

*Recent Developments in Ocean Thermal  
Energy*

April 1980

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**RECENT  
DEVELOPMENTS  
IN OCEAN  
THERMAL  
ENERGY**

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**A TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM**

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APRIL 1980



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Office of Technology Assessment  
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## PREFACE

This Technical Memorandum was prepared in response to a request from the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy Development and Applications of House Committee on Science and Technology. The Committee requested that the Office of Technology Assessment provide an update of its study of Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC), which was published in May 1978.<sup>1</sup>

This Technical Memorandum reviews the status of OTEC technology developments as of April 1980. It discusses major technical accomplishments occurring after publication of the 1978 report and principal technical uncertainties that remain; it also attempts to summarize numerous documents and other available information in order to provide a concise update on the status of OTEC technology.

The Memorandum was developed over a two-month period by the OTA Oceans Program staff, with the assistance of Dr. Herman Sheets, a consultant who recently retired as the head of the Department of Ocean Engineering at the University of Rhode Island. In preparing the report recent DOE and industry reports were reviewed and there were consultations with those directly involved in recent technology development projects.

JOHN H. GIBBONS

Director

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