

# XROTOR

X-shaped Radical Offshore Wind Turbine for Overall Cost of Energy Reduction

D1.7

## Procedures and criteria for identifying and recruiting research participants

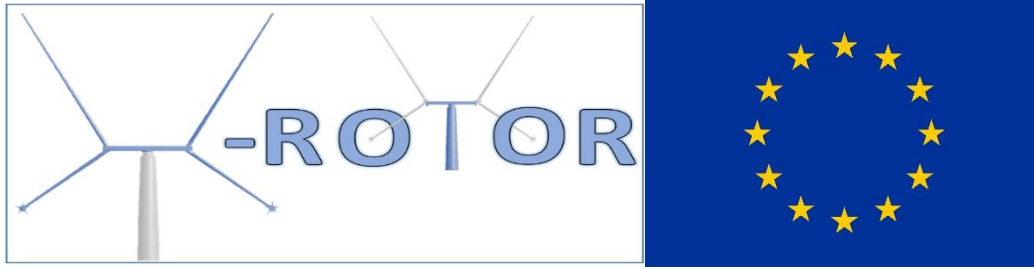
 <https://xrotor-project.eu>

 @XROTORProject

**June 2021**



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101007135



## X-SHAPED RADICAL OFFSHORE WIND TURBINE FOR OVERALL COST OF ENERGY REDUCTION

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This report reflects only the author's view and the Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

Project acronym: **XROTOR**

Start date: 01<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Duration: 3 years

### WP1 Project management and coordination T1.3 - Project planning and execution **D1.7 Procedures and criteria for identifying and recruiting research participants**

Lead Beneficiary: University of Strathclyde

Delivery date: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

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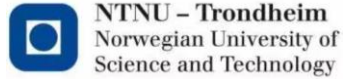
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#### Document Information

Version	Date	Description	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
1	30/06/2021	Final version	James Carroll <i>James Carroll</i> (Project Manager)	W. Leithead <i>W. Leithead</i> (Project Coordinator)	W. Leithead <i>W. Leithead</i> (Project Coordinator)



## Executive Summary

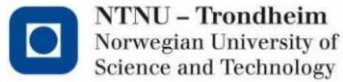
**Deliverable Description:** This deliverable will comprise of a report on the procedures and criteria for identifying and recruiting research participants. In this deliverable the coordinator are to collate all templates of the informed consent/assent forms and information sheets in a short report.

The deliverable will be considered successful once delivered to the project coordinator and/or the executive management group.

**Responsible:** University of Strathclyde

**Outcome Summary:** A report on the procedures and criteria for identifying and recruiting research participants has been created. It collates all templates of the informed consent/assent forms and information sheets.

This report was presented and signed off by the Project Coordinator. Additionally, the procedures and templates contained in the report have been added as an agenda point to be presented to the Executive Management Group at their next meeting. Based on the reasons outlined above, Deliverable 1.7 is successfully completed.



## Contents

### Contents

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## 1. Deliverable Details

Deliverable 1.7 will comprise of a report on the procedures and criteria for identifying and recruiting research participants. In this deliverable the coordinator are to collate all templates of the informed consent forms and information sheets in a short report.

As Work Package 7 is the only work package that will involve “research participants”, the content of this deliverable report focuses on procedures, consent forms and information sheets from Work Package 7.

The following subsections include:

- 1.1 The procedure and criteria for identifying and recruiting research participants
- 1.2 Information sheet for research participants
- 1.3 Briefing document for research participants
- 1.4 Consent form for research participants

For sections 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4, images of the information sheets, briefing documents and consent forms have been included to provide an indication of what research participants will receive. Additionally, the text from the information sheets, briefing documents and consent forms have been included for ease of reproduction.

This deliverable will be considered successful once the report collating all of the above is delivered to the project coordinator and/or the executive management group.

## 1.1 Procedure and criteria for Identifying and recruiting research participants for WP7

This project will have a particular focus on the social acceptability of the X-Rotor concept in order to ensure that the technology takes account of the practices, values and attitudes of the communities which will play host to the system. This will be achieved through the establishment of two key stakeholder groups at the outset of the project which will be consulted biannually for the duration of the project to ensure acceptability and transferability of the concepts developed.

- Group 1 comprising prospective Host Communities for the X-Rotor turbine. In other words, this group is comprised of those that have a stake in the offshore areas within which X-Rotor turbine may be deployed. These include, for example: coastal communities, fisheries, environmental NGOs, shipping industry, oil and gas, tourism groups, policy makers, regulators etc. Three representative host communities in different European countries will be selected in order to capture a diverse range of views for the technology development process.
- Group 2 will comprises representatives of the wider wind energy community. The group will consist of developers, academics, consultancies, standards bodies, operators, vessel companies, installation companies, O&M providers, OEMs etc. A key aspect of this group will be identifying the market requirements beyond lowest LCOE such as turbine rating, siting, support structure (fixed/floating), shore-side facilities for installation/O&M etc.

While D7.1 will describe in detail the process of identification and recruitment for these groups. The following provides an overview of the approach to be taken.

The research team will aim to recruit an appropriate balance of both women and men for both of these groups, with a minimum threshold of at least 30% recruited from each gender. Moreover, as appropriate, and particularly with respect to group 1, the researchers will take an intersectional approach to recruitment, aiming to include representatives from a range of ages, and from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. Such an approach to recruitment recognises that living at the locus of diverse social positions has an effect on people's lived experiences.

Participants (for both groups) will be identified in the first instance through self-selection following awareness-raising about the research, using gatekeepers such as community organisations and trade associations. Following these initial engagements, a snowball sampling approach will be used to identify other prospective participants who will be invited to take part. At all times, participant recruitment shall be informed by the objective of achieving an appropriately balanced group of participants as described previously.

Prospective participants will be provided with a briefing sheet above the project and the proposed engagement. Researchers will explain the process, detail the planned engagements and provide any clarifications required. Following which the prospective participants will be asked to provide their informed consent to participate in the project.

## 1.2 Information Sheet for Stakeholders

### Image of Information sheet 1/2:



## Stakeholder Engagement – Marine Energy Participant Briefing Document

**Project Overview:** X-Rotor is a research project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme for Research and Innovation. The project aims to develop a disruptive new offshore wind turbine concept.

Offshore wind energy can play a key role in reducing emissions from electricity generation in Europe. To do this the costs involved must be reduced. The X-Rotor project aims to provide a new offshore wind turbine design which can reduce electricity production costs by around 20%, but cost reductions are not the only consideration for this project. We consider it also important to examine the environmental and social implications of this new turbine design.

The X-Rotor project is seeking to engage with those involved in marine energy (e.g., developers, operators, designers, etc.) to exchange information and experiences, and to consider ways of achieving a successful deployment. This project aims demonstrate the benefits of the novel X-Rotor design (including LCOE) and to explore how it can better fit the needs of the existing energy community.

The framework for understanding your opinions and ideas about X-Rotor will be developed through several steps, including:

- (i) identification and characterisation of stakeholders in each community, including but not limited to various marine users.
- (ii) in-depth engagement with stakeholders to ascertain their practices, values and attitudes of relevance to the proposed new turbine design.
- (iii) inclusive annual workshops offering stakeholders a structured means of inputting into the process.
- (iv) continuous two-way communication throughout the life of the project.



The X-ROTOR project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme for Research and Innovation under Grant Agreement No. 101007135.

**Figure 1:** Image of Information Sheet for Stakeholders Page 1 of 2

## Image of Information sheet 2/2:



### Potential involvement

The project team wish to speak with residents, and other stakeholders, associated with communities hosting the marine energy test sites on the Atlantic coast of Europe. We will engage with interested participants through a mixture of interviews, focus groups and workshops as outlined above.

### What does it mean for me?

- Participation in the study is entirely voluntary and nobody 'has to take part' just because they live in a particular community. Participants should be over 18 years of age.
- Contributions will be anonymised if this is participants' wish.
- Participants retain the right to withdraw from the study at any time in the process.
  - where data can be linked to specific an individual participant, participants can withdraw consent at any time during and up to two weeks after the collection of the data – in which case the material will be deleted;
  - where data has been gathered collectively (e.g., focus groups) participants can withdraw any time, but the data collected up to that point will be retained;
  - where data has been gathered anonymously participants can withdraw any time until the data is collected by the researchers.
- Data collected will be used only for this project and follow-on studies. It will be stored securely and not made available to anybody outside of the research team. Security will include: password protection of audio and video recordings; encryption of laptops; non-use of USB memory keys; and use of secure network file storage for long-term storage.
- Any physical documents will be stored in locked cabinets in the offices of the research team. The data will be securely stored for a period of ten years before disposal.



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### Contact for the proposed engagement:

Dr Niall Dunphy, University College Cork, Ireland. Email [n.dunphy@ucc.ie](mailto:n.dunphy@ucc.ie)

More information: <https://xrotor-project.eu>

Figure 2: Image of Information Sheet for Stakeholders Page 2 of 2



Text from Information Sheet for Stakeholders (Same formatting as image):

# Stakeholder Engagement – Marine Energy

## Participant Briefing Document

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The X-Rotor project is seeking to engage with those involved in marine energy (*e.g.*, developers, operators, designers, *etc.*) to exchange information and experiences, and to consider ways of achieving a successful deployment. This project aims demonstrate the benefits of the novel X-Rotor design (including LCOE) and to explore how it can better fit the needs of the existing energy community.

The framework for understanding your opinions and ideas about X-Rotor will be developed through several steps, including:

- (i) identification and characterisation of stakeholders in each community, including but not limited to various marine users.
- (ii) in-depth engagement with stakeholders to ascertain their practices, values and attitudes of relevance to the proposed new turbine design.
- (iii) inclusive annual workshops offering stakeholders a structured means of inputting into the process.
- (iv) continuous two-way communication throughout the life of the project.

## Potential involvement

The project team wish to speak with residents, and other stakeholders, associated with communities hosting the marine energy test sites on the Atlantic coast of Europe. We will engage with interested participants through a mixture of interviews, focus groups and workshops as outlined above.

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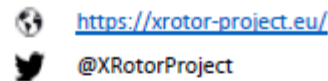
*Contact for the proposed engagement:*

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### 1.3 Stakeholders Briefing Document

#### Image of Briefing Document 1/2:



## Stakeholder Engagement – Communities Participant Briefing Document

**Project Overview:** X-Rotor is a research project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme for Research and Innovation. The project aims to develop an innovative new offshore wind turbine concept.

Offshore wind energy will play a key role in reducing emissions from electricity generation in Europe. To do this the costs involved must be reduced. The X-Rotor project aims to provide a new offshore wind turbine design which can reduce electricity production costs by around 20%, but cost reductions are not the only consideration for this project. We consider it also important to examine the environmental and social implications of this new turbine design.

A key component of this is engaging with prospective host communities of such turbines. The X-Rotor project wishes to take the values, practices and attitudes of host communities into account in the deployment of the new X-Rotor turbines. By taking on board the concerns and ideas from the host community, X-Rotor can achieve the objective of creating marine energy while respecting the sea and the users of the sea. Specifically, we are seeking to engage with people living near to the potential offshore wind farms, those involved in fishing and other sea users, tourism interests, environmental NGOs and other interested parties. We aim to achieve this through a number of steps, namely:

- (i) identification and characterisation of stakeholders in each community, including but not limited to various marine users.
- (ii) in-depth engagement with stakeholders to ascertain their practices, values and attitudes of relevance to the proposed new turbine design.
- (iii) inclusive annual workshops offering stakeholders a structured means of inputting into the process.
- (iv) continuous two-way communication throughout the life of the project.



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**Figure 3:** Image of Briefing Document Page 1 of 2

## Image of Briefing Document 2/2:



### Potential involvement

The project team wish to speak with residents, and other stakeholders, associated with communities hosting the marine energy test sites on the Atlantic coast of Europe. We will engage with interested participants through a mixture of interviews, focus groups and workshops as outlined above.

### What does it mean for me?

- Participation in the study is entirely voluntary and nobody 'has to take part' just because they live in a particular community. Participants should be over 18 years of age.
- Contributions will be anonymised if this is the participants' wish.
- Participants retain the right to withdraw from the study at any time in the process.
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More information: <https://xrotor-project.eu>

Figure 4: Image of Briefing Document Page 2 of 2

Text from Briefing Document (Same formatting as image):

# Stakeholder Engagement – Communities

## Participant Briefing Document

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- (v) identification and characterisation of stakeholders in each community, including but not limited to various marine users.
- (vi) in-depth engagement with stakeholders to ascertain their practices, values and attitudes of relevance to the proposed new turbine design.
- (vii) inclusive annual workshops offering stakeholders a structured means of inputting into the process.
- (viii) continuous two-way communication throughout the life of the project.

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More information: <https://xrotor-project.eu>

## 1.4 Research Participant Consent Form



Image of Research Participant Consent Forms



<https://xrotor-project.eu/>  
@XRotorProject

### Consent Form

I \_\_\_\_\_ (Print Name) agree to participate in the X-Rotor research project.

- The purpose and nature of the study has been explained to me in writing.
- I confirm that I am over 18 years of age and that I am participating voluntarily.
- I give permission for my interview/focus group with the researchers to be audio-recorded.
- I understand that I can withdraw from the study, without repercussions, at any time, whether before it starts or while I am participating.
- I understand that I can withdraw permission to use data within two weeks of data collection, in which case the material will be deleted.
- I understand that I can request that my identity be disguised in the write-up and any future publication

Please select one box:  anonymity waived  
 anonymity requested

- I understand that extracts from my interview may be quoted any subsequent publications if I give permission below:

Please select one box:  quotation of extracts from interview permitted  
 quotation of anonymised extracts from interview permitted  
 quotation of extracts from my interview not permitted

Signed: ..... Date: .....

If signature is not possible (e.g., due to remote contact) verbal consent should be obtained and witnessed below (this should be backed up by alternative means e.g., recording, email, etc.)

Signed: ..... Date: .....

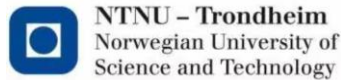
Witness of consent



The X-ROTOR project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme for Research and Innovation under Grant Agreement No. 101007135.



Text from Research Participant Consent Form (Same formatting as image):



# Consent Form

I \_\_\_\_\_ (Print Name) agree to participate in the X-Rotor research project.

- The purpose and nature of the study has been explained to me in writing.
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- I understand that I can withdraw permission to use data within two weeks of data collection, in which case the material will be deleted.
- I understand that I can request that my identity be disguised in the write-up and any future publication

Please select one box:             anonymity waived  
 anonymity requested

- I understand that extracts from my interview may be quoted any subsequent publications if I give permission below:

Please select one box:             quotation of extracts from interview permitted  
 quotation of anonymised extracts from interview permitted  
 quotation of extracts from my interview not permitted

Signed: ..... Date: .....

If signature is not possible (e.g., due to remote contact) verbal consent should be obtained and witnessed below (this should be backed up by alternative means e.g., recording, email, etc.)

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Witness of consent



## 2. Deliverable Outcome

The procedure and criteria for identifying and recruiting research participants, information sheet for research participants, briefing document for research participants and consent form for research participants were created by UCC and collated in this deliverable report by the University of Strathclyde. The report was presented to the Project Coordinator (Professor Bill Leithead) by the XROTOR Project Management team at the University of Strathclyde led by Dr James Carroll. The Project Coordinator signed off this deliverable report. As Chair of the XROTOR Executive Management Group, Professor Leithead also directed the adding of an agenda point to the next Executive Management Group (EMG) meeting that will provide information from this deliverable to the EMG.

Deliverable 1.7 consists of this report; however the project management team or Project Coordinator will also make the individual procedures, information sheets, briefing documents and consent forms contained in this report available to any appropriate stakeholders upon request.

## 3. Conclusion

To determine if this deliverable has been successfully completed, the deliverable title and description must be examined.

The deliverable title is: "Procedures and criteria for identifying and recruiting research participants". The deliverable description states: "University of Strathclyde to collate all templates of the informed consent/assent forms and information sheets in a short report. Successful once delivered to the project coordinator and/or the executive management group".

Dissecting that title and description, the project management team have created and delivered a short report collating all procedures, templates of the informed consent/assent forms and information sheets.

This report has been presented to the Project Coordinator and has been approved. An overview of the content of this report has been added to the agenda for the next executive management group meeting.

This report then collates all procedures, templates of the informed consent/assent forms and information sheets, completing the all requirements for Deliverable 1.1.