

Proceedings of EWTEC 2021

The 14th European Wave and Tidal Energy Conference was held from 5-9 September 2021 at the University of Plymouth. For the first time, in response to the global pandemic, EWTEC was held in a hybrid format, allowing attendees to present online as well as in person. There were 12 different thematic tracks:

- Wave resource characterization
- Wave hydrodynamic modelling
- Wave device development and testing
- Tidal resource characterization
- Tidal hydrodynamic modelling
- Tidal device development and testing
- Structural mechanics: materials, fatigue, loadings
- Station-keeping, moorings and foundations
- Operations and maintenance
- Grid integration, power take-off and control
- Environmental impact and appraisal
- Economical, social, legal and political aspects of ocean energy

From the 403 abstracts initially submitted, 236 full papers were finally selected by a peer-review process, during which 48 Track Directors requested 963 single blind reviews and 427 reviews were finally carried out. These papers comprise the present proceedings, totalling 1952 pages.

This USB flash drive contains the [searchable conference proceedings](#).

On behalf of the EWTEC Committee, I would like once again to warmly thank all the reviewers and Track Directors for their essential and voluntary work, and all authors for their contribution to the scientific content of the 14th EWTEC.

I would also like to sincerely thank our [Sponsors](#) for their valuable support to the conference.

Professor Deborah Greaves

Chair of EWTEC 2021

1 September 2021

Welcome message

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On the relevant, realistic and effective criteria for wave energy technology assessment – a dialogue with EWTEC2019 paper ID 1426

Pablo Ruiz-Minguela, Jesus M. Blanco, Vincenzo Nava

Abstract— The development of cost-effective wave energy technologies is a long and arduous process that entails numerous challenges. Many design decisions must be taken from the early development stages. A common evaluation framework based on objectivised criteria can contribute to keeping the right direction in the development process of wave energy technologies.

Building upon the well-established Systems Engineering (SE) body of knowledge, this paper aims to address a significant part of the requirements that guides the specification of wave energy technology assessment criteria, metrics and tools.

SE approaches such as the design domains framework, the multi-criteria aggregation logic, the fundamental relationships and utility functions can be used at different levels of system definition, technology maturity and markets to ensure a fully consistent, comparable and traceable assessment. Huge benefits can be obtained from the application of knowledge in earlier stages of wave technology development.

After presenting and discussing the requirements for wave technology performance assessment, the paper draws some conclusions and propose future research work.

Keywords—Wave energy, assessment criteria, metrics, Systems Engineering (SE), Design domains, Technology Readiness Levels (TRL), aggregation structure, utility functions.

I. INTRODUCTION

EVALUATION of technology performance is a continuous activity that should take place at all stages of the development process [1]. A commonly

agreed evaluation framework can bring significant benefits for all wave energy stakeholders, including increased clarity, consistency and direction in the development [2]. Early design decisions based on objectivised criteria are key to lower development uncertainties, cost and time.

Wave energy technology development, evaluation and selection is moving progressively from simplified approaches based on technology maturity and cost to more holistic performance measures [3]. Selection at intermediate stages contributes to reducing the risks and uncertainties. Iterations at low Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) until the desired performance is achieved also contributes to more cost-effective designs.

In the last EWTEC2019, Weber et al [4] collated a comprehensive list of considerations to characterise the requirements for relevant, realistic and effective assessment criteria of wave energy technology performance. These considerations were framed in the form of questions to show possible choices that can be made in the specification of the assessment criteria and motivate clear decisions. This paper aims to address a significant part of the requirements that guides the specification of wave energy technology assessment criteria, metrics and tools. The core contribution of the paper is to provide some answers based on the application of sound System Engineering (SE) principles.

SE approaches require that the design information is arranged in different design domains and propagated across domains to ensure full traceability of both design requirements and evaluation metrics [5]. Inherent to the evaluation process is the understanding of complex interactions and the quantification of relationships [6]. A consistent application of SE will add clarity to the specification of requirements for assessment criteria and metrics.

Building upon the well-established SE body of knowledge, the paper presents guidelines related to the targeted system and technology maturity; deployment context, market and applications; evaluation criteria hierarchy, quantification and thresholds; fundamental limits and achievability; evaluation effort and relevance; validation and supporting tools.

Having presented these guidelines for wave energy technology assessment criteria, metrics and tools, the paper draws some overall conclusions and propose future research work.

This paper is an original submission to EWTEC 2020, ID 1965 under the conference track "Wave device development and testing".

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expectations. Actually, the relative time and cost to be invested in technology assessment should be higher during the initial concept and design stages.

Although the expected accuracy range will be narrowed as the wave energy technology moves to later development stages, it is important to note that decisions always need to be made under some degree of uncertainty. The modelling technique, threshold and target values should be carefully chosen to match the development stage requirements. Allocation of assessment criteria is quite challenging, but thresholds can be suggested from existing benchmarks and targets assigned considering both the most innovative features of the technology and theoretical limits. Fundamental relationships can contribute to estimating the threshold values for the key design parameters of an embodiment.

The tool implementation should be flexible to let the user represent the market application. Calibration with technology developers' data will increase confidence in the projected evaluation results. The requirements for a holistic wave energy technology performance assessment have been implemented in DTOceanPlus, a freely available open-source software that has been demonstrated with data from real case projects.

Future work should extend the international consensus on key metrics in the different levels of hierarchy, their weightings, aggregation logic and benchmark values.

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