0333 004 1400

