



University of the
Highlands and Islands
Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd
agus nan Eilean



MERIKA

Marine Energy Research Innovation
and Knowledge Accelerator

RESEARCH WHERE THE RESOURCE IS

A European hub for Marine Energy
Research and Innovation

The Highlands and Islands are home to a unique combination of natural energy resources that make it the primary location for research into Marine Energy (tidal, wave and wind ocean power).

MERIKA (Marine Energy Research Innovation and Knowledge Accelerator) is a strategic programme through which UHI will realise its ambition of becoming a European Marine Energy and Innovation Hub.

AN INNOVATION AND RESEARCH HUB



an estimated
206 gigawatts
(GW)
of offshore wind, wave and
tidal resource in Scottish waters;
almost 40% of the UK total¹.

Home to a unique combination of natural energy resources, the Highlands and Islands of Scotland offer an ideal location for research into tidal, wave and wind ocean power.

At the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), our Marine Energy Research Innovation and Knowledge Accelerator (MERIKA), provides an ideal opportunity to **research where the resource is**.

Supported by EU FP7 funding of €3.95m, additional capacity at UHI is now supporting a research exchange programme with seven leading European research institutions.

MERIKA is focused on science excellence, built around four key themes: Knowledge Exchange, Infrastructure Upgrade, European Engagement and Innovation.

Our research and innovation is directed from three UHI locations, each active in the Marine Energy sector:

- Lews Castle College (LCC) Stornoway
- Environmental Research Institute (ERI) Thurso
- Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) Oban.

MERIKA's programme focuses on:

- Resource assessment and risk (tidal current, wave and offshore wind)
- Understanding the effects of marine renewable energy devices on the environment and ecology
- Understanding the social, economic and policy dimensions of marine renewable energy.



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RESEARCH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Seven leading European research institutions who collaborate with UHI on Marine Energy.

- Building marine energy research innovation capacity through resource and knowledge exchange with leading research institutions.
- Exploiting unique energy resources to transform the Scottish Highlands and Islands into a European Marine Energy Innovation Hub.

UHI; Lews Castle College (LCC) Stornoway,
Environmental Research Institute (ERI) Thurso,
Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) Oban.



w.merikafp7.eu

A European hub for Marine Energy Research and Innovation.

Through each of its four key themes, MERIKA is focused on delivering a European hub for Marine Energy Research and Innovation at UHI.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Researcher secondments, both to and from our seven European partner research institutions, are at the core of this theme. These secondments build links that span the European Research Area (ERA); they integrate marine energy research teams and act as a springboard for new joint research activities.

INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

MERIKA is funding an equipment upgrade programme that is adding significant physical capacity across the three active locations in Marine Energy at UHI.

- Lews Castle College (LCC) Stornoway
- Environmental Research Institute (ERI) Thurso
- Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) Oban.

EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT

MERIKA engages across the European research landscape – in particular Horizon2020 – and is building links with industry and policy makers.

INNOVATION

Working within UHI, MERIKA delivers a coaching programme to extend the ability and 'know-how' necessary to manage innovation processes, industrial and business relationships and the protection and exploitation of intellectual property.

Up to
25%
of Europe's tidal power

10%
of its wave power²

Our seven European partners:

University of Nordland,
Nordland, Norway
www.uin.no

Norwegian University of Science
and Technology (NTNU),
Trondheim – Norway
www.ntnu.edu

Technical University of Hamburg
(TUHH), Germany
www.tuhh.de

Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht,
Geesthacht, Germany
www.hzg.de

Wageningen IMARES, Netherlands
www.wageningenur.nl

NUI Galway, Ireland
www.nuigalway.ie

WavEC Wave Centre, Portugal
www.wavec.org

[w. merikafp7.eu](http://w.merikafp7.eu)

[e. merikafp7@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:e.merikafp7@uhi.ac.uk)

 [@merikafp7](https://twitter.com/merikafp7)

