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# reNEWS

## LIVE @ IPF2021

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### Avangrid on the hunt for more US seabed acreage

Avangrid Renewables is eyeing more seabed acreage off the Northeast coast as well as in the Gulf of Mexico and offshore California, according to offshore wind VP Bill White (above).

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### Kiewit's home win on South Fork substation

Development partners Orsted and Eversource have picked US-based fabricator Kiewit over a European rival to build the offshore substation for their 132MW South Fork Wind project off New York. p3

### US insurance primer for European wind players

European offshore wind companies active in the US market will need to adjust to different risk mitigation and insurance requirements, IPF 2021 will hear. p4

### THE INTERVIEW reNEWS

Today, Orsted Offshore North America CEO David Hardy. p5

# Need for speed at US regulators

Federal and state authorities need to speed up regulatory systems to unleash the nascent US offshore wind industry, IPF 2021 has heard.

Liz Burdock, CEO of conference-organiser the Business Network for Offshore Wind, told delegates the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management should "reduce" its timeline for making decisions and streamline the permitting process.

Swift action is required to support the build-out of the sector and its associated domestic supply chain.

The sense of urgency comes as developers and component manufacturers are feeling supply chain constraints amid a global scramble to construct offshore wind farms, she told the event in Virginia.

"The US offshore wind market is not developing in a vacuum," she said, pointing out that some 250GW of projects could be developed globally this decade. Even then, "the science of climate change is telling us that might not be enough".

Dominion Energy CEO Bob



DECISIONS DASH: Business Network for Offshore Wind CEO Liz Burdock addressing conference delegates

Photo: reNEWS

Blue said "supportive public policy is crucial" at the federal, state and local level, citing the Production Tax Credit.

Establishment of a major industry will also require inter-jurisdictional cooperation, such as efforts underway between Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina, he added.

State goals for offshore wind generation translate into a "tremendous business opportunity", Blue told the gathering.

Meanwhile, delegates heard from Stephen Moret, CEO of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, who said that as the US industry develops private sector power purchase

agreements will emerge instead of just state-led mandates.

"I do see a future where it's not just states driving procurement," added Judy Chang, Undersecretary of Energy for Massachusetts.

As costs come down and offshore wind becomes more common, more municipalities will contract for power supplies in addition to businesses or other private entities, she said.

The US has been a leader in onshore wind but has greatly lagged Europe and Asia in the offshore race. "We're behind today but we can catch up," said Orsted North America CEO David Hardy.

### THURSDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

#### Federal vision

Get to the conference early for the opening session of the day. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management director Amanda Lefton will be outlining the federal agency's plan for hitting 30GW and beyond.

Grand Ballroom, Level 2 – 9am

#### Madam Secretary

Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm will give her remarks to the US offshore wind industry. Don't miss it.

Grand Ballroom, Level 2 – 9.30am

#### Vineyard inspection

Get under the hood of the 800MW Vineyard Wind 1, the nation's first permitted commercial-scale offshore wind farm, with guidance from chief development officer Rachel Pachter.

Grand Ballroom, Level 2 – 10.45am

#### America first

Get the lowdown on the Offshore Wind American Manufacturing Act with US Senator for Massachusetts Ed Markey. Also featuring Avangrid US offshore wind head Bill White.

Grand Ballroom, Level 2 – 11am

#### Local heroes

Dominion senior VP Mark Mitchell and Vestas North America's Josh Irwin are among the speakers on a panel discussing how to localise the supply chain.

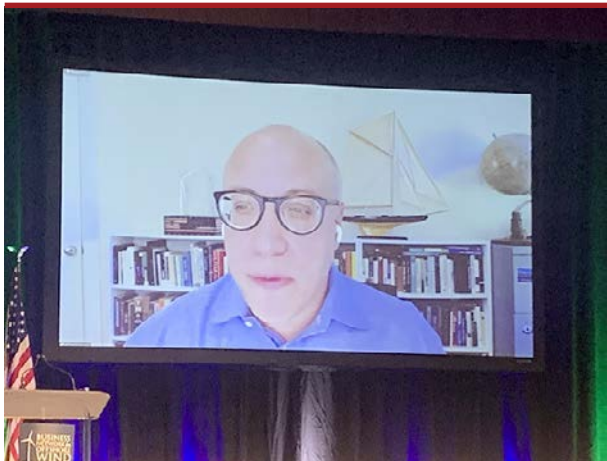
Grand Ballroom, Level 2 – 11.25am



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## Banging the drum for US steel

Developers must help the domestic steel industry they will be relying on for their wind farms, IPF 2021 has heard.

Millions of tons of the metal will be needed for foundations and there is no reason that American mills cannot meet that demand, US Wind CEO Jeff Grybowski told delegates via video call (pictured).

There are numerous proposals for US steel manufacturing capacity expansions to supply offshore wind construction along the

East Coast and US Wind is in discussions with global steel fabrication technology companies, he added.

As the domestic manufacturing supply chain advances, the resulting extra jobs will create more support for the offshore wind industry in general, Grybowski said.

US Wind has put forward a proposal in Maryland to revive a former steelmaking property that could supply its and others' projects. "Our industry can help create a new future for that site," he added.

Photo: renews

# Avangrid on the hunt for US acreage

Avangrid Renewables is eyeing more seabed acreage off the Northeast coast as well as in the Gulf of Mexico and offshore California.

The Iberdrola-owned developer plans to bid for New York Bight leases, offshore wind VP Bill White said on the sidelines of the IPF 2021 conference.

"We will compete into that opportunity," he said, adding: "We will be very actively looking at West Coast (opportunities)."

Avangrid has responded to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's June request for information on potential development in the Gulf of Mexico, White reported.

It said that the least

conflicted areas off Texas and Louisiana also have existing infrastructure, workers, vessels and heavy capacity ports that could service the offshore wind industry.

The developer also has non-disclosure agreements with five companies seriously considering building Jones Act-compliant installation vessels, said White.

Meanwhile, Avangrid is talking with all the major utilities and governments in North Carolina and Virginia about potential off-take agreements for its planned 2.5GW Kitty Hawk wind farm, and is preparing to enter permitting. "We believe offshore wind is inevitable in the mid-Atlantic," White said.

## Port lease puts Virginia in eye of wind storm

A deal for Dominion Energy to use the Port of Virginia for component marshalling will position the East Coast state as an offshore wind hub, IPF 2021 has heard.

"Virginia continues to focus our efforts on the... industry," Governor Ralph Northam told delegates.

Port authorities are leasing a portion of the Portsmouth Marine Terminal to Dominion to support its 2.6GW Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project.

Some 72 acres of the deep-water, multi-use cargo facility will be used as a staging and pre-assembly area for foundations and turbines to be installed 27 miles off Virginia Beach.

The state is also looking at other actions to support the nascent industry including increasing water and rail port access, collaborating with North Carolina and Maryland, and enhancing the permitting process and training its workforce, Northam said.



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# Kiewit's home win on South Fork substation

Development partners Orsted and Eversource have picked US-based fabricator Kiewit over a European rival to build

the offshore substation for their 132MW South Fork Wind project off New York. The bidders were the

last standing in a formal competitive process, Orsted North America CEO David Hardy said on the sidelines of the IPF 2021 conference.

They came close on factors including price, quality and safety but Kiewit's domestic location gave it the edge, he added. "We feel really confident that they can do the contract."

"We should take a chance on a US supplier," Hardy said, adding Orsted wanted to send a signal to the Biden administration that "we want to do it the way they want to do it".

Even so, the North America boss emphasized that Orsted is "not favoring companies just because they're US" based. "We need an international supply chain."

Meanwhile, Orsted's 30MW Block Island wind farm off the coast of Rhode Island was unaffected by this week's

## Early stakeholder engagement secret to smooth permitting

Norwegian developer Equinor believes early engagement with fishers is one of the main lessons US players can take from Europe, delegates heard this week in Virginia.

Head of US permitting and environmental affairs Scott Lundin told a panel discussion that consultations early on in the development of an offshore wind farm are important.

Developers should also realize the fishing industry is not monolithic with some using different types of gear such as pots or nets, he said.

"It's a hard lesson to learn but once you learn it it's incredibly valuable,"

he added. "Public opinion matters" in the US permitting process for offshore wind and stakeholders can be skittish, Lundin told reNEWS after the panel discussion.

"These are big infrastructure projects. It's new and change is hard. There's always a fear of the unknown. We're never going to make everyone happy."

Beachfront property owners in wealthy coastal towns are a particular source of resistance. "Traditionally, power plants are put in disaffected communities," Lundin said. "Now, this energy transition is turning that model on its head."

## Coastal Virginia key at Dominion

The 2.6GW Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) project is a key component in the decarbonizing of electricity generation at Dominion Energy, CEO Bob Blue told IPF 2021.

"We will keep driving forward until we get to net zero," the utility chief said. The wind farm will also bring "major economic benefits" including jobs.

A group of 100 IPF delegates this week visited the two-turbine pilot phase (pictured) next door to the lease area where the commercial-scale CVOW will be located.

The main project is under permitting review by the Bureau of Ocean Energy



Management and other federal agencies. Preparation of an environmental impact statement started in July and is expected to take about two years.

The wind farm, 27 miles off the coast of Virginia Beach, is expected to feature 188 Siemens Gamesa turbines, according to one of the envelope scenarios in Dominion's construction and operations plan.

Photo: Business Network for Offshore Wind

Tropical Storm Henri with workers resuming repairs related to helihoist stress fatigue found on the GE turbines at the farm.

Hardy said the developer is close to getting another machine up and running this

week and aims to have all five turbines operational by mid-September.

Four of the wind farm's generators were shut down because of stress fatigue issues but Orsted has already restarted one.

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## Heave motion compensator kit targets feeder build campaigns

Marine technology specialist Seaqualize is looking to break into the US offshore wind market with a motion compensation system that it claims can extend construction windows into rougher autumn and winter months.

The Dutch company is in active talks with potential US customers for its product, which is designed for placement in any crane hook to compensate heave motions up to roughly 95%.

A smaller version that will be ready for use by the first quarter of next year is designed to allow the safe lift of loads of 600 metric tons from a heaving vessel onto a fixed platform.

The technology will enable quick lifting from supply barges feeding components to installation vessels at sea, which is expected to be a regular feature of US offshore wind construction campaigns.



**TO AND FRO: the full-scale Seaqualize system** Photo: Seaqualize

"We're talking to several of the parties that have won contracts on the East Coast or are considering which feeder method to use in their tender bids," said Seaqualize MD Gjalt Lindeboom, who was scheduled for an IPF panel discussion on feeder-based logistics on Wednesday but is unable to travel to the US because of Covid-19 restrictions.

The company recently wrapped up a first full-scale test in Rotterdam. It plans to release video footage of the exercise by mid-September and conduct offshore testing by the end of October. A larger version of the tool capable of safely lifting 1200 metric tons is expected to be ready by Q3 2023.

# US insurance primer for European wind players

European offshore wind companies active in the US market will need to adjust to different risk mitigation and insurance requirements, IPF 2021 will hear.

One of the last scheduled panels of this year's conference will bring together risk analysis and mitigation experts to offer comments from legal, operational and insurance perspectives.

One of the panelists, Ben Roberts, senior vice president with insurance broker and risk advisor Marsh, told reNEWS he is planning to touch on areas that European companies new to doing business in the US need to know.

The workers compensation scheme in the country is vastly different than in Europe with each state having its own rules, he said.

That means offshore wind developers and their

sub-contractors must have appropriate insurance for each state where they are operating.

The US also has laws specifically governing maritime employees, onshore workers who may occasionally work aboard vessels, and employees in federal and state waters, he noted.

Roberts also plans to talk about contractual risk allocation from an insurance perspective, focusing on the importance of making sure sub-contractors and their sub-contractors have coverage in place.

As the US offshore wind industry develops, the federal government and state authorities have been prioritizing the build-out of a domestic and local supply chain. With this backdrop, it seems that Marsh is well-placed to capitalize on

that push as it has been fostering relationships with local insurers in the US as well as other offshore wind development areas around the world.

A brochure on Marsh's website says the company has advised on every US offshore wind project now in operation.

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# THE INTERVIEW reNEWS



Setting the scene at IPF 2021, senior industry figures talk to reNEWS about vital issues shaping the sector. Today it's the turn of Orsted Offshore North America CEO David Hardy (left)

**Q** What are the key talking points for your company during IPF 2021?

**A** Orsted wants to highlight the incredible progress the industry has seen in 2021. From strong leadership from the Biden administration on tackling climate change and supporting America's clean energy economy to more clear permitting timelines and investments in key points of the domestic supply chain, this year was a banner year for offshore wind. At Orsted, we believe in a world that runs entirely on green energy. 2021 will be looked back at as a year when the US made significant steps toward realizing that future.

**Q** Do you feel that the permitting backlog in the US has been sufficiently dealt with now to clear enough projects in time to reach the end-decade goal of 30GW?

**A** Orsted has hit numerous permitting milestones in 2021: South Fork Wind received its draft EIS and final EIS, Revolution Wind and Ocean Wind received their Notices of Intent, and we hope Sunrise Wind will receive its Notice of Intent soon. That's just at the federal level. Our local and state permits are similarly moving along expeditiously. There is still a lot of work to get to the 30GW goals

but Orsted is confident that goal is achievable given the current momentum.

**Q** What can policymakers do to support the development in the short to medium term?

**A** So far state procurement targets, whether set by legislation or executive action, have driven offshore wind demand but there is plenty the federal government can do. Two things we noted in the bipartisan infrastructure Bill that passed the Senate recently that benefit offshore wind were increasing port funding and making the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council permanent. As Congress considers additional infrastructure legislation, we encourage policymakers to expand tax incentives for offshore wind projects and create new tax incentives for the supply chain. In the medium term, we would encourage Congress to modernize the parts of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act that govern development. The law was not written with offshore wind in mind and, as we begin to recognize its full potential, updating select provisions would ensure we could more effectively meet our nation's clean energy goals.

**Q** Permitting aside, what are the other major challenges for the US in the coming years?

**A** One of the key challenges is building out the domestic supply chain and local workforce. On top of that, Orsted is committed to building out this new industry, supply chain and all, in a manner that focuses on environmental justice. We consider these as two sides of the same coin, where solutions for one can provide solutions for the other. For example, Ocean Wind 2's partnership with Zeem Solutions will both support port infrastructure in New Jersey and help improve air quality for a vulnerable community.

**Q** What can the industry do to overcome these challenges? Is your company doing anything specific to address them?

**A** While building out the supply chain is a challenge, it's also an incredible opportunity to bring billions of dollars of investments to communities throughout the country and create quality jobs. As developers we need think beyond just the states in the north-east and leverage existing industries and talent pools from around the country. A good example of this is leveraging the existing shipbuilding industry in the Gulf of Mexico. Orsted's projects have spurred investment in a new wave of offshore wind-specific vessels which will be built here in the US with US workers.

Photo: Orsted

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