

## Ocean Energy Europe – Annual General Assembly 2024

### Candidates for Board of Directors

Name	Company
<a href="#">Marcelle Askew</a>	<a href="#">Seabased</a>
<a href="#">Maarten Berkhout</a>	<a href="#">Seaurrent</a>
<a href="#">Drew Blaxland*</a>	<a href="#">Proteus Marine Renewables</a>
<a href="#">Brendan Cahill</a>	<a href="#">ORPC</a>
<a href="#">Matthew Finn</a>	<a href="#">EMEC</a>
<a href="#">Marlène Kiersnowski</a>	<a href="#">Fondation OPEN-C</a>
<a href="#">Benjamin Lehner</a>	<a href="#">DMEC</a>
<a href="#">Tony Lewis</a>	<a href="#">OceanEnergy ltd</a>
<a href="#">Patrik Möller*</a>	<a href="#">Corpower Ocean</a>
<a href="#">Jose Miguel Rodrigues</a>	<a href="#">SINTEF</a>
<a href="#">Pablo Ruiz Minguela</a>	<a href="#">TECNALIA</a>
<a href="#">Ralf Starzmann</a>	<a href="#">Schottel Marine Technologies</a>

7 candidates will be elected to the Board of Directors.

*\*These candidates are also running for the Co-Presidency of the association. Once the new Board of Directors is elected, two co-presidents will be selected.*

#### Lead Partner Board members running for Co-President

Name	Company
<a href="#">Guillaume Gréau</a>	<a href="#">HydroQuest</a>

**Name:** Marcelle Askew

**Company/Institution:** [Seabased](#)

**CV**



My passion for ocean energy began when I joined the wave power tech Seabased (seabased.com) in 2016.

I've built my career leading international cross-functional teams in project management, business development, and marketing & communications, primarily for European for-profit organisations that are actively aligned with UN SDG goals. My track record as consultant and entrepreneur is particularly strong in the go-to-market phase.

My role as VP Business Development at Seabased includes developing strategic partnerships, leading negotiations and securing commercial turnkey wave power projects. Additionally; I lead cross-functional B2B and B2C projects including feasibility studies, engineering and optimization projects. Previously I have worked with marketing & communications.

Otherwise, I'm an American who has resided in Europe for over 35 years, currently based in Norway. I hold a Master's in Business Administration from RSM at Erasmus in the Netherlands.

[www.linkedin.com/in/marcelleaskew](http://www.linkedin.com/in/marcelleaskew)

### **Motivation**

I've been passionate about Ocean Energy since joining the field in 2016 and have worked hard to promote and cooperate with the various ocean energy technologies, as I believe we will best succeed together in this emerging arena.

I believe that OEE, as the world's leading ocean energy industry association, plays a vital role in supporting member organizations by fostering collaboration and advocating for our shared interests. OEE has a strong track record in influencing policy decisions that create a more conducive business environment for us all. Our annual conference is an excellent venue for networking, connecting with peers and exchanging best practice, and is well-visited by policy makers. As we continue to grow, I would also support further communication with the general public about the advantages of ocean energy, and further development of the annual conference to attract a wider audience, including more for public and private investors and customers.

When Seabased was in a position to be a lead partner, I had the privilege of being Seabased's representative on the Board of Directors at the OEE. It would be a great honour to rejoin as a direct representative and promote all of us.

**Name: Maarten Berkhout**

**Company/Institution: [SeaCurrent](#)**

**CV**



Maarten Berkhout brings almost twenty five years of international experience in the energy sector. He has worked amongst others for Reliant Energy Europe, Nuon, Vattenfall, Nuon and Triogen. He has built a successful track record in business development and innovation management. Maarten has gained extensive experience in analysis and modeling of energy markets, strategy setting, investment valuation, project management, innovation management, contract management, regulatory matters, power plant licensing and stakeholder engagement. Maarten held several senior management positions for large energy investment projects and in R&D. He has been responsible for amongst others, 3500MW power generation portfolio P&L, generation and CO2 strategies, gas, electricity and heat contracts, procurement activities, building new innovation portfolios and IP portfolio management. Maarten has held board seats in various development and lobbying organizations and holds a master's degree in econometrics.

Maarten has been involved with SeaCurrent since 2016 as co-founder and caters for the commercial activities of SeaCurrent, being responsible for many areas including customer engagement, permitting, ecology, subsidies, market research and analysis, valuation and funding activities.

See also: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/maarten-berkhout/>

### **Motivation**

I have been involved in the ocean energy sector for quite some years and have been working in the energy sector, in particular on electricity production from innovative technologies, for almost 25 years now. This solid background helped me understand the key issues to move nascent technology solutions and industries forward.

We need to transform our energy supply and complementary solutions are much needed. I am eager to contribute to bringing ocean energy forward, in order to make the world a better place to live in for our children.

As board member of the Dutch energy from water branch organisation (EWA) I have contributed to this and I am looking to expand this contribution via OEE. Europe is driving the EU energy transition, logically so as at that scale it is still feasible to create alignment and make a substantial impact.

OEE is key in bringing the interests of the ocean energy sector into policy making and strategy setting at the European level. I am eager to help contribute to these efforts and gladly bring in my experience, insights and connections as well as the Dutch perspective to complement the OEE board.

**Name:** Drew Blaxland

**Company/Institution:** [Proteus Marine Renewables](#)

**CV**



Drew is one of the genuine and knowledgeable pioneers of the tidal industry. Throughout his 17-year career in tidal energy, including leadership roles with Atlantis and MeyGen, he has not only pioneered a material number of world firsts but has established a broad network and have a trusted reputation in the renewable energy sector. This journey has equipped him with a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities within the industry.

Based in PMR's corporate office in the Netherlands, his focus for the business is the global commercialisation of tidal energy, particularly in Europe, through a business model of enabling local supply chain and transferal of knowledge and expertise.

Drew and his team continue winning key global projects as this form of tidal power generation expands for deployment. The AR series technology has contributed to the success of several global projects such as MeyGen, Tiger and most recently Japan. These successes continue to lend credibility to the sector, PMR technology and Drew's capability and expertise.

### **Motivation**

I am deeply passionate about expanding the impact of marine energy market on a wider scale by leveraging my extensive tidal journey and advocating for affordable renewable energy solutions. I am confident that my unique combination of experience, skills, knowledge and passion positions me as a well-rounded candidate to join the board to become the new co-president.

1. Relevant Experience: Throughout my 17-year career in tidal energy, including leadership roles with Atlantis and MeyGen, I have not only pioneered a material number of world firsts but have established a broad network and have a trusted reputation in the industry.

2. Proven Latest Track Record: I have developed the largest output single rotor tidal turbine in Scotland, the Japan's first MW-class system and received the approval one of France's key tidal pilots, all underpinned by a dedication to continuous innovation, LCoE reduction, and a relentless pursuit of quality excellence.

3. Skill Set: This journey has equipped me with a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities within the industry. I have successfully navigated business transformations and ensured the utmost efficiency and reliability of tidal energy systems.

4. Adaptability and Growth: I am proud of my commitment to continuous learning and professional development. I have a proven history of adapting to evolving industry trends and innovation, which I believe is essential for success in the dynamic environment of renewable energy sector.

5. Passion for renewable energy sector: My passion for renewable energy sector is a driving force behind my desire to contribute meaningfully to OEE. I am particularly drawn to OEE because of its ambitious mission to drive innovation and technological advancement in the ocean energy sector. With plans to deploy 100GW of production capacity by 2050 (meeting 10% of Europe's electricity demand and creating 500,000 skilled jobs), OEE's commitment to fostering industry growth resonates with my own dedication to continuous innovation and quality excellence. I am eager to contribute my expertise to this transformative journey, leveraging our collective knowledge to continue to unlock the immense potential of ocean energy.

**Name:** Brendan Cahill

**Company/Institution:** [ORPC Ireland](#)

**CV**



I am an Engineer by training, with a Ph.D. in wave energy resource characterisation from University College Cork in Ireland, and fifteen years of experience in the ocean energy sector.

In five years at the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, I was responsible for building a pipeline of innovative ocean energy R&D projects, technical due diligence and reporting to the SEAI Board to guide funding awards and working with technology innovators to ensure the success of their projects. I also supported the development of Irish and EU Ocean Energy policy, transnational collaboration (e.g. OCEANERA-NET Co-Fund, Ocean Power Innovation Network), and advancing national test and demonstration infrastructure for marine energy.

Outside of ocean energy, I was responsible for policy development and programme implementation of the European Performance of Buildings Directive in Ireland, and I have worked for a start-up developing financial analysis software for renewable energy projects.

I am currently the Director of European Development at ORPC Ireland, a tidal energy technology company. I lead the company's business and project development activities in Europe and global markets, working with diverse stakeholders, from remote communities to large industrial clients. I am also an Irish representative to the IEA-OES Task on Alternative Markets for Ocean Energy.

## **Motivation**

I have been very fortunate to have worked in a wide variety of roles in ocean energy, in both wave and tidal energy. This has covered project and technology development, policy implementation, design of funding programmes, and academic research, with my involvement in cross-sectoral collaboration being a constant theme. This experience has given me a broad understanding and perspective on the industry which I believe can bring value to the Board, support the OEE team, and advocate for the wider membership.

I am currently a Council Member of the Irish Marine Renewables Industry Association (MRIA). In this capacity I have helped shape important responses to policy consultations to with a specific focus on ensuring that support for wave and tidal energy does not waver in the rush advance offshore wind. I am eager continue this effort at a European level.

Additionally, my current role with ORPC has provided we with an increased exposure to the global opportunities available to the ocean energy industry, the impact our technologies and services can have, and the challenges that will need to be addressed for Europe to maintain its leading role in the sector.

Having directly benefited from OEE's dedicated efforts to promote ocean energy for the past decade, it would be a privilege to receive your nomination to join the Board and to contribute towards the continued development of the association and our industry.

**Name:** Matthew Finn

**Company/Institution:** [European Marine Energy Centre \(EMEC\)](#)

## CV



I have worked in the ocean energy industry for the last eighteen years with hands on experience supporting over 30 full scale wave and tidal technology deployments at our facilities in Orkney.

Working with ocean energy companies from around the world I have helped them to raise over £150M in technology funding and I am actively involved in a number of site development projects seeking to grow the market for marine energy globally.

At a European level I have been involved in securing and delivering fifteen large scale collaborative R&D projects specifically focussed on the ocean energy sector and I have a wide network of contacts across academia, industry and government.

My background is in marine science and regulation, although this has broadened significantly with interests across engineering and financial disciplines. I am comfortable presenting to a wide range of audiences, experienced in engaging with media, politicians and senior civil servants.

My role as EMEC Commercial Director gives me access to technical expertise across the company which I will combine with my own experience to operate as an effective member of the OEE board.

## Motivation

As a champion for the sector I am fully aware of its key challenges and I am well placed to help raise its profile which will ensure that it receives the support necessary to further develop and expand. I am also involved in the development of related sectors (such as green hydrogen and floating wind) which provides insight into a wider range of routes to market for wave and tidal technologies.

EMEC has been a mainstay in marine energy for the last two decades providing a respected voice to government and consistency through the ups and downs that come with the individual technologies and projects. Acting as a shop window for the industry, my current role provides direct access to a range of government officials, businesses and a variety of stakeholders all keen to get a glimpse into the future of the sector.

On a more personal level I am based in Orkney where we are surrounded by 1GW of tidal energy potential and 0.5GW of wave energy, which provides me with daily motivation to push this sector to success.

I am looking forward to bringing my passion and expertise to the board of Ocean Energy Europe.

**Name:** Marlène Kiersnowski

**Company/Institution:** [Fondation OPEN-C](#)

**CV**



**2023 Fondation OPEN-C**

Test Site Director

Tidal Test Sites management (SENEOH, Paimpol-Bréhat)

Permitting, Projects developments

**2017-2023 ENERGIE DE LA LUNE**

Project Development Director

Strategic & economic consultancy

Tidal Test Sites management (SENEOH, Paimpol-Bréhat)

**2016-2017 SYNDICAT DES ENERGIES RENOUVELABLES (SER)** French Renewable Energy Industry Association

Head of Offshore and Marine Renewable Energies Department

Advocacy and representation of interests and concerns of marine energy companies to Ministry of Environment, Regional and local authorities and stakeholders.

**2012-2016 REGION OF NOUVELLE-AQUITAINE**

European and Energy Department task officer.

European project management, design and implement a regional strategic plan for Marine Renewable Energies.

**Motivation**

Over the past decade, my dedication to advancing ocean energy has afforded me a multifaceted understanding of the sector's challenges and opportunities. From regional intricacies to national perspectives, I have immersed myself in National and European networks while also gaining hands-on experience in operational project management.

My journey has led me to the OPEN-C Foundation, a recent national organisation set up on the grounds of existing French offshore test sites infrastructure and competencies and dedicated to marine renewable energies. OPEN-C's missions remain to empower tech developers to trial their innovations and to support the sector in many side aspects such as environmental monitoring, permitting, and lobbying. OPEN-C currently operates 5 test sites, 2 of them with testing capacities for wave energy converters (Saint-Anne, SEM-REV) and 2 of them dedicated to the trials of tidal energy converters (SENEOH, Paimpol-Bréhat).

During the past 3 years, I have had the chance to be involved into OEE board and I have very much appreciated to participate in the high-quality work and discussion the association is bringing to the sector. I would be honoured and eager to play an active role in another term, which I believe will be pivotal in advancing the contribution of ocean energies towards achieving our goal of a carbon-neutral Europe, particularly in the context of the renewal of MEPs and the European Commission. I hope that being involved with OEE can allow me to better advocate for marine programs implementation for territories and supporting agencies and can open opportunities to create new markets and projects for me, for my consulting company and for the members of OEE.

Last but not least, I am a modest sailing team member who would like to offer back to the sea a little bit of the memorable moments spent with her.



**Name:** Benjamin Lehner

**Company/Institution:** [Dutch Marine Energy Centre \(DMEC\)](#)

## CV



My education includes a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Biology, a PhD in Material Science and an ongoing MBA. I worked at the European Space Agency (2016), NASA (2017), and led a carbon capture climate tech start-up before joining DMEC in 2020. In the last four years, I have had the honour to accelerate the ocean energy sector in multiple roles providing direct support to ocean energy innovators, managing and coordinating some of the sector's biggest projects and showcasing ocean energy towards investors, policy makers and the industry at large. In 2022, I joined DMEC's management team as CTO and in 2023 I took the position as CEO with a further focus on building meaningful relationships and tools for Europe's offshore energy transition.

DMEC is a leading accelerator and knowledge centre for offshore renewable energy solutions with a historic focus on ocean energy. As a non-profit org, we advance innovation, support market development and further policies for offshore renewable energy development. We work closely together with key corporate offshore renewable energy players and advise on the uptake of OE to create sustainable growth. By combining our technical/financial expertise and models on offshore renewable energy technologies with our industry and policy insights, we are the go-to partner for advancing OE in the Netherlands. We collaborate in five currently running European public private partnerships and have worked with over 95 international partners. Via these partnerships, we channel about €157M of public and private investment into the sector and have accelerated over 130 companies affiliated with the OE sector. To engage with stakeholders, we initiated the Dutch Marine Energy Community. This Community consists of 400 subscribers representing OE tech companies, research and test institutes as well as consultants active within the sector. Relevant national associations such as NWEA, IRO and NVDE have a seat in its Advisory Board.

Under my leadership our team has grown from 13 to over 20 people representing expertise in technology, business, finance and policy. This enables us to deliver an integrated approach on offshore renewable energy. In line with DMEC's updated strategy and our Code of Conduct, this has helped build our strong relationship with the Dutch government. We disseminate science-based strategic policy advice to the Dutch government and Parliament on strategic issues that are likely to have significant consequences for the market. By sharing expertise and insights, I contribute to government-led working groups such as the National North Sea Consultation, the Community of Practice North Sea and the North Sea Energy Programme. We also partner with leading national associations such as NVDE, within the Advisory Board of the Ocean Energy Platform (TU Delft), the BlueInvest initiative, and as a member of IRENA's Coalition of Action.

## Motivation

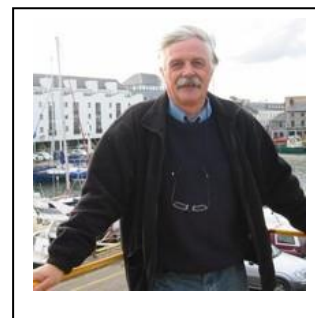
In order to ensure that national policies remain aligned with EU developments, there has been a longstanding collaboration between DMEC and OEE. OEE2023 and other collaborations have enabled me to advocate for OEE as an organisation. As a board member, I eagerly anticipate enhancing my contributions by highlighting and positioning ocean energy solutions to tap into new markets and funding opportunities. Securing a board position will enable me to continue being proactive and innovative in representing and showcasing OEE members' best practices to governments and relevant markets, thereby fostering their business expansion. My board participation will enhance the geographic diversity of the board, reinforcing OEE's already robust mandate. Furthermore, I firmly believe that advancing the sector necessitates increased collaboration across national, EU, and international levels. Given my existing roles in representation at both national and international arenas, obtaining a seat on OEE's board will make this happen.



**Name: Tony Lewis**

**Company/Institution: [Ocean Energy Ltd](#)**

## CV



Chief Technology Officer (CTO) – Ocean Energy (OE) – a technology development company working in the field of offshore renewable energy, developing floating OWC type wave energy devices. Co-PI Emeritus in Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) funded Centre for Marine and Renewable Energy (MaREI) in University College Cork (UCC), Ireland.

Time is shared between the CTO activity at Ocean Energy (90%) and the MaREI research role (10%). Recently the OE work has been predominant with the development and deployment of the 1MW device at the US Navy Wave Energy Test Site (WETS) in Hawaii. In 2022 Ocean Energy were awarded a €16 million Horizon Europe project WEDUSEA to construct a 1MW wave energy device to be deployed for 2 years at EMEC in Scotland. Formerly Inaugural Professor of Energy Engineering, University College Cork, and Director of Beaufort Research. Prof. Lewis had overall responsibility for the Academic Programmes in B.E. (Hons.) Energy Engineering and M.Eng.Sc. Sustainable Energy in UCC up to 2017. Prof. Lewis has special competence in ocean energy development, maritime systems and offshore engineering, maritime civil engineering, laboratory tank testing and field measurements in the marine environment.

- Coordinating Lead Author (CLA) for the Ocean Energy Chapter (6) in Special Report on Renewable Energy for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2011).
- Alternate Delegate for Ireland to the Ocean Energy Implementing Agreement (IEA OES) under the auspices of the International Energy Agency (IEA), 2003- 2015.
- Founding Member of the European Ocean Energy Association (now Ocean Energy Europe).
- Merit Reviewer MHK projects, Department of Energy, U.S. (2008, 2010, 2018)
- Proposal Evaluator for European Commission for research and demonstration projects in marine renewable energy, energy systems and educational programmes under FP4, FP5, FP7, H2020 and Horizon Europe.
- Co-PI on the €25 million SFI funded centre project MaREI (Marine Renewable Energy Ireland) which ran from 2013-2019.
- Contracting Partner and Coordinator on many research contracts from a variety of the European Commission Framework Research Programmes for nearly 20 years.
- Honoured by OEE Vi Maris award in 2022.

## Motivation

I have been involved in the development of the Ocean Energy Industry for over 40 years. I have contributed intimately to the establishment of research activity in the European Commission, starting with JOULE (FP3), including the development of work programmes and evaluation of projects since FP4 (1992). I was a founder member of the European Ocean Energy Association in 2005 and have continued since then as a member of the reconstituted Ocean Energy Europe.

I have been a Board Member since 2010 and have acted as Secretary to the Board since 2014. I have been a diligent attendee at the Board meetings over the past 10 years either in person or by telephone and feel I have made a positive contribution to the overall activities of the Association. I have also been an active contributor to Association events, like the Conference, over the years and provided input to proposals for funding made to the European Commission.

I feel that with my involvement in both research and commercial development I can continue to bring a novel perspective to the operations of the Board. I am committed to the development of the ocean energy industry in Europe and abroad and hope that you will support my candidacy in the upcoming elections.

**Name:** Patrik Möller

**Company/Institution:** [Corpower Ocean](#)

**CV**



Patrik is co-founder and CEO of CorPower Ocean, a wave energy technology developer. He has led CorPower since 2011, building the team from the start to its current 50+ workforce, raising 50+ MEUR while taking the technology through three stages of structured verification. He has been a board member of Ocean Energy Europe for the last three years and is on the steering committee of ETIP Ocean. Patrik is a passionate entrepreneur with experience of building deep tech start-ups from inception to multi-national operations. He has a MSc in chemical engineering from Lund Institute of Technology and UC Berkeley, California.

### **Motivation**

As a co-President of Ocean Energy Europe and spokesperson for the sector I would like to help explaining and providing evidence on how ocean energy adds key solutions to enable the transition to 100% renewables. I would like to continue the work of accurately quantifying and communicating the value of ocean energy in future electricity markets to policy makers, utilities, project developers and grid operators. As a sector we need to clearly explain our role, that ocean energy is the largest untapped source of clean energy with a similar magnitude to all of today's global nuclear or hydro capacity. Importantly, the consistent power profile can help balance the intermittency of wind and solar to form a reliable clean energy mix offering the lowest cost path to fully decarbonized electricity in many places of the world. We can also help improve the business case of green hydrogen by increasing load factors of electrolyzers by more consistent clean electricity supply. I'm a passionate entrepreneur, technologist and current co-President of OEE bringing experience in ocean energy products, market, financing, policy and business scale-up. As a co-president I would be happy to take on public speaking assignments for the organization doing my very best to continue driving attention and credibility to the sector. During the last three years I have represented OEE in various settings, including policy maker meetings, conferences, the Offshore Renewable Energy working group and the CEIF – Clean Energy Industry Forum. (DG ENER)

**Name:** José Miguel Rodrigues

**Company/Institution:** [SINTEF Ocean](#)

## CV



Prof. Dr. José Miguel Rodrigues is a Senior Research Scientist at the Department of Ships and Ocean Structures, SINTEF Ocean, and an Adjunct Associate Professor at The Arctic University of Norway. He earned his Master's degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering and his Ph.D. from the Instituto Superior Técnico, University of Lisbon in 2008 and 2016, respectively. He served as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Instituto Superior Técnico, University of Lisbon (2016–2017) and joined SINTEF Ocean in 2017. He is a Member of the Offshore Structures Congress (ISSC), having been part of the Offshore Renewables specialist group and currently in the Loads technical committee. His research is centred around hydrodynamics and wave-structure interaction of floating vessels focusing on both numerical and experimental studies, including empirical estimation and numerical solutions to determine wave induced second-order loads. He is mainly engaged in wave energy conversion, and damaged stability and progressive flooding of floating vessels. He also regularly performs tank tests and numerical studies of, among others, very large floating structures such as floating bridges, floating offshore wind turbines, and Floating Production Storage and Offloading units.

SINTEF participates in regional, national, and international research and innovation projects targeting wave energy. We perform verification, validation, and qualification studies of concepts for the industry and provide consulting services to inventors and entrepreneurs at initial stages of concept development. Our related expertise covers a wide range of disciplines, including: (a) Wave energy resource assessment and Environmental modelling and analysis; (b) WEC Numerical analysis and dedicated numerical tools development, including coupled hydro-aero-elastic-analysis and multibody interactions; (c) Tank testing of WEC devices and componentry, including Hardware in the Loop, and operations; (d) Full-scale and small-scale rig testing of structures, structural components, and materials; (e) Wave-to-grid models (numerical models representing the dynamics of subsystems from the incident waves to the receiving electricity grid); (f) Control of WEC systems; (g) Integration of wave power into electricity grids; (h) Complementarity of wave power to other variable renewable resources, e.g. wind and solar power; (i) Environmental impact and lifecycle analysis.

## Motivation

SINTEF works actively towards the full realization of the wave energy potential and its related scientific fields. We do this by performing research and providing research-based competence and services on wave energy conversion technology and related disciplines. Furthermore, we do this following internationally established techno-scientific best practices for the development of ocean technologies.

As a member of the OOE board, José Miguel will be representing SINTEF Ocean's interest in promoting a broader industry focused ocean energy research bridging academia with industry.

Through its participation in the board of OOE, José Miguel will be better prepared and contribute to linking the Norwegian marine industry with the OOE and promote Ocean Energy in Norway.

**Name:** Pablo Ruiz Minguela

**Company/Institution:** [TECNALIA](#)

**CV**



Dr Pablo Ruiz-Minguela is Head of Wave Energy at TECNALIA, where he leads R&D activities related to the development of wave energy technologies both at the national and international levels. From 2008 to 2010 he also acted as the General Manager and Technical Director of OCEANTEC, a spin-off created by TECNALIA and IBERDROLA to develop cost-effective technologies for marine energy conversion. In 2018 he was elected Board Member of the European Ocean Energy Association.

He offers 30 years of experience in R&D at TECNALIA (19 of them in Wave Energy), has managed over 35 research projects, and is the author or co-author of 5 patents for marine energy, 23 publications and 27 conference communications. He also supports the Technology Director of the Energy, Climate and Urban Transition Unit at TECNALIA in the identification, planning and appraisal of the renewable energy and thermal efficiency technology portfolio.

MSc in Industrial Engineering (1991) at the University of Basque Country, Spain; MSc in Advanced Manufacturing Technology (1992) at the University of Manchester, Institute of Science and Technology, UK; MBA (2012) at the Business School ESEUNE, Spain; PhD in Energy Engineering (Cum Laude, 2023) at the University of Basque Country, Spain (PhD Thesis entitled “A novel methodology for the assessment of wave energy options at early stages”).

### **Motivation**

I am applying for re-election to the Board of Directors to give continuity to my contributions leading to speeding up the market uptake of ocean energy technology. During my two previous terms, I worked closely with Board Members to support ocean energy technology development, offered key advice to OEE, and fostered collaboration and engagement with ocean energy stakeholders. My long experience representing TECNALIA in various expert panels, working groups and international events (e.g. EERA-Ocean, EWTEC, ETIP, OEE, ICOE), provides me with a broad understanding of the many technological, industrial and normative challenges of the sector. As a re-elected Board member, my personal efforts will mainly focus on achieving competitive ocean energy technologies built on a rigorous development process and objectivised assessment criteria.

To name a few examples of relevant activities I got involved in recent times:

- Led the successful [H2020 OPERA project](#), where a floating wave energy prototype was deployed in the open sea during three consecutive winters.
- Coordinated the development of advanced design tools for ocean energy systems innovation, development and deployment, [H2020 DTOceanPlus project](#)
- Supported 3 lead contractors in the [H2020 EuropeWave PCP programme](#).
- Participates in the [H2020 VALID project](#) that aims to improve wave energy devices through accelerated reliability testing.
- Contributes to the development and update of [ETIP Ocean’s Strategic Innovation Agenda](#).
- Contributes to IEA-OES evaluation [framework for Ocean Energy technologies](#).

**Name: Ralf Starzmann**

**Company/Institution: [Schottel Marine Technologies](#)**

**CV**

Ralf graduated as a mechanical engineer of the University of Stuttgart, Germany, in 2007. Until 2008 he worked with VOITH Hydro in their ocean energy department on wave and tidal energy devices. In 2008 he started as a Ph.D. student at the University of Siegen, Germany, specializing on the aero-acoustic analysis of the Wells turbine for ocean wave energy conversion.



After completing his Ph.D. in 2012, he joined SCHOTTEL and is working on tidal energy related issues ever since. This included turbine R&D, testing and multiple deployments of the SCHOTTEL Instream Turbine in Europe, Asia and North America, furthermore he has been engaged with market applications and opportunities for instream tidal globally. Ralf is a member of the IEC TC 114 for tidal turbine performance assessment.

Since 2019 Ralf is the managing director of SCHOTTEL Hydro. Ralf has been the Commercial Director of SCHOTTEL Marine Technologies since May 2022, focusing on the development of cost-effective, rapidly deployable and environmentally conscious rock anchoring solutions for deployment within the marine renewables sector.

**Motivation**

With the impact on climate change being obvious in recent years, anything that we can do to combat climate change is for the benefit of the generations to come. Since the beginning of my career, I have been fascinated by the idea of utilising the immense resources of our oceans for sustainable energy conversion. With almost two decades experience in the wave & tidal space and my global network, I would like to support OEE's mission to develop an industrial sector in the field of ocean energy in Europe and globally.

**Name: Guillaume Gréau**

**Company/Institution: Hydroquest**

**Motivation**



Already a member of the board, I have the honour of asking for your support in the election of the co-president of OEE.

Tidal and wave energy have enjoyed some great successes in the European Union and the United Kingdom in recent years, demonstrating the increasing maturity of our industries. Now we need to accelerate the path to commercial deployment.

The potential for developing tidal and wave energy in the European Union is particularly high in France, which will therefore have to be at the forefront if the EU is to meet its marine energy development targets.

The company I represent, HYDROQUEST, is France's most advanced developer of tidal turbine technology, with a government-backed 17 MW pilot farm due to operate in 2027. As a subsidiary of a strong industrial group, HYDROQUEST has a voice that carries weight politically.

As Vice-Chairman of the French union for renewables SER's MRE commission and SER representative for Normandy, the region with the highest development potential for tidal power in the European Union, I am already promoting the development objectives for the tidal power industry at national level, with a target of 2.5 GW over the next 10 years. I'm also in frequent contact via the SER with all the government departments involved in the development of all marine energies.

I therefore believe that my election as co-president will be very useful for OEE in its future discussions and actions with the European Commission.