



A joint and coordinated approach towards upscaling and deployment of technologies

Waterborne Technology Platform welcomes systematic deployment of innovative technologies in the EU's Industrial Maritime Strategy and Ports Strategy

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The [Industrial Maritime and Ports Strategies](#) highlight the need for both supply and demand-driven measures and conditions as well as **coordinated public-private action across the investment journey**, from research to deployment. Pooling public and private resources will be critical to ensure the transition to a competitive, resilient and sustainable future. To that end, the European Commission will also facilitate cooperation between stakeholders by creating a European network of green shipping lanes and hubs. This will increase predictability for investment decisions and coordinate sustainability projects on vessels operation, technology deployment, fuel supply and port infrastructure.

Furthermore, the strategies indicate that the waterborne sector's future depends on identifying and scaling up of new technologies in clean tech, digital and automated systems and providing targeted policy support to enhancing the EU industrial base. Coordinated use of EU funding, national measures and private investments is essential. Whilst Horizon Europe remains key for co-funding research, development and innovation, the EU Innovation Fund is a critical instrument for supporting demonstration of technologies, and the proposed European Competitiveness Fund and Connecting Europe Facility for deployment.

According to the [Waterborne Technology Leadership](#) document published in January 2026, stimulating the systematic deployment of economically viable innovations will provide the European waterborne sector with a frontrunners position. At the same time, this presents opportunities to export European solutions and products to global markets. Achieving this requires an ecosystem-approach, resilient supply chains, and a well-connected and innovative trans-European network.

The waterborne sector is a highly interdependent ecosystem. To maintain its leadership position, Europe must ensure that it has the capability and capacity to design, produce, develop and implement economically viable innovative technologies and solutions across all segments, including their onboard and onshore integration. Solutions must be economically viable across different waterborne transport segments and business models, including liner and bulk/tramp shipping, to ensure uptake and deployment. In addition, the transition requires a balanced focus on both the retrofitting of existing vessels and the development of newbuild solutions.

Jaap Gebraad, Secretary General, Waterborne TP, said: *"Following the publication of the Waterborne Technology Leadership document, we are developing nine dedicated Technology Roadmaps, focusing on research, development, innovation, upscaling and deployment. They outline technology pathways, enablers and deployment, including concrete pathways per roadmap to ensure effective deployment. The roadmaps show a clear commitment from the European waterborne sector to continue actively investing in research, development and innovation, education, training and skills development as well as deployment across the full value and supply chain, including SMEs, start-ups and regional actors. Open consultations on their content will be conducted before summer 2026, ensuring accessibility and timely implementation."*



WATERBORNE TP has been set up as an industry-oriented Technology Platform to establish a continuous dialogue between all waterborne stakeholders, such as classification societies, shipbuilders, shipowners, maritime equipment manufacturers, infrastructure and service providers, universities or research institutes, and with the EU Institutions, including Member States (www.waterborne.eu). The members of Waterborne TP comprise members as well as associated members from both maritime and inland navigation countries, representing about 19 Member States. In addition, the Associations member of the Waterborne Technology Platform represent the broader waterborne sector throughout the entire EU.

Enquiries concerning how to join and become more closely involved in the “Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport” partnership or other activities of the Waterborne TP can be sent to: Jaap Gebraad, Secretary General Waterborne TP, jaap.gebraad@waterborne.eu, tel: +32 493 835 626