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Department of Home Affairs
GPO Box 9984
Sydney NSW 2001

9 November 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Support for GTI Visa – Stephanie Revesz Thornton (DOB: 30 May 1956)

The International Energy Agency's (IEA) Ocean Energy Systems (OES) Technology Collaboration Programme is an intergovernmental collaboration between countries, to advance research, development and demonstration of technologies to harness energy from all forms of ocean renewable energy resources. I joined the Executive Committee of the IEA-OES in 2002 as Executive Secretary and have since been responsible for its operational & financial management and project monitoring, in coordination with an international multicultural committee.

I met Stephanie Thornton while I was attending a Global International Conference on Ocean Energy in the United States and I had the pleasure to collaborate more directly with her when she became a delegate to the IEA-OES representing Australia in the Executive Committee, in 2018.

Stephanie was involved in the ongoing collaborative projects of the IEA-OES, which had the participation of 23 member countries, dedicated to high-level topics on ocean energy technologies, including:

- **Assessment of Environmental Effects and Monitoring Efforts for Ocean Wave, Tidal and Current Energy Systems:** to ensure that existing information and data on environmental monitoring (and, to the extent possible, practices for environmental mitigation) are more widely accessible to the industry, governments and the public.
- **Worldwide Web GIS Database for Ocean Energy:** to maintain an interactive web-based GIS mapping application with detailed global information related to ocean energy.
- **Cost of Energy Assessment for Wave, Tidal and OTEC:** to deliver a reliable and credible Levelised Cost of Energy (LCOE) assessment for wave, tidal and OTEC technologies, together with identification of the routes to maximise rapid cost reduction.
- **Consenting Processes for Ocean Energy in OES member countries:** to analyse the operation of consenting processes in OES member countries through a collection of information on legal, policy and administrative issues.
- **International Ocean Energy Technology Roadmap:** to develop an ocean energy technology roadmap to achieve LCOE targets within the sector, with focus on two key areas: Reliability Improvement and Performance Improvement.
- **Stage Gate Metrics International Framework for Ocean Energy:** to gain international consensus on a Technology Evaluation Framework to be used in ocean energy technology development programmes to objectively measure key, targeted areas and facilitate decision-making.

Collaboration with Stephanie facilitated securing access to advanced R&D teams in Australia; reducing costs by collaborating internationally; creating valuable international contacts between government, industry and science; sharing information and networking.

Stephanie contributed toward raising the industry/business operating standards at the international level with her expertise on ocean energy resources and management of the Australian Ocean Energy Group (AOEG), facilitating collaboration in the ocean energy sector.

We have seen considerable progress in research, development, demonstration and validation of ocean energy technology, driving the sector towards commercialization. Policies have continued to evolve, including strategic plans and roadmaps with key actions for ocean energy, research and innovation policies that help to develop emerging technologies. In many countries, policymakers have continued to adapt legislation and revise policies for ocean energy, incorporating national targets, driven by the significant potential for economic growth, sustainability transition, and job creation. In this aspect, Stephanie has been committed to supporting the activities of the IEA-OES bringing her experience from the ocean energy sector in Australia, in terms of policies, R&D and technology development. Her reputation in this industry has been well recognized by the IEA-OES group.

I believe that Stephanie will raise the industry's technical and academic standards for Australia with her enthusiasm and skills to advocate and increase the adoption of ocean energy and to elevate competitiveness and reputation in this industry, through building awareness and providing information to support a commercial project delivery system.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you require any further details in relation to the above. I can be contacted by phone (+351917546154) or by email at ana@wavec.org.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Ana Brito e Melo'.

Ana Brito e Melo
Executive Secretary
Ocean Energy Systems (OES)
International Energy Agency Technology Collaboration Programme