



Industry Sponsorship Programme

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Document History

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1 Programme Description

1.1 Background

In September 2019 the Technology Leadership Board (TLB) launched their strategy and ambition for the UKCS¹. The technologies strategy defined in collaboration with the Maximising Economic Recovery UK (MER UK) Taskforces (Figure 1), identifies the key opportunities and challenges. Deployment of innovative technologies is deemed critical for our industry, to ensure MER UK and deliver against the challenge of Net Zero.



Figure 1. MER UK Forum & Task Forces

10 Grand Challenges were formulated during 2019, forming the basis on which priority technologies could be associated. The 10 challenges relate also to Oil and Gas Technology Centre (OGTC) Roadmap goals. The OGTC, along with the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) and MER UK Forums, are key partners in the TLB Strategy.

¹ <https://www.ogauthority.co.uk/media/6028/ogauthoritysharepointcom-ssl-davwwwroot-sites-ecm-tbw3-documents-documents-and-presentations-2019-20-tlb-final-brochure.pdf>

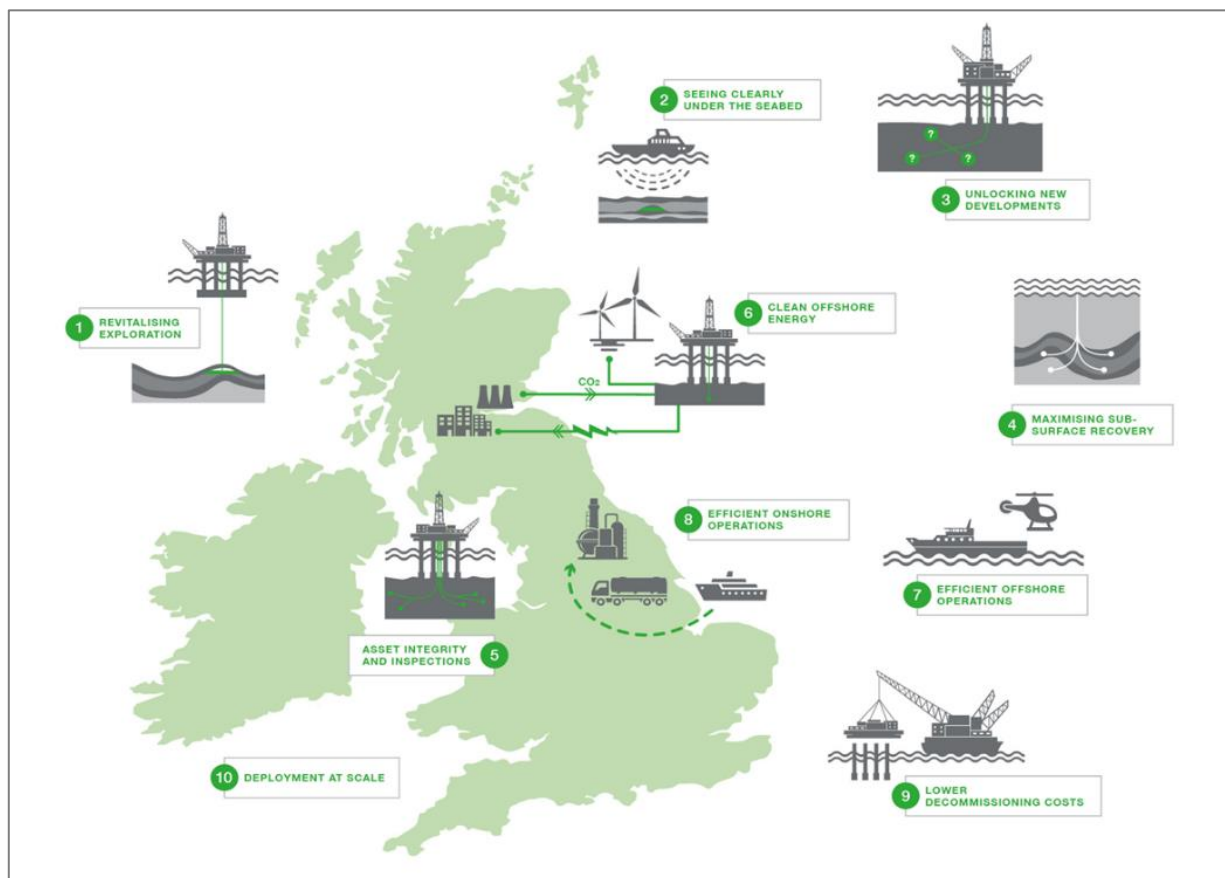


Figure 2. Identified Grand Challenges - Understanding Demand

Contained within the 10 Grand Challenges are eighteen priority technologies which are identified and discussed further in section 1.2. In order to address these priority technologies, ensure pace of development and deployment across industry, the “Industry Sponsor Programme” is to be developed.

1.2 Priority Technologies

The Grand Challenges and associated priority technologies are defined below (Figure 3 - Priority Technologies and their related Grand Challenge). The technology priorities span the entire lifecycle of an oil and gas asset from exploration to decommissioning. As explained, priority technology areas were defined in collaboration with the MER UK task forces, focussing on specific technology developments required to assist in meeting their respective MER UK objectives, with industry input through the OGA Technology Plans and subsequent Technology Insights report².

² https://www.ogauthority.co.uk/media/5939/oga_technology_insights_report_2019-v2.pdf

TLB themes	Priority technologies
1. Revitalise exploration	Automated pay-zone identification
	Industry data cleansing
2. Seeing clearly under the seabed	Efficient 3D seismic processing including FWI
	Low cost full-azimuth (OBN)
3. Unlocking new developments	Efficient subsea developments
	Relocatable surface facilities
	Technologies for heavy oil
4. Maximising subsurface recovery	Subsurface imaging (3D, 4D)
5. Asset management	NII of current blindspots
	Adoption of NII technologies
	Data management for asset integrity
	Topsides automation
6. Clean energy	Lowering emissions (flaring, venting, OIW and CO2)
7. Efficient offshore operations	Digital platforms for operational coordination and planning
8. Productive onshore operations	Global virtual coordination room facilities
9. Lower cost of decommissioning	Alternative P&A barriers
	Efficient cutting technologies
	Efficient lifting

Figure 3. Priority Technologies and their related Grand Challenge

As is to be expected, associated technologies are at differing stages of maturity (TRL – Technology Readiness Level) with some in early development or piloting, whilst others are more advanced with the technology ready for use, with an increase in uptake or deployment still needed.

1.3 Purpose and Objectives

It is acknowledged that eighteen technologies spanning an assets lifecycle makes it impossible for one company to progress development in all areas, therefore we seek to leverage different UKCS Operators who are focused and have expertise in specific areas. Therefore, through an Industry Sponsor Programme, leading and influential Operators and Supply Chain companies may champion technology maturity, in the eighteen priority technologies respectively.

The key objective of the Sponsor Programme is to both reinforce and support industry ownership of the priority technologies, with an aim of ensuring pace of development and widespread acknowledgment across industry.

Operators with specific areas of known expertise and focus will be invited to become Sponsors. Sponsors will seek to lead the best practice, whilst championing the respective technology. Working with the TLB,

OGA and OGTC, along with other developers, the Sponsor will help ensure successful delivery of industry solutions and promote widespread deployment.

1.4 Value for Industry

Through the Industry Sponsorship Programme, it is anticipated that the culture of collaboration and sharing will become enhanced across the sector, to identify the gaps which need addressing and through industry wide engagement, deliver end user value-based solutions.

The TLB anticipate that through the Sponsorship role, Sponsors will be assisted in accelerating their own Corporate Priorities, facilitating greater collaboration with peers and technology organisations/providers.

2 Industry Sponsors

2.1 Sponsors Role

The sponsor's role is subdivided in to four categories; Strategy, Operator Engagement, Landscape Engagement and Communication.

Strategy

- Emphasise/Reinforce the technology strategy in their sponsorship area
- Advise milestones development, piloting and deployment of critical technologies
- Constructively assess the commitment of industry and its supporting frameworks

Operator Engagement

- Mentor others in the implementation of the sponsor specific technology
- Identify industry's strengths and potential gaps
- Flag opportunities for operators' participation in development, piloting, deployment
- Help to support Operators who request information

Landscape Engagement

- Engage the supply chain around the opportunities from the new solutions
- Familiarise with key technology programmes in train and identify if help is needed
- Understand avenues to deploy technologies at scale
- Champion Technology within OGTC and through other Research Partners

Communication

- Identify lessons learned and success stories
- Communicate around respective technology progress (development & deployment)
- Present at conferences and annual TLB Showcase

2.2 Approach

To ensure the greatest chance of success, the Industry Sponsor Programme is placed with the Managing Director (MD), with technical expertise delegated to the identified SME (Subject Matter Expert).

MD level sponsorship places a gravitas to the subject, internally providing the SME with a mandate to support and progress the respective technology, whilst externally offering influence and encouragement across the industry to quantify the benefits such technology may offer.

The TLB will work with Sponsors to assist in plan development, aid with any research requirements/information gathering and shall monitor progress. The TLB shall also help facilitate sharing and promotion providing platforms for these purposes e.g. TLB website with Sponsor areas, TLB LinkedIn group, workshops etc.

2.3 Sponsors Plan and Timings

Phase 1 of the program intends to have three active Sponsors by the end of H1 2020, with an additional two onboard by year end, increasing further during 2021. Initial engagement and approach to project setup is provided in Figure 4 - Industry Sponsor Project Set Up Approach.

It is estimated that a period of circa 6 months, will be required from initial engagement, to final project plan approval (by all parties).



Figure 4. Industry Sponsor Project Set Up Approach

The duration of a Sponsor’s role will depend on the technology area they are to sponsor, as different projects will incur differing time frames, defining the time frame(s) will be part of constructing the initial Sponsor Plan. The Industry Sponsor will define and agree the scope of work for their sponsorship area and therefore, control how broad or focused they might wish to be along with necessary phasing. During initial engagement and construction of the project plan, it might be deemed appropriate/advantageous to have two industry sponsors for a certain technology area rather than one, for example a collaboration between an Operator and a Service Company.

A key part of constructing the Sponsor Plan will be defining the roadmap and milestone against which the project progress will subsequently be monitored. A success vision for each sponsorships project will also be defined. It is anticipated that an Industry Sponsor would stay in that role until the scope of work defined in the Sponsor Plan has been completed unless it is deemed appropriate to handover to another Operator as Sponsor. In some cases, there may be a more holistic success vision i.e. rig-less P&A and an Industry Sponsor may just focus on one aspect of achieving this initially, for example, alternative P&A barriers. It would then be up to the Industry Sponsor if they would want to expand/extend their Sponsorship role to address other aspects or pass over Sponsorship to another Operator or potentially have other Industry Sponsors working alongside focussed on different areas in order to achieve the end goal of rig-less P&A.

The TLB will in the initial stages be more involved, assisting in formulating the Sponsor Plan, however, during the Execution phase responsibility of progress will sit primarily with the Sponsor, with the TLB assisting and monitoring whilst offering communication/sharing opportunities as required.

2.4 Governance and Monitoring

It is anticipated that there will be monthly engagements on project progress between the Industry Sponsor and the TLB contact. In addition to this, quarterly updates will be provided at TLB scheduled meetings.

As well as providing updates to the TLB, other relevant task forces i.e. Wells Task Force, will be kept updated of progress, in as much as the Industry Sponsor project is assisting that taskforce to achieve associated MER UK goals.

3 Communications

A key aspect of the Industry Sponsor Programme is communication, with collaboration to ensure the priority technologies are known and understood across the industry allowing potential value to be sought by multiple Operators.

Through an uptake of these new technologies, the objectives of MER UK can be better realised.

3.1 Website and Social Media

The new TLB website (www.the-TLB.com), will have a specific area for Industry Sponsors. Here Sponsors will be able to provide background and objectives of respective projects, share results/findings, document presentations given, provide relevant links for people wanting to find out more and provide contact details for anyone who might have ideas or want to get involved.

It is further planned to set up a TLB Industry Sponsor LinkedIn group, which will allow social media sharing of ongoing programmes by Sponsors, to provide greater industry visibility.

3.2 Events

As important as online content, it is expected that Industry Sponsors will present progress and results of respective programmes at relevant conferences and workgroups, in order to build visibility, create support/acceptance and to encourage wider technology adoption.

4 Conclusion

Through the Industry Sponsor Programme, the TLB wishes to install a greater sense of Industry ownership, offering Sponsors a platform on which to share and collaborate. It is hoped that as the programme matures, Operators and the Supply Chain alike will reap the new technology benefits, both at a corporate level and in assisting Industry to achieve the objectives of MER UK, whilst meeting the Net Zero challenge.