Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
Ocean Energy Safety Institute (OESI)

FACT SHEET

INTRODUCTION

Enhancing Ocean Energy Development Through Stakeholder Collaboration

The Ocean Energy Safety Institute (OESI), initiated under the prior Trump Administration in 2020, is a crucial endeavor in securing America's global energy dominance. OESI aligns with the vision to unleash American energy potential by supporting safe and responsible offshore energy development and prioritizing innovation, focusing on applied research topics such as life extension of existing infrastructure, remote inspection, regulatory effectiveness, and frameworks for implementing emerging technologies to enhance safety. A cornerstone of OESI's success is its unique partnership between the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Bureau of Safety & Environment Enforcement (BSEE). This cross-agency collaboration brings together the strengths of DOE and BSEE, driving efficiency, eliminating duplicative efforts, and collectively focusing resources on the most critical areas, safety and integrity, in the offshore energy sector.

OESI

A Unique Model and Its Vital Role in the Offshore Energy Sector

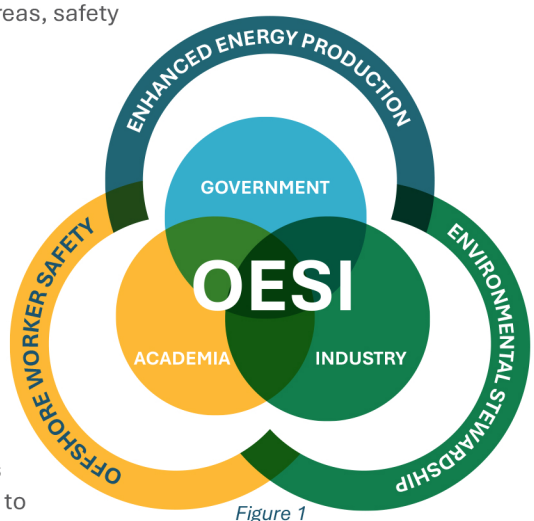

Figure 1

OESI fills a critical and unique void in the offshore energy landscape by establishing a collaboration among relevant stakeholders, academic institutions, government institutions, and industry [Figure 1]. Its mission is to identify and promote key innovation and technological advancements that enhances safety, resource conservation and environmental stewardship across the offshore energy industry. OESI focuses on themes where a collective industry solution is essential and where individual entities are unlikely to invest due to the lack of direct and/or immediate financial return. This makes OESI the ideal platform for tackling vital technological challenges that would otherwise be overlooked. The topics addressed by OESI are identified through a dynamic, periodically updated "evergreen" Roadmap. This roadmap is a product of active collaboration between industry, academia, and government [Figure 1], ensuring that it reflects the most prevailing needs of the offshore energy sector. Notably, the establishment of OESI directly responds to key recommendations from the Nation al Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (the Oil Spill Commission), which called for enhanced collaboration with the DOE, academia, and industry to bolster safety and environmental stewardship in offshore energy operations.

KEY OESI OBJECTIVES AND ADMINISTRATION ALIGNMENTS

- **Support American Energy Independence:** OESI's results-oriented approach focuses on enhancing safety, reducing risk, and improving efficiency of offshore energy developments, to maximize American energy production on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Stakeholders and government pursue solutions that focus on responsible resource management and robust energy development.

- **Streamline Offshore Energy Activities**: OESI's collaborative model helps identify and address innovation and technology barriers and needs, informing smarter, more efficient approaches to industry challenges that promote safety without unduly burdening industry. The collaborative model works by balancing all stakeholder perspectives to identify and address industry needs.

- **Support Critical Infrastructure:** OESI's focus on asset integrity, life extension, and repurposing themes contributes to building a more resilient and reliable energy infrastructure. OESI's work directly encourages innovative and responsible OCS energy exploration and production.

- **Foster Technological Innovation:** OESI's commitment to advancing cutting-edge innovation ensures the offshore energy sector remains at the forefront of energy advancements and technology.

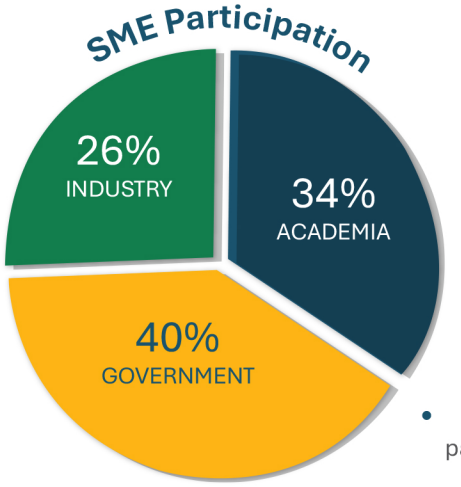

Figure 2 - Example of Participation for Proposal Evaluations

OESI'S STRENGTHS

- **Trump Administration Legacy:** Built on the principles of efficient government and industry partnership.

- DOE-BSEE Partnership in conjunction with Industry and Academia Involvement: A powerful cross-agency collaboration leverages the unique strengths of both entities to maximize impact and eliminate redundancy while continually building upon a strong interagency relationship that surpasses OESI. Strong industry collaboration ensures OESI's focus stays relevant and has meaningful impact on current and future offshore energy activities. Academic partnerships bring novel ideas and root theoretical insights in the practical realities of today's and tomorrow's energy landscape. These partnerships bring together Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from across the energy landscape [Figure 2].

- Strategic Roadmap: Addresses critical topics in energy and resource developments through collaboration while maintaining focus on the most relevant and critical areas. By collaborating across industry, academia, and government, the roadmap identifies crucial technology and innovation gaps, establishing specific, goal-oriented pathways to address them. By emphasizing collaboration between sectors, the roadmap aims to spread valuable insights and progress throughout industries, boosting the influence of practical applications and preventing siloed approaches. OESI's support for continued innovation and technology development for offshore energy, coupled with its commitment to using best practices across energy sectors, contributes to a robust energy supply.

- **Industry-Ready Innovation:** Technology and innovation deliverables necessitate practical outcomes for immediate use in industry with directly implementable technological solutions.

- **Rapid Project Execution:** The Technical Response for Urgent and Significant Topics (TRUST) project execution mechanism within OESI is a targeted applied research process that enables unique procedures to expedite specific research project requests from government stakeholders. This process leverages the talent and skills available within the OESI consortium. The TRUST process is used by OESI to address clearly defined, time-sensitive research needs identified by its federal sponsors.

CONCLUSION

OESI is an essential component in responsible and impactful energy development on the OCS. Created out of a commitment to safety and environmental stewardship in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, OESI has evolved to represent a forward-thinking approach to promoting safe and efficient energy development. The DOE-BSEE partnership within OESI demonstrates the power of cross-agency collaboration by addressing prevalent industry gaps that may otherwise go unmet. OESI is built on a foundation of responsible resource management and technological innovation which have proven to be essential to ensuring a future of safe and robust offshore energy production.