



## PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM

Making the Most of Masters aims to improve collaboration between employers and universities by providing opportunities for postgraduate students to undertake work based projects as an alternative to a traditional university dissertation. Projects should address a real need within the host organisation and be beneficial to both host and student.

The Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland (MASTS), pools the majority of Scotland's marine research capacity. MASTS members provide Masters courses in a range of marine related disciplines and many of their students are keen to undertake applied projects outside of academia.

### Notes on Topic Selection

A relevant academic will work with your organisation to refine your proposed topic and ensure it meets both your needs and the academic requirements of the student. Projects should typically be achievable within a 12–16 week timeframe (including writing the final report).

Your proposed project could be:

- A specific project title or topic for the student to deliver;
- A general idea of a business need which requires further development;
- A core research theme to be developed by the student into a bespoke project;
- An intended outcome for the organisation.

The level of detail you provide will determine the extent to which further discussion may be required with the relevant programme director to ensure suitability.

desk-based/data studies that will easily facilitate remote working and remote supervision are welcome, as well as in person and/or experimental based projects where appropriate.

### What's Next?

Please send your completed form to the MASTS Programme Coordinator & Deputy Dean of Grad School, Dr Emma Defew ([masts@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:masts@st-andrews.ac.uk)) before the deadline.

Following submission of the form, it will be channeled to the leaders of the various Masters programmes that operate within the MASTS community and a representative from the most relevant programme or department will get in touch to discuss the project scope, delivery and the selection of an appropriate student. If more than one student expresses an interest in your project, you will need to ensure discussions take place to enable the most suitable student to be matched with your project. The projects themselves usually won't start until May or June.



## MASTS - Making the Most of Masters – Project Proposal Form

**Name and address of Organisation:**

Offshore Energies UK, 4th Floor, Annan House, 33-35 Palmerston Road, Aberdeen, AB11 5QP

**Name of the key contact in Organisation:**

Caroline Brown

**Contact e-mail and phone number:**

[cbrown@oeuk.org.uk](mailto:cbrown@oeuk.org.uk), 1224577256

**Title of proposed project:**

Geospatial platform for sharing of basin wide survey data

**Project outline and intended outcomes:****Background:**

Huge amounts of offshore environmental survey data are collected across the UKCS by different organisations, to support a variety of different purposes. Much of this data is collected in isolation, and sharing of outputs is limited. As a consequence there is a lack of visibility on all the data that has been collected across the basin, and significant funds and resources are spent on collecting data without consideration of value add for other marine users.

Much of the data remains in it's hard copy or PDF formats, kept confidentially with the organisations that commissioned the surveys. Visual representation of survey locations remains mainly within the domains of the companies that collected the data, in support of whatever purpose drove the initial data collection (i.e. permit requirements, ESIA baselines etc).

This issue is not new, and the UK benthos Project was initiated in 1999 by Paul Kingston at Heriot Watt University to provide a database for the collation of benthic survey data from the oil and gas industry. Since inception 969 surveys have been added to the database between 1975 and 2020.

**Project outline:**

A modernised geospatial platform is required to provide both a repository, and visual representation of the environmental survey data collected across the UKCS. The platform should allow spatial representation of historical survey activity, and access to some metadata where available/approved by data owners.

This would allow marine users to access additional survey data sets in support of their activity –

increasing coverage and reducing costs.

A consistent survey company pro forma is needed to allow upload of survey data outputs into a GIS platform

Phase 1 - delivery:

- Identify available options for a GIS platform – either standalone or connected to an existing site
- Consider how to transfer datasets from UK Benthos into the new GIS platform
- Request survey data from last 10 years from operators to cover the potential gap in survey data submissions.
- Convert data from these surveys into format for addition to the GIS tool – consider use of an AI agent to support this
- Link other web services into the tool to allow other geospatial layers to be accessed

Phase 2 - maintenance:

- Define system maintenance requirements, and associated costs for set up and ongoing management
- Decide who owns the system, and any necessary access/restriction requirements

**Any additional comments e.g. details of specific disciplines required, methods to be used, travel involved, where the work would take place (i.e. at the host site or at the University), whether you foresee any Intellectual Property or confidentiality issues (and if so, what form might these take?):**

Project work could be completed in OEUK offices, or through one of the industry representative companies who participate in the OEUK Offshore Environmental Survey Data – Special Interest Group

The data being directly received from the marine users may be considered confidential