

Horizon Europe flagship calls on wind and ocean

Pablo Ruiz-Minguela

Head of R&I Programmes - Energy, Climate and Urban Transition Unit

jpablo.ruiz-minguela@tecnalia.com

Contents

Rationale

Common topic structure

Specific call details

Key takeaways

EC Funding for Offshore Renewable Energies

Higher Flexibility



- Demo projects are **facing difficulties** leading to suspension and even termination
- **Unspent funding** cannot be allocated to other HE projects
- Difficult to adopt a **programme approach** and leverage project synergies

Higher Agility



- Be responsive to **new R&I priorities** established by the sector
- Engage **third parties** depending on the focus of the R&I actions
- **Stop** unsuccessful activities and **continue** funding successful work

Unifying sector topics into a single umbrella

HORIZON-CL5-2026-09-D3-03, €93m

- Innovative technologies and solutions to improve wind energy systems supporting the Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan on wind
- Type of Action: IA (TRL 6-8)

Deadline: 15 September 2026

HORIZON-CL5-2027-02-D3-09, €43m

- Innovative technologies and solutions to improve wave and tidal energy systems
- Type of Action: IA (TRL 6-7)

Deadline: 31 March 2027



Commonalities in the descriptions

Alignment with the Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan

- Address SET Plan R&I priorities and targets for RE technologies
- Increase performance & contribution of renewables to the energy system
- Reduce fragmentation of R&I efforts by fostering coordinated, EU-level collaboration among industry, research organisations, and public actors

Stakeholder and ecosystem approach

- Require a strong industry leadership and participation
- Encourage collaboration with:
 - European Technology and Innovation Platforms (ETIPs)
 - SET Plan Implementation Working Groups (IWGs)
 - European Energy Research Alliance (EERA)
 - IEA Technology Collaboration Programmes (IEA-Wind & IEA-OES)



SET Plan Wind (D3-03)
SET Plan Ocean (D3-09)

Structure and breakdown of activities

Project activities are implemented:

- By the Consortium or through Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP)
- FSTP projects having a short duration (e.g. 12-18 months)

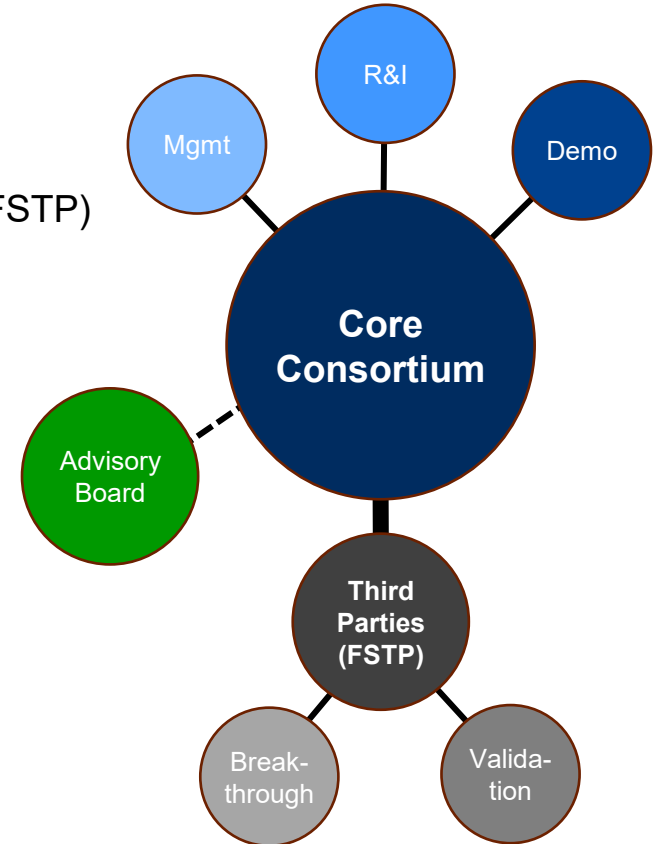
The R&I activities are divided into 3 challenges:

- **Breakthrough challenge**
 - **Validation challenge**
- Implemented by the Consortium and through FSTP
- **Demonstration challenge** – Implem. solely by the Consortium

The core Consortium:

- Performs **R&I activities** in any area of the scope and challenges
- Responsible for **project management**, including FSTP actions

Independent Advisory Board aligned with SET Plan priorities



Project governance and impact model

Governance structure

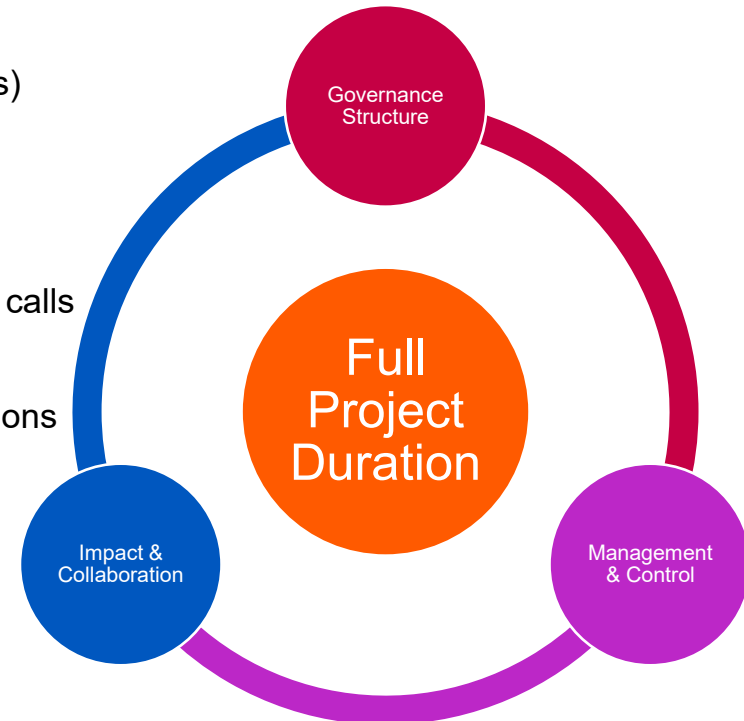
- Clear description of all project activities (Consortium & FSTP actions)
- Well-defined FSTP framework (calls, evaluation and selection) and implementation methodology (stages, timelines and targets)

Management and control

- Proven experience in financial mgmt of large-scale EU projects and calls
- Robust monitoring and reporting (deliverables, milestones, KPIs)
- Risk management and mitigation measures (e.g. demonstration actions not reaching go-decisions)

Impact and collaboration

- Strong impact maximisation strategy
- Knowledge sharing & external partnerships
- Use of EU research infrastructures



HORIZON-CL5-2026-09-D3-03: Wind Energy Call

Activities pertain to the following priority R&I areas:

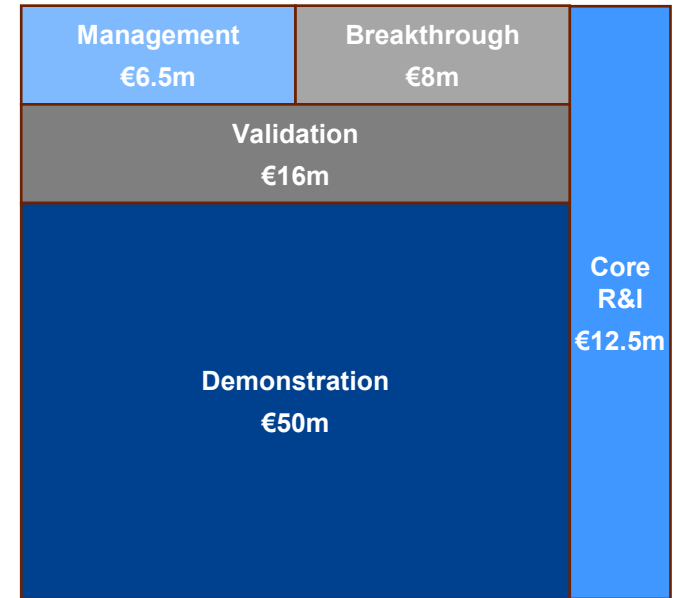
1. Industrialisation, scale-up and competitiveness
2. Optimisation and further digitalisation of operation and maintenance
3. Wind energy system integration
4. Sustainability and circularity
5. Floating offshore wind
6. Research and technology infrastructures for wind energy
7. Wind energy systems interactions with climate, atmosphere, ocean & geophysics
8. Environmental and social aspects, coexistence
9. Emerging technologies

Validation in laboratory and relevant environment (either onshore or offshore)

3 different demo projects (areas 1-6, >6 months, go/no-go)

Consortium 

FSTP 



Max €1,000k for each third party

HORIZON-CL5-2027-02-D3-09: Ocean Energy Call

Develop and demonstrate cost-effective ocean energy systems:

- Survive the harsh ocean/sea environment
- With minimal impacts on health, the environment and biodiversity
- For different type of European resources
- Bringing them to the market

Scope of activities that can be considered:

- Wave and tidal energy devices
- Sustainable materials for converters, moorings and foundations
- Advanced mooring and power transmission systems
- Condition monitoring and predictive maintenance solutions
- Advanced manufacturing of OE devices and auxiliary equipment
- Techns. & solutions for installation, maintenance and decommissioning

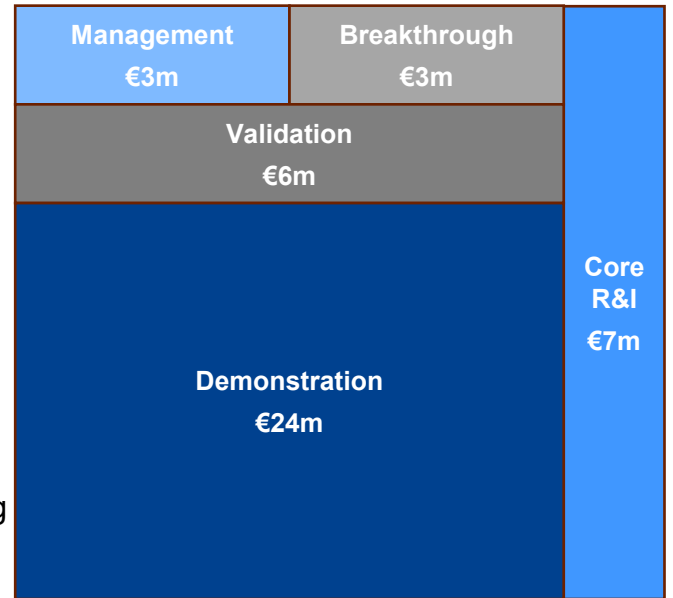
Validation & demonstration in a controlled environment

(monitored, reproducible conditions)

3 different demo projects (SET Plan R&I priorities, go/no-go)

Consortium 

FSTP 



Max €800k for each third party

Final messages

- A new call design – it seeks more flexibility and agility
- Project activities to be implemented by the consortium and third parties (through FSTP calls)
- Decision: participate either in the consortium or in the FSTP calls – both is not possible!
- Funding is big but still limited – it most probably does not allow for full device demonstrations
- Finally, ask not what “*this flagship call*” can do for you; ask what you can do for “*this flagship call*” – i.e. R&I actions should benefit the whole sector, not a specific device



*“Ask not what your country can do for you;
ask what you can do for your country”*
John F. Kennedy’s Inaugural Address, Jan 20, 1961



tecnal:a

MEMBER OF BASQUE RESEARCH
& TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE

PABLO RUIZ MINGUELA

jpablo.ruiz-minguela@tecnalia.com



tecnalia.com