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CSA MarineBiotech prepares the foundation for an ERA-NET in marine biotechnology. The CSA MarineBiotech concentrates its efforts on the mobilisation and engagement of funding agencies and stakeholders through the establishment of a Strategic Forum and a Stakeholder Group, which provide strategic advice to the project consortium and contribute to a high-quality proposal for a future ERA-NET in marine biotechnology.

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### CSA MarineBiotech 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop held

“Mobilisation and Engagement of Funding Agencies and Stakeholders” workshop 2 was held in Hamburg, Germany, on 8-9 October 2012. The event was organized by Norgenta (North German Life Science Agency), one



of the consortium partners. During the workshop, 57 industry, academic, policy and funding agency representatives debated the role and future of marine biotechnology in Europe, contributed to plans for the final public conference of the CSA MarineBiotech, to be held in

Brussels in March 2013, and considered the Work Packages needed in a proposal for a European Research Area Network in Marine Biotechnology (ERA-NET in MBT).

During the workshop, interested funding agencies met to form the ERA-NET Working Group, to plan the structure of the project and begin to prepare for the proposal (deadline February 28 2013). The Research Council of Norway, in the person of Dr Steinar Bergseth was elected co-ordinator for the prospective ERA-NET and leader for the proposal activity. The election of the Coordinator was followed by a discussion concerning the content of the ERA-NET, its structure (Work Packages) and future activities. The complete programme, attendee list, presentations and public report is available at <http://www.marinebiotech.eu/workshops>.

**CORRECTION:** We apologise that in the 2<sup>nd</sup> [newsletter](#) the photograph from the Submariner event was aligned with the article on the OECD meeting. For the full event article please visit the [Submariner project website](#).

### International Innovation Report

CSA MarineBiotech has produced a 3-page article on Blue Biotech, for Research Media Ltd’s International Innovation Report. To read the article, please visit [this link](#).

### EuroTransBio opportunities

Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) who wish to collaborate on marine biotechnology technology development with a strong economic impact should consult [EuroTransBio](#) (ETB). This international funding initiative supported by European funding agencies has operated under the ERA-NET scheme since 2004 and will develop to a completely international funding initiative in 2013. The mission of ETB is to foster the competitiveness of the European biotechnology industry by supporting research intensive SMEs and their strategic partners. The current call deadline was 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2013. Austria, Belgium, Finland, France (Alsace), Germany, Hungary, Russia and Spain (Andalucia, Basque country, Catalonia and Navarra) are participating and a consortium should consist of a minimum of 2 companies from 2 different participant countries and be SME-led.

**CSA MarineBiotech Final Conference - SAVE THE DATE - 11-12<sup>th</sup> March 2013, Brussels** The [Final Conference of the CSA MarineBiotech project](#) will bring together scientists, industry representatives, policy makers/advisors and other key stakeholders involved or interested in Marine Biotechnology research in Europe, to:

- provide insight into some of the most important recent and ongoing Marine Biotechnology research projects and initiatives;
- discuss the status and recent progress of European Marine Biotechnology research efforts and capacity at various scales; and
- identify critical needs, gaps and challenges to inform future Marine Biotechnology policy and coordination efforts.

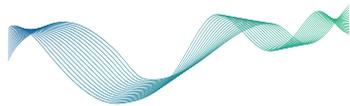
Registration deadline is 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013: [Register now!](#)

### Marine Biotechnology information and WIKI pages

CSA MarineBiotech’s information system offers access to a new [database](#) with information about Marine Biotechnology stakeholders (persons and institutions) and projects in Europe. This database is being developed within the current CSA MarineBiotech project and will be frequently updated. It will be expanded during the subsequent ERA-NET in Marine Biotechnology. In the longer term, it will provide a publicly-accessible resource regarding the Marine Biotechnology landscape in Europe.

If you are active in the field of Marine Biotechnology you can add your contact details to the information database. This will increase your visibility in the European community of marine biotechnology. Please download and fill out the relevant spreadsheets for Person, Institution or Project details, to be found on <http://www.marinebiotech.eu/database>, and send them back to [info@marinebiotech.eu](mailto:info@marinebiotech.eu) — thank you!

Once registered, you are authorised to edit and contribute from your own expert knowledge to the [Wiki pages of the Portal on Marine Biotechnology](#) within the Coastal and Marine Wiki.



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### News from the Consortium

- ▶ Catherine Boyen, CNRS Partner 5, has been appointed to the [Strategic Advisory Board \(StAB\) of the European initiative JPI Oceans](#), joining Niall McDonough, ESF European Marine Board Partner 7, and 15 other senior researchers, policymakers and industry figures. The aim of the JPI Oceans StAB is to provide neutral and independent advice and assistance to the Management Board.
- ▶ [Norgenta Partner 3](#) and the province of British Columbia, Canada, have signed a Strategic Alliance Memorandum (SAM) that includes Marine Biotechnology in its scope. Additionally, Norgenta has made first contacts with the US Biotechnology Industry Organization BIO and with Marine Associations in Japan.

### International News

- ▶ Algal biofuels are attracting companies all round the world - Sapphire Energy, Synthetic Genomics, Phycal and Aurora Algae are some — but high capital and operating costs mean that full deployment is unlikely for a further 5-10 years, according to a recent article in [The Guardian](#). Despite this, there is continued R&D and commercial investment. [Algae Systems](#) of Carson City Nevada USA is working with NASA on a floating "algae photo-bioreactor" that treats wastewater. Wave action and sunlight provide mixing and light input and the algal residue will be converted to jet fuel [AL.com \(Alabama\)/Live blog](#). Propel Fuels and Solazyme are making algae-based biodiesel available at four filling stations in San Francisco Bay, at the same price as regular diesel [San Francisco Chronicle](#). BAL (BioArchitecture Lab) has just announced a major collaboration with Xunshan Group, the world's largest grower of brown seaweed, to set up a [large-scale conversion biorefinery](#) for macroalgae on the Shandong coast in China. According to BAL, its technology can help expand the seaweed industry from its current value of \$5 billion to \$250 billion.
- ▶ There is also support for fiscal measures in USA: the US Senate voted 54-41 to approve an amendment that would allow the Department of Defense to invest in advanced-biofuel plants in partnership with the Agriculture, Energy and Navy departments. This would also involve algal biofuels. Follow [this link](#) for more information.
- ▶ In October 2012, the Dutch company DSM Nutritional Products announced a [collaboration](#) using its proprietary algal expression technology for development and production of vaccines with the veterinary products company Merial. DSM acquired the technology with its purchase of the marine nutritional oil company Martek in 2011. This is an exciting development for marine biotechnology.

### Recent Events

On 11 October 2012, CCMAR (the Centre for Marine Sciences) at the University of Algarve in Faro, Portugal, hosted an experts' meeting on **Commercialisation of Marine Biotechnology**, organized by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in collaboration with the Portuguese Directorate General of the Sea and Ocean, Oceano XXI and Fórum Empresarial da Economia do Mar (FEEM). The seminar explored the challenges to the marine biotechnology industry in achieving entry of biotechnology-based finished products into the market. As a result, several joint projects have already been established. This is part of a new bilateral Norway-Portugal initiative for industrial R&D co-operations and innovations, led by Innovasjons Norge, the industrial support counterpart of Partner 1, the RCN. Further information [here](#).

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual EFIB (The European Forum for Industrial Biotechnology and the Biobased Economy) was held in Düsseldorf, Germany 16 – 18 October 2012. Both a half-day pre-conference workshop and an in-conference session were organized and chaired by Meredith Lloyd-Evans, Project Manager of the CSA MarineBiotech, attended by over 130 people. This was a collaboration between the CSA MarineBiotech, EuropaBio, the European biotechnology industry association, the UK Technology Strategy Board's Biosciences Knowledge Transfer Network and the Norway-UK Partnership in marine biotechnology. Feedback was very positive for the sessions and for the inclusion of marine biotechnology in future industrial biotechnology initiatives, including relevant parts of the EU's Horizon 2020 programme. The complete conference note provided by Fien De Raedemaeker, VLIZ Partner 2 is available [here](#). Carole Llewellyn, a speaker, has also provided a [conference note](#) via the UK Biosciences KTN.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> [SEAS-ERA Strategic Forum](#) was held on 6 February 2013, Brussels, Belgium: the regional Strategic Research Agendas for three sea basins (Atlantic, Mediterranean and Black Sea) will be presented together for the first time. All stakeholders are invited to attend.

**EU Bioeconomy meeting** EU Bioeconomy meeting during the Irish presidency, in Dublin on 14 - 15 February 2013. Blue biotechnology was in the programme of the conference "Bioeconomy in the EU: achievements and directions for the future".

[BioProsp 2013](#), 20 - 22 February 2013, Tromsø, Norway: This event focussed on the challenges and possibilities related to industrial applications of marine bioactive compounds.

### Forthcoming events

[Algae World MENA 2013](#) Middle East and North Africa region on 25 - 26 February 2013, Dubai.

Baltic Med workshop, 21 - 22 March 2013, Marseille, France: session focused on blue biotech.

[World Ocean Council](#) 2<sup>nd</sup> SUSTAINABLE OCEAN SUMMIT, 22 - 24 April 2013, Washington DC: The SOS 2013 follows on from the highly successful inaugural SOS convened by the World Ocean Council (WOC) in Belfast in 2010, and the steady growth of the WOC since then as the only international, multi-industry leadership alliance on "Corporate Ocean Responsibility".