

MASTS

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| POOL | Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland (MASTS) | | |
| Original Partners | Aberdeen, Marine Scotland Science, Glasgow, Heriot-Watt, Edinburgh Napier, St Andrews, UHI, Stirling, Strathclyde | | |
| Funding | £17.4M SFC £31.89M institutional | | |
| Start | AY 2009/10 | End | AY 2015/16 (ext to 16/17) |
| Original objectives | | | |
| [] to create critical mass and to increase the quality, relevance and quantity of output from marine science investments to achieve long-term sustainability. It will create a responsive, agile marine science community that will play a pivotal role in wealth creation from the marine environment. | | | |

Funding breakdown

| | SFC (£000s) | Institution (£000s) | Total (£000s) |
|--|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| New salary costs 7 professors 13 lecturer or reader level, 12 postdoctoral or technician level | 10,574 | 14,147 | 24,721 |
| New Capital Costs | 790 | 12,827 | 13,617 |
| Studentships (50) | 1,089 | 1,016 | 2,105 |
| Other (Operational) | 3,003 | 1,592 | 4,595 |
| Directorate costs | 2,404 | 2,404 | 4,808 |
| Total | 17,860 | 31,986 | 49,845 |

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| Original Governance | <p>Governance / structure</p> <p>Governing Council University Principals (including UHIMI), SG</p> <p>Executive Committee Director (chair), directors of marine labs, Dean of Grad School, Operations Director</p> <p>Advisory Board International/national scientists & stakeholders</p> <p>Science Board Director, JRT leaders, non-executives</p> <p>9 x Joint Research Theme (JRT) PIs and JRT leader</p> |
| Research Themes | <p>Biodiversity and ecosystem function</p> <p>Coastal zone</p> <p>Marine predators</p> <p>Sustainable Mariculture</p> <p>Genomics</p> <p>Fisheries</p> <p>Physical Oceanography</p> <p>Modelling</p> <p>Platforms & Sensors</p> |
| Directorate | Director (0.7 FTE), Executive Director, Administrative staff |

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End of award

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| Final report | September 2017 |
| Highlights from final report | <p>Membership has grown to include associate members through the life of the project University of Edinburgh, University of Dundee, University West of Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, St Abbs Marine Station.</p> <p>Research income: Attributable to MASTS members is over £74M (MASTS appointees or existing staff with time dedicated to MASTS – pro rata'd)</p> <p>Research papers: MASTS staff (attributed as above) generated more than 7,000 peer reviewed scientific papers</p> <p>Graduate school: establishment of the Post Graduate Certificate Programme in Professional Researcher Development, additional 6 studentships funded through partners per year, dedicated student retreat and session at the Annual science Meeting (attracting over 300 delegates) , students have access to specialist courses, workshops and funding opportunities.</p> <p>Policy impact: MASTS is now recognised as being representative of Scotland's marine science community. Through its legal entity, MAST-S, it is a member of the European Marine Board and the European Marine Biological Resources Centre. The MASTS Directorate sit on the UK Marine Science Co-ordination Committee and Scottish Government's Marine Strategy Forum.</p> |
| Major changes/challenges | <p>Recruitment, especially at professorial level, was challenging, with 3 professorial positions unfilled. This was due to 'inability to compete with other institutions and other countries in terms of infrastructure and research funding'</p> <p>One year no cost extension – took much longer than expected to get the executive team in place and operational also draft MASTS research strategy was produced in 2010, but following feedback was substantially revised.</p> <p>The originally proposed Science Board was never created as this activity became subsumed into a combination of the EC and the Research Forums.</p> <p>Did not secure a DTP (see later)</p> |

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MASTS Continuation Funding

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| Partners | Aberdeen, Marine Scotland Science, Glasgow, Heriot-Watt, Edinburgh Napier, St Andrews, UHI, Stirling, Strathclyde Associate partners: Universities of Edinburgh, Dundee and West of Scotland together with Scottish Natural Heritage, St Abbs Marine Station, (BGS, SEPA, Joint Nature Conservation Committee joined in 2017/18) | | |
| Funding | £562,500 SFC £562,500 institutional contribution specified by SFC, MASTS raise this contribution through membership fees with partner and associate partner rates and the amount raised is increased as membership is expanded. Other income raised through grad school, ASM, management fees to a predicted c. £1,5M | | |
| Start | AY 2017/18 | End | AY 2020/21 |

Funding breakdown

| | Total (£000s) |
|--|----------------------|
| Staff costs (Directorate) | 962 |
| Annual Science Meeting | 212 |
| Themes and forums | 270 |
| Other (Graduate school, publicity and outreach, membership EMBRC etc, T&S) | 712 |
| Total | 2,156 |

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| Governance | <u>To be slimmed down</u> <u>3 Research themes with</u> <u>12 x forums</u> |
| Directorate | Director (0.2 FTE), Executive Director (0.7), Programme co-ordinator (0.8), admin/finance (0.2) Secretary (0.15), Dean of Graduate school (0.15), publicity specialist (0.05) |

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| <p>Highlights from AY17/18 annual report</p> <p>Graduate School: Anticipate recruiting a further 8 students in 2018/19. A Doctoral Training Partnership proposal has been submitted which is founded on the MASTS GS – the Scottish Universities Partnership for Environmental Research (SUPER). If it is successful it will be run by the MASTS Directorate and fund >90 PhD studentships over the next 5 years. Successful Co-funding two PhD Studentships with IBIOIC and two with DataLAB</p> <p>Policy impact: Continued European representation and close relationship with SG and Marine Scotland Established Fisheries Innovation Scotland on behalf of Government and industry</p> <p>International: Continue international representation role including sponsored delegation to India and potentially to South Africa. Co-ordinated major GCRF bid which was unsuccessful.</p> <p>Membership: Continuing to grow.</p> |
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