



Waterborne Technology Platform supports the implementation of the EU's New Strategy for the Arctic

The Waterborne Technology Roadmaps, particularly the Blue Economy Roadmap, highlight the contribution of the European waterborne sector to addressing Arctic challenges.

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On 20 October, the European Commission presented its [New Strategy for the Arctic](#), setting out four priorities: strengthening security and resilience; responding to accelerating climate change; building a prosperous and economically secure Arctic; and creating opportunities for people and communities in the Arctic.

The Strategy recognises the importance of Arctic-ready, dual-use and multi-purpose capabilities, including the protection of underwater critical infrastructure. Access to vital sea lines of communication and natural resources requires a comprehensive approach. The Strategy therefore includes measures to strengthen the protection of critical infrastructure and highlights the potential of unmanned systems. Furthermore, it emphasizes the essential role of the waterborne sector, including the need for increased icebreaker capacity and the essential role of ports, fisheries, the blue economy and tourism.

Recently, the Waterborne Technology Platform presented its nine Technology Roadmaps, covering the entire innovation chain from research and development to upscaling and deployment. The roadmaps cover the following key segments of the European waterborne sector:

- Maritime Technology Sector
- Port Ecosystems
- Inland Waterway Transport
- Short Sea Shipping
- Ferries
- Cruise Ships
- Ocean-Going Shipping
- Offshore Vessels
- Blue Economy

The Blue Economy Technology Roadmap covers areas including fishing vessels, aquaculture vessels, research vessels, offshore infrastructure and the underwater domain. As a key segment of the European waterborne sector, the blue economy is particularly relevant to the objectives of the new Arctic Strategy. Other technology roadmaps also contribute to the objectives of the new Arctic Strategy, particularly those covering port ecosystems, cruise ships, ocean-going shipping and offshore vessels.

Together, the Technology Roadmaps provide an essential basis for coordinating public and private resources to support the objectives laid down in the Strategy. Turning these technological pathways into practical solutions requires and depends on the resilience and performance of an interconnected waterborne ecosystem, with close cooperation between its different actors. A dedicated waterborne Partnership therefore remains essential in fostering this cooperation and pooling the resources needed to advance the Strategy's objectives.



Jaap Gebraad, Secretary General of Waterborne TP, added: “The Arctic Strategy offers significant opportunities for the European waterborne sector. European technological solutions in the areas of underwater critical infrastructure, icebreakers, ports, fisheries, the blue economy and tourism are playing an important role in supporting the implementation of the Strategy. With the nine technology roadmaps recently published, the direction and technological pathways are clear. Pooling public and private resources, by means of a dedicated waterborne Partnership in Framework Programme 10, is the only viable way forward for a prosperous future of the Arctic and the European waterborne sector.”

WATERBORNE TP has been set up as an industry-oriented Technology Platform to establish a continuous dialogue between the European waterborne sector and the EU Institutions and Member States (www.waterborne.eu). The members of Waterborne TP represent about 19 EU Member States and four European Countries associated to Horizon Europe.

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 6