



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MMS Sponsors International Energy Ocean '07 Conference *Agency Presents Update on Alternative Energy Program for U.S. Offshore Waters, Recognized for Energy Education Excellence*

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) will join government agencies, academia, industry and members of the international community in addressing the future of marine-based energy projects in the U.S. and abroad at the August 20-23, 2007 Energy Ocean Conference. The conference will be held in Oahu, Hawaii and is sponsored by the State of Hawaii, the U.S. Commercial Service, the MMS, the Marine Technology Society and 17 additional co-sponsors.

“As the U.S. moves closer toward harnessing offshore alternative energy opportunities, the MMS recognizes the importance of regional and international collaboration,” said Maureen Bornholdt, MMS’s Alternative Energy and Alternate Use Program Manager. “The Energy Ocean ‘07 Conference provides an exciting opportunity for MMS to continue to strengthen its domestic and international coordination in sharing best practices and lessons learned in areas of offshore alternative energy technologies, regulatory oversight and environmental research. The MMS looks forward to sharing information on its efforts in developing a comprehensive and transparent regulatory framework for alternative energy projects in U.S. offshore waters.”

In addition to co-sponsoring the four-day conference, the MMS will present an update on the development of the Nation’s Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Alternative Energy and Alternate Use Program, as mandated under the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The MMS will discuss the status of its programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and its effort to develop new regulations for the oversight, inspection, research, monitoring, and enforcement of offshore alternative energy projects in U.S. waters.

The MMS is also nominated for a conference Education Pioneer Award in recognition for its contribution toward educating the public about Ocean Energy uses, feasibility, benefits and/or suitable locations for implementation of the technologies. Additional nominees include:

(MORE)

- * Ocean Renewable Energy Group (OREG), representing Canada
- * European Ocean Energy Association (EU-OEA), representing the European Union
- * Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)/Ocean Energy Program, representing the U.S.

For information on the Energy Ocean '07 Conference, go to <http://www.energyocean.com>

The Minerals Management Service is responsible for managing the Nation's offshore energy and mineral resources and the collection and disbursement of revenues associated with energy and mineral resource production from Federal and Indian lands. Under authority of Section 388 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the MMS will regulate alternative energy projects on the Outer Continental Shelf. Alternative energy includes wind, wave, ocean current and solar.

For additional information on MMS's Alternative Energy and Alternate Use program, go to: www.mms.gov/offshore/RenewableEnergy/RenewableEnergyMain.htm

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