



# The UK maritime cluster and maritime research policy

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WATERBORNE HIGH LEVEL EVENT  
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## UK maritime cluster

- Profile and image
- Commercial structures
- Promotional activities
- Political influence
  
- Sea Vision message
  - Seas are important to UK
  - Maritime activities are essential to UK
  - Opportunities exist for careers in the maritime cluster

## UK's diverse maritime cluster

- Ship management and operation
- Ship design, building, repair and maintenance
- Design, construction, conversion, repair and maintenance of offshore exploration and production facilities
- Minerals and aggregates extraction
- Port and terminal operation and management
- Ship broking
- Maritime insurance
- Design and manufacture of marine equipment
- Ship registration and classification
- Maritime services, including chandlery and bunkering
- Marine consultancy
- Education and training

## The UK maritime cluster

- Sea Vision research showed
  - Sector turnover of well in excess of € 60 bn
  - Sector direct employment (very conservatively) of more than 250 000
  - Employment in maritime sector research and development of over 8 000

# Research

- Strong university research base in maritime technologies - naval architecture, marine engineering, offshore engineering and marine science
- Strong university base in general technologies with potential maritime applications
- Strong non-academic research community with contribution to maritime sector
- Large scale experimental facilities and infrastructure

## UK Government role

- To help the UK's shipbuilding, ship repair, marine equipment and boat building industries to drive up their productivity and competitiveness.
- Develop an in-depth understanding of the sector, and build effective relations with key companies, the trade associations and other stakeholders.
- Build an effective network within Government and to champion the marine sector's interests within it, in respect of regulations and other policies.
- Ensure that the industry-led Shipbuilding and Marine Industries Forum (including companies, trade associations, the sector skills council, unions, and Government Departments) is an effective vehicle for promoting the marine sectors interests.
- ***Provide support to the sector in tapping into the range of Business Support and technology programmes and UK Regional Development Agency support.***

## National research agenda

- Technology Strategy Board, working across UK Government
- Links to UK Research Councils and UK Regional Development Agencies
- Technology based research programmes, not sector based
  - Advanced materials
  - Bioscience and healthcare
  - Design engineering and advanced manufacturing
  - Electronics and photonics
  - Emerging energy technologies
  - Information and communications technology
  - Sustainable production and consumption
- Knowledge Transfer Networks

# Research Councils

- Main public investors in fundamental research
- Limited direct funding of maritime research projects
  - **Strategic Programmes**
    - Basic technology
    - Energy
    - E-science
    - Infrastructure and environment
    - Innovative manufacturing
    - Life sciences interface

## Industry contribution to R&D

- Maritime and Coastguard Agency R&D programme
- Defence R&D programmes – Corporate and Applied Research Programmes
- Trade Association initiatives
- Joint Industry Projects
- Individual company R&D programmes

## Involvement in EU Framework Programmes

- UK has high level of involvement in maritime projects funded under FP5 and FP6
- University sector is very active, accounting for 50% of funding allocation to UK organisations
- Industry and SMEs are active in maritime EU-funded projects
- EU Framework Programmes with maritime focus are viewed as key by UK maritime cluster
- UK supports the ERA-NET MARTEC consortium

## *Waterborne*

- UK industry is fully engaged with *Waterborne* through trade associations
- *Waterborne* gives a clear focus on maritime R&D needs which differs from UK technology centred programmes
- *Waterborne* Strategic Research Agenda is beneficial to UK maritime cluster
- UK is seeking to establish a *Waterborne* focus group to maximise the benefit to the UK maritime cluster



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