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Strong project pipeline key to unlocking tidal wave of investment

The success of the US offshore wind industry depends on a stable policy regime that delivers a consistent string of projects, Siemens Gamesa offshore CEO Andreas Nauen told IPF20 Livestream delegates. **p2**

Online and on the ball!

Liz Burdock, chief executive of IPF20 host the Business Network for Offshore Wind, opens the portals to the Livestream series of events. **p3**



Livestream schedule **p4**

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BOEM cuts teeth on Vineyard Wind

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is committed to a permitting process that “establishes a strong foundation for the offshore wind industry” in the US, according to acting director Walter Cruickshank.

He told the first IPF20 Livestream event on Thursday the federal agency has had to adapt its approach during the assessment of the 800MW Vineyard Wind project, the first commercial offshore application on its books.

BOEM formally released a supplemental environmental impact statement for the development today for a 45-day public comment period. The supplemental EIS was required after requests from stakeholders for further analysis of impacts.

Cruickshank said the experience will allow “future projects to run more smoothly” through consenting. “We believe that the supplemental EIS will help us better address potential conflicts with other ocean users and provide us with better information that means better decisions,” he added. “BOEM is committed



LEARNING CURVE: BOEM acting director Walter Cruickshank (left) and Vineyard Wind chief development officer Rachel Pachter

Screen grabs: reNEWS

to a permitting process that reduces user conflicts to a manageable level and establishes a strong foundation for the offshore wind industry.”

In future, there will be no need for the additional EIS as the agency will take a more robust approach from the start, Cruickshank said.

Vineyard Wind chief development officer Rachel Pachter said the developer is “thrilled” the planning document has been published. A final BOEM consent decision is due in December.

The Avangrid Renewables and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners joint venture is now hopeful of starting a delayed construction campaign with onshore works next year. All state and local

level permitting has been completed, she added.

Pachter told Livestream delegates the developer is reviewing the EIS and said a key point is that it contains project-specific and cumulative impact analysis.

“There isn’t anything in there that thus far has surprised us and the report seems to be thorough.”

Pachter thanked BOEM for carrying out the work under challenging circumstances. “We have been through one government shutdown... and a global pandemic so we are pretty resilient and are looking to get the show on the road.”

BOEM will hold five virtual events during the comment period. Feedback can also be given via the government’s commenting platform and by mail.

TRENDING ON reNEWS.BIZ

Nexans US factory to supply Seagreen export wires

Nexans of France is to make high voltage export cables for the 1.1GW Seagreen wind project off Scotland at its Charleston factory in the US. [Click here](#)

Tekmar wraps up Coastal Virginia cable shield job

Tekmar Energy of the UK has completed installation of cable protection systems at the 12MW Coastal Virginia demo in US federal waters. [Click here](#)

Naval Energies joins Offshore Wind California group

French company Naval Energies has joined trade association Offshore Wind California to pursue deployment of floating wind off the US state. [Click here](#)

Fugro probes Sunrise site for Orsted

Fugro has mobilised two vessels off New York to study the site of the 880MW Sunrise wind project being developed by Orsted and Eversource. [Click here](#)

US dishes out offshore wind R&D support

GE and Principle Power are among 12 companies to share \$10m-plus of funding from the US National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium. [Click here](#)

Strong pipeline key to unlocking tidal wave of investment

The success of the US offshore wind industry depends on a stable policy regime that delivers a consistent string of projects, IPF20 Livestream heard.

Siemens Gamesa offshore CEO Andreas Nauen told delegates stability is needed so the whole value chain knows when wind farms are likely to be permitted, when orders will be placed and when projects will be installed.

With the right policy, including a "safe planning horizon", the sector can "take off", he added.

"There are huge investments to be made by us and our customers and all players need to be confident



RIGHT POLICY: Siemens Gamesa offshore CEO Andreas Nauen Screen grab: reNEWS

that these investments will pay off," Nauen said. Siemens Gamesa is considering building a turbine factory on the US east coast that is large enough to accommodate blades for its new 14MW offshore wind machine.

Nauen said he is confident the company can make the

investment work but added "there is still some learning ahead", including building up the skills needed for manufacturing.

Management is currently mulling logistics for such a site. "All the modern offshore factories, whether for nacelles or for blades, are located at a harbour or near to a harbour on a large river location because you need to be able to ship these 100-meter-plus blades easily," Nauen said.

"Everything we do is to drive down the cost of energy and if you have a super-complicated transport route to get the blades from the factory onto a vessel that is simply uneconomical."

Foundation crews must avoid disturbing whales

Industry needs to find ways to install foundations quietly to avoid impacting on North Atlantic whale populations, IPF20 Livestream heard.

Orsted senior manager of stakeholder engagement Kris Ohleth warned the sector will not succeed in the US without a solution. "Somewhere between 300 and 400 individuals of that species now exist on the Atlantic coast here where we are looking at developing the majority of offshore wind projects.

"If we don't do right by this keystone species this industry will not go forward... There are

too many opportunities for litigation and controversy."

She was speaking during a panel session on new foundation installation concepts.

Several companies presented solutions that aim to go beyond mitigation measures used in Europe.

IHC IQIP's Jasper Winkes presented pulse technology as an add-on to conventional hammers that allows blows to be delivered over a longer period of time, reducing noise.

RCAM Technologies CEO Jason Cotrell is part of an initiative developing a next-generation modular concrete

suction bucket foundation, which could be installed and removed almost silently with minimal seabed disruption.

■ Covid-19 has had a minimal impact on US offshore studies, according to Alpine Ocean Seismic Survey.

President Rob Mecarini told delegates the company has lost just two or three days after introducing measures to keep workers safe, including single cabin occupancy.

Workers who fly in from abroad or domestically are quarantined for three days and tested for the virus.

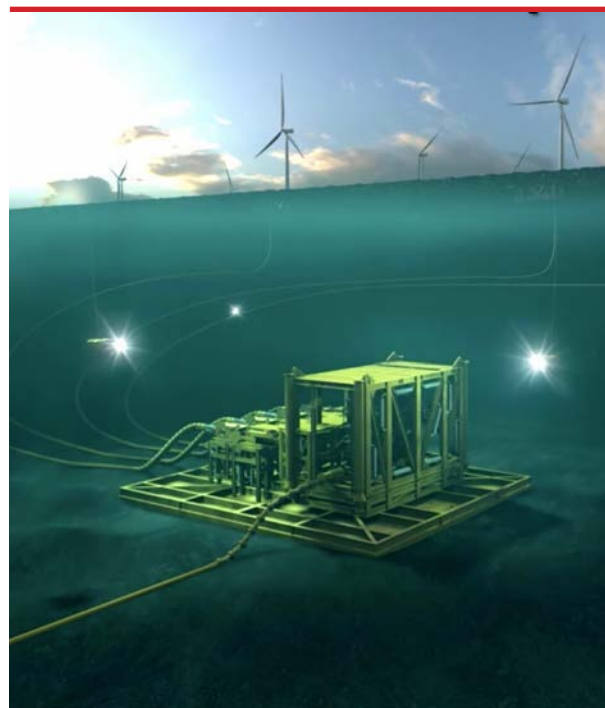


ABB call for 'bold actor' to install subsea substation

ABB Energy Industries has issued an open invitation to US offshore wind developers to engage with the Switzerland-based engineer and other companies on the use of subsea substations.

VP of offshore power Martin Kjall-Ohlsson told IPF20 Livestream delegates there are "bold actors" in the offshore wind sector and a developer should take the "giant leap" needed to kick-start the use of underwater transmission systems.

Unlike conventional offshore substations that are installed on fixed or floating foundations, subsea facilities are placed on the seabed (above).

Subsea 7 strategic program manager Ernst Kloster told the session the technology

has several advantages over conventional offshore substations.

Health and safety can be improved as the unit is deployed on the seabed, which also means fewer conflicts with other ocean users, he said.

Aker Solutions head of offshore wind and business development Hans Petter Ovreivik said subsea units weigh between 100 and 150 tonnes while topsides can be 10 times as much, meaning there is no need to deploy a heavy-lift vessel for installation.

The oil and gas sector has used subsea substations since 2000, he added. About 30 units are in operation and there have been no reported failures in two decades.

Illustration: Aker Solutions



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Online and on the ball!



Liz Burdock (left), chief executive of IPF20 host the Business Network for Offshore Wind, opens the portals to the Livestream series of events

Hosting the Business Network for Offshore Wind's 2020 International Partnering Forum (IPF) virtually was obviously not our first preference. However, we quickly learned that a virtual platform allows more flexibility to bring top industry and government leaders together with practitioners.

The result is limoncello out of lemons. Yes, limoncello not lemonade because this IPF packs a powerful punch.

As the largest offshore wind conference in the western hemisphere, IPF is dedicated to connecting the offshore wind industry. The IPF Livestream series, taking place June through August, is a collection of "firsts" featuring high-level industry CEOs, public officials and technical experts.

Never before will so many high-level leaders assemble to discuss offshore wind in the US. For the first time ever, Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo will host a panel with invited New England Governors Janet Mills (Me.), Chris Sununu (N.H.), Charlie

Baker (Mass.), and Ned Lamont (Conn.). The Livestream series will also feature offshore wind updates from coastal states including New Jersey Governor Murphy and Virginia Governor Northam, and others.

NYSERDA CEO Alicia Barton will join New Jersey Board of Public Utilities President Joseph Fiordaliso and Massachusetts Clean Energy Center CEO Steven Pike to discuss how the US can go to 10GW and beyond. This panel will address what policymakers can do to ensure the sector is not constrained by the lack of grid infrastructure.

The IPF will continue to push the topic with several speakers including former US Department of Energy

Secretary Ernst Moniz set to explore how grid infrastructure can save ratepayer money and create thousands of jobs. One study estimates for every \$1bn in investment, 13,000 new jobs are created.

At 2020 IPF, we can also finally lay to rest the hundreds of Jones Act questions hovering over

every US offshore wind event. Dominion Energy will discuss its plans for the first Jones Act compliant installation vessel and provide an update on the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project, the first in federal waters. The industry will learn some big lessons from this little project including R&D on

how turbines will operate in extreme weather events.

Also on R&D, the US DoE National Offshore Wind Research Consortium will discuss the latest funding awards and provide information on a new funding solicitation being released later this summer. NREL will provide an update on the offshore wind standards

setting process and its new workforce development initiatives.

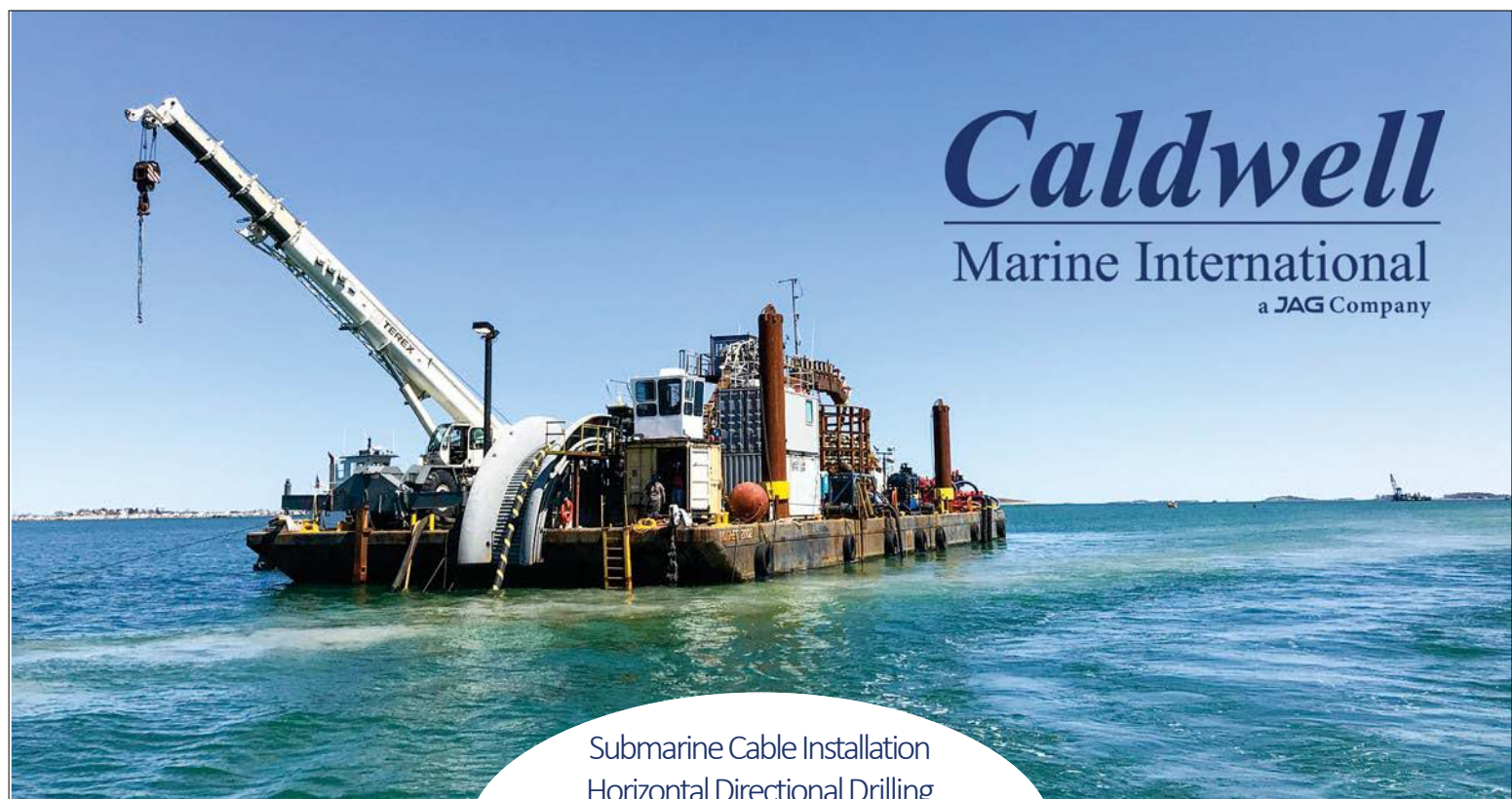
A series of developer 'town halls' will meanwhile discuss US offshore project updates and local supply chain plans with industry giants including Orsted, Equinor, Dominion Energy, Atlantic Shores, Vineyard Wind and Mayflower Wind. We will also have discussions with

CEOs and c-level executives from Anbaric, EnBW, GWEC, MHI Vestas, RWE, Siemens Gamesa and WindEurope on market challenge innovation, grid transmission and the future of US offshore wind.

Virtual platforms enable us to deliver dynamic programs in real-time that correspond to industry developments and needs. This feature was witnessed yesterday when we were able to add Walter Cruickshank, acting US BOEM director, to the schedule for a discussion on the just-released Vineyard Wind environmental impact statement.

You can view the full 2020 IPF schedule (see p4) but a friendly warning, it will just get better and better as the summer goes on and we continue to respond to trending topics. After all, the IPF is the one US offshore wind conference everyone wants to attend and use to deliver their hot industry news.

We look forward to welcoming you all to the summer blockbuster in offshore wind. ■



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LIVESTREAM SCHEDULE

[Click here for registration details](#)

VESSELS

25 June

Welcome & introduction
 On point with Dominion Energy
 Industry insights with Clarksons: The market for US vessels
 Designing and building SOVs for the US market
 Land to sea
 Developer town hall with Dominion Energy

GLOBAL MARKET

9 July

Welcome & introduction
 On point with Global Wind Energy Council
 Industry insights with United Nations
 Global offshore wind challenges
 Large turbine upscaling trends
 Developer town hall with Avangrid

CABLES

23 July

Welcome & introduction
 On point with Anbaric
 The grid as a driver of jobs, economic

development and cost savings
 Submarine cable installation: How well do predictions match real environmental effects
 Federal permitting challenges facing the development of offshore wind in the US
 Developer town hall with Atlantic Shores

R&D/ TECHNOLOGY

6 August

Welcome & introduction
 Spotlight on New York: The Honourable Andrew Cuomo (invited)
 National offshore wind R&D consortium
 US offshore wind standards update
 Using technology for understanding cumulative impacts to wildlife & minimising potential impacts
 Large-scale renewable hydrogen production and offshore wind energy
 Developer town hall with Shell/Mayflower Wind

JOBS & WORKFORCE

18 August

Workforce
 CareerMatch

19 August

Welcome & introduction
 Spotlight on Rhode Island: The honourable Gina Raimondo
 On point with Rhode Island Commerce
 New England Governors Roundtable
 Secondary steel: Ladders, platforms, doors, cable trays
 NREL workforce update
 OSW jobs after Covid-19
 Developer town hall with Orsted

FUTURE OF US OSW

20 August

Welcome & introduction
 On point with MHI Vestas
 OSW in the European green recovery
 WindEurope
 OSW installation lessons from Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind
 10GW and beyond: Planning for large-scale grid integration of offshore wind generation
 Spotlight on new jersey: The honourable Governor Phil Murphy (invited)
 Developer town hall with Equinor
 Spotlight on Virginia: The honourable Governor Ralph Northam

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