The future for the HYDROPOWER EUROPE Forum as a common and permanent voice in Europe

The Important Role of Hydropower in the Energy Transition

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Overview

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Rupoldingen run-of-river powerplant, Switzerland
Where are we heading?

The HYDROPOWER EUROPE project was funded by the European Commission to – amongst other things – establish a Forum which provided a platform for all members of the hydropower community across Europe to express their views.

The HYDROPOWER EUROPE Forum is currently giving a voice to over 600 members drawn from a wide array of sectors and countries,
Over the past 3 years we have:

- Created the framework to support the Forum
- Encouraged participation in a wide programme of consultation events
- As we’ve just seen, identified and prioritised issues for research and industry action – leading to publication of the RIA and SIR
- Hosted events to discuss and help raise awareness on hydropower’s role in the clean energy transition, and the need for hydropower to address environmental and sustainability goals
During the 3 yr programme of HYDROPOWER EUROPE the Forum has grown to over 600 registrants, with ~70% from the EU27.

Surges in registrations reflect different consultation and dissemination events.
So, where from here?

Two roles / services have been identified:

(1) Providing a platform for a unified voice in Europe

(2) Facilitating the implementation of priority research and strategic actions through promoting and supporting industry collaboration
The Focus

In both of these actions we need to:

• Continue to raise awareness of hydropower and the essential role it can play in the clean energy transition

• Support and facilitate implementation of the Research & Innovation Agenda priories

• Support industry in addressing the issues highlighted by the Strategic Industry Roadmap

With the HYDROPOWER EUROPE Forum established – and growing with each consultation event – we need to focus that base of expertise and representation into helping to deliver these goals – but in a sustainable way.
Industry has expressed interest and support for both of these actions over the past few years.

Now we must refine, finalise and implement a sustainable business model which:

1. Meets specific industry needs
2. Does not duplicate the role of existing associations
3. Supports the clean energy transition
4. Facilitates achieving RIA and SIR objectives
The Approach

So, the approach being taken is:

- To develop the detailed approaches / options for unified representation and R&I facilitation in conjunction with further industry consultation

- Balancing potential benefits against potential costs / sustainability model

- Implement...
An opportunity arose within the recent Horizon Europe programme to seek support for an ETIP HYDROPOWER. This would support greater integration of hydropower within the European Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan whilst also supporting the creation of self sustaining association. News on this approach should come early Summer 22.
Facilitating Industry R&I Collaboration

Considering in more detail:

(2) Facilitating implementation of priority research and strategic actions through promoting and supporting industry collaboration

- This is of immediate interest and value to many hydropower industry organisations
  - Hence is a mechanism where organisations could pay to participate, with these costs outweighed by the value gained through the research collaboration process

- This is not intended to replace or duplicate existing funded research programmes
  - rather, to facilitate industry collaboration on priority issues not yet being funded, or funded enough, or addressed quickly enough, elsewhere
  - hence it should complement and extend R&I actions not replace or duplicate
So - the goal here is to provide a service to the hydropower industry...

- **Supporting easier more cost effective access to priority R&D through**, for example:
  - More detailed tracking of R&I actions, priorities etc. → maintained signposting...
  - Participation in small projects programme → collaboration on directly commissioned priority small projects
  - Facilitating collaborative R&I actions between industry partners:
    - Highlighting Individual Organisation Priorities
    - Potential for Individual Funding Contributions
    - Building sufficient momentum and commitment for action
    - Implementing
    - Repository for R&I information / actions
  - Flagging National, European & International research funding opportunities – encouraging collaboration

**Signposting...**
Continuous mapping & tracking of EU, National and Industry research initiatives and funding opportunities

**Small Projects Programme**

**Co-funded Projects Programme**

**Collaborative Bidding Programme**

**Industry Organisation Priorities**
Co-Funding Collaboration

**Shared Funding**
→ Shared Access to IPR
Facilitating Industry R&I Collaboration

Avoiding:

• Duplication of existing association / network roles and services

• ‘Cliff edge’ implementation
  • (through phased implementation during ETIP programme)
Our proposed approach is to:

- Introduce these ideas for industry feedback Autumn 2021 (now!)
- Seek EC funding for a hydropower ETIP
  - The opportunity exists now – if successful, funding from ~mid 2022 for, say, 3 yrs
  - under which both ETIP activities and this business model would be implemented
  - Advantage of staged implementation – for example, perhaps:
    - Structuring and setup in Yr 1 (2022-23)
    - Industry participation at 0% cost Yr 2 (2023-24)
    - Industry participation at 50% cost Yr 3 (2024-25)
    - ETIP concludes; HYDROPOWER Forum continues under full business model (2025 →)
In conclusion:

1. We propose a self sustainable future for the HYDROPOWER EUROPE Forum

2. Focus on (i) unified voice in Europe and (ii) facilitating industry priority R&I
   • Business model to be refined and confirmed via further industry consultation 22/23

3. Greater visibility and action within the European SET Plan

4. Transition via ETIP HYDROPOWER
   • Funding position should be clear by early Summer 22