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Industry 'on track' for 2030 ambition



The UK floating offshore wind industry is on track to "smash" the government's 5GW by 2030 sector target, but several challenges will need to be addressed to lock in the growth, Floating Offshore Wind 2022 delegates heard. **p2**

UK ports on standby to expand floating wind investment plans

Stronger market signals are needed to spur investment in the huge expansion of ports required to support the roll-out of UK floating offshore wind by the end of the decade. **p4**

THE INTERVIEW reNEWS

Today, Fred Olsen Seawind and Vattenfall's Muir Mhòr floating wind farm project director David Hinshelwood **p5**

Day 2 highlights **p6**

Sector out of kilter with AR4 strike price

The floating wind strike price set in this year's Contracts for Difference auction is unsustainable and presents a major challenge to realising large-scale projects in the future, Floating Offshore Wind 2022 has heard.

Representatives of several companies told delegates in Aberdeen today that Hexicon's winning £87.30 per megawatt-hour bid for its 32MW TwinHub project in July's Allocation Round 4 does not typify the nascent sector.

The UK government has yet to detail its strike price guidance for next year's AR5 auction, but Copenhagen Offshore Partners partner Alan Hannah told delegates there is industry consensus that the AR4 clearing price is not consistent with where other projects are at.

"It does not work, to be blunt," he said. The price bid by Hexicon was down to some unique characteristics of the TwinHub project, he added.

The strike price is one of a number of challenges that have emerged for the sector over the last 12 months, including volatile power prices and the cost of steel, as well as a change in priorities by



PANEL LINE-UP (left to right): Melissa Read, UK Business Manager, Offshore Wind, Shell; Gabriel Davies, Global Floating Offshore Wind Programme Director, Orsted; Alan Hannah, Senior Vice President and Partner, Copenhagen Offshore Partners; Pablo Necochea, Lead Advisor Floating Wind, Vestas; Rebecca Williams, Global Head of Offshore Wind, GWEC; Claire Mack, Chief Executive, Scottish Renewables

Photo: reNEWS

the UK government, according to Hannah.

He said there is no "magic bullet" to reduce the levelised cost of the industry and the need now is to get floaters into the water to begin industrialising the sector.

Shell UK offshore wind business manager Melissa Read agreed, and warned that if floating wind strike prices decrease too quickly there will be impacts on local content.

Scottish Renewables chief executive Claire Mack also said the AR4 price was "too low" and presents a "major challenge" to deliver supply chain and infrastructure investment.

Speaking on the same panel chaired by Mack, Vestas lead floating advisor Pablo Necochea said fixed bottom

wind did not "magically" reach low strike prices.

"Looking at floating through the fixed-bottom lens simply does not work and will not get us to 2030," he said.

Orsted global floating offshore wind programme director Gabriel Davies suggested "non-price criteria" should be included in tenders to facilitate supply chain investment.

Meanwhile, Global Offshore Wind Energy Council head of offshore wind Rebecca Williams warned delegates that emerging markets look to the UK for guidance on price.

"Prices set in the UK become common currency across the world, even if unrealistic in emerging markets," she said.

TRENDING ON reNEWS.BIZ

ORE Catapult unveils two new programmes

ORE Catapult's Floating Offshore Wind Centre of Excellence has launched two new research and development programmes at FOW 2022. One scheme will focus on dynamic inter-array cable systems and the other on mooring and anchoring solutions.

[Click here](#)

Global floating wind pipeline swells to 185GW

The global floating wind pipeline has doubled to 185GW in the past year, while the number of projects has risen from 130 to 230 globally, new analysis from RenewableUK has found.

[Click here](#)

Maersk to transport, install French floater's turbines

Maersk Supply Services has won a contract to transport and install three 10MW turbines that will make up the Ocean Winds-led EFGL floating wind pilot scheme in the French Mediterranean Sea.

[Click here](#)

Coastal surveying to start for 400MW Northern Irish floater

SBM Offshore has commissioned APEM to undertake a two-year baseline study of the coastal area for its 400MW North Channel Wind project off County Antrim in Northern Ireland. The survey programme will commence in the autumn.

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Proposed revenue cap a sticking plaster solution

The UK government must be careful that its proposed revenue cap on renewables does not impact the investment environment for floating offshore wind.

Scottish Renewables chief executive Claire Mack told delegates in Aberdeen that London's cost-plus-revenue model, unveiled on Tuesday night, is another "sticking plaster solution" for an energy market that is "broken".

She said the government needs to think hard about the outcome it wants and how it will impact investments and security of supply given the European market is "already in turmoil" after the €180 per megawatt-hour cap set recently.

The challenge is particularly pertinent to floating wind as the nascent sector needs the best investment environment possible to advance.

Vestas primed to go large

The supply chain is ready to support the construction of commercial-scale floating offshore wind farms.

Vestas lead floating advisor Pablo Necochea told FOW 2022 the company has already demonstrated the viability of floating offshore turbines, and has the design and engineering capabilities to deploy them on a large scale.

"We can satisfy the demand to meet not just UK targets

but also global ones," he said.

Expertise in the UK oil and gas industry means designing and engineering equipment will not be a challenge. However, the rate of manufacture of foundations is one factor holding up deployment, while port infrastructure is also a big constraint, he said.

He also warned the UK leadership position in the sector is under threat from South Korea.

Industry 'on track' for 2030 ambition

The UK floating offshore wind industry is on track to "smash" the government's 5GW by 2030 sector target, but several challenges will need to be addressed to lock in the growth, Floating Offshore Wind 2022 delegates heard.

Offshore wind champion Tim Pick, who co-chairs the Offshore Wind Acceleration Taskforce, told the Aberdeen conference the floating pipeline is looking healthy, unlike in fixed bottom which is currently projected to miss its 50GW end-decade target.

"I could almost say we are smashing (the 5GW target) but let's not give politicians an excuse to increase it," he said.

Pick told delegates floating wind is a "massive industrial opportunity staring us in the face". However, the suggestion that floating offshore wind is to beat its target is based on "critical assumptions".



SMASHING IT: Tim Pick at FOW 2022

Photo: reNEWS

One is finding bankable foundation designs from the array of concepts currently available. Fabrication will also need to be industrialised to meet demand, while ports will require upgrades, Pick told delegates.

The offshore wind champion also warned that development timelines need to be speeded up as fixed-bottom timescales are increasing.

This is not all down to "clunky" government processes, he said, with some developers banking and phasing acreage build-outs.

However, the acceleration taskforce is working on every step of the development process to see how timelines can be cut, Pick said.

"The aim is to get the 10-year cycle down to five or six years," he told FOW 2022.

Pick believes the new UK government remains committed to accelerating offshore wind deployment, but he has detected a "change of nuance".

Ex-prime minister Boris Johnson regularly asked how many more gigawatts could be added to targets. However, the new regime is more focused on supply chain investment, aligning with the administration's growth agenda, he said.

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UK ports on standby to expand floating wind investment plans

Stronger market signals are needed to spur investment in the huge expansion of ports required to support the roll-out of UK floating offshore wind by the end of the decade.

Associated British Ports (ABP) head of offshore wind Andy Reay, who will address delegates on harbour infrastructure requirements at the Floating Offshore Wind conference tomorrow afternoon, said the industry needs to find a commercial model before it can make the necessary hundreds of millions of pounds of investment.

Floating wind turbine structures are typically assembled quayside, requiring much more space than fixed-bottom ones which are constructed offshore. Long quays and reinforced

ABP calls for clearer signposting to drive forward local supply chain development hubs for Celtic Sea floater boom, writes **Heidi Vella**

assembly and storage areas are needed to handle floaters that can be the size of a football field and weigh up to 15,000 tonnes.

Ports are already drawing up development plans, said Reay. ABP is mulling several business models to transform Port Talbot in Wales into a hub that can eventually handle the anticipated 24GW of floating wind to be deployed in the Celtic Sea.

Privately-owned UK ports usually sell capacity of 10 to 15 years' duration and require early commitments to enable them to make upfront

investments. However, floating offshore wind companies will need to wait for developers to sign seabed licences from the Crown Estate, secure Contracts for Difference, and take final investment decisions on their projects before proceeding.

"There is a failure of timing; we know from the Crown Estate's signposting that the market potential for the Celtic Sea is quite large, but we do not know the winners of the auction process," said Reay. "Expansion needs to start now or we risk losing the opportunity to other locations

in Europe, which is what happened to a large degree with fixed-bottom."

Another uncertainty ports face is around which of the many floater designs developers will choose, as each can have different infrastructure requirements. Such choices could be in part dictated by the port infrastructure that is eventually built, according to Reay.

ABP's own "technology agnostic" plans for Port Talbot include new heavy load-out quays along with fabrication and storage facilities on a 200-acre site, and up to 1200 metres of new quay offering draughts of over 12 metres. Its current development timeline is to have the infrastructure available by 2027-28, but it will need to make an investment decision within the next two years.

Meanwhile, German developer RWE is supporting both Port Talbot and Milford Haven in their applications. It has signed memoranda of understanding to help develop the Welsh ports as it looks to deliver a floating wind project in the Celtic Sea.

RWE senior logistics manager for floating offshore wind Sarah Marshall said it is essential to the future of UK floating wind that ports make the necessary investments.

"It will not be easy to find capacity elsewhere to fulfil UK projects, and for sustainable development we want to look at bringing consistency, skills and jobs to those areas and locations," she stated. ■

Marshall is also speaking at tomorrow afternoon's conference session on ports and harbour investment, which will be held at 2pm in Hall C.



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THE INTERVIEW reNEWS



Fred Olsen Seawind and Vattenfall have joined forces to deliver the Muir Mhòr floating wind farm. Project director **David Hinshelwood** (left) provides an update on the development

Q Fred Olsen Seawind and Vattenfall are developing the 798MW Muir Mhòr in ScotWind's E2 zone, 67km off Scotland's east coast. What attracted the joint venture to this site?

A The site's deep water conditions are well-suited to floating turbine technology, and its location and size allow for efficient project delivery that utilises nearby ports and mobilises the strong marine supply chain on the east coast of Scotland. The north-east of Scotland has a long and proud history of energy innovation and developing Muir Mhòr allows us the opportunity to play a facilitative role in enabling a just transition in the region. We are committed to building on Fred Olsen Seawind and Vattenfall's existing relationships with communities in the region to deliver opportunities for skills development and employment.

Q What experience can the 50:50 partners leverage in bringing a large-scale floating wind farm through development?

A Fred Olsen Seawind and Vattenfall are consistent and trustworthy renewables leaders in Scotland, the UK and Europe, with considerable expertise in technology and innovation and a vast combined portfolio of successful onshore and offshore projects. This includes Vattenfall's European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre in Aberdeen Bay, which is offering the domestic supply chain the chance to test and demonstrate the latest innovations in a real-world

environment. The Muir Mhòr Offshore Wind Farm project team has decades of industry expertise, which we are committed to leveraging in order to deliver one of the world's first commercially-viable floating wind projects – putting the UK on track to hit its target to generate 5GW from floating offshore wind by 2030.

Q The partners are looking at alternative routes to market, such as green hydrogen. What benefits would this bring to the project?

A It is important to us that Muir Mhòr strategically contributes to growth in the clean energy sector. Whilst our plans are at a very early stage, we are exploring alternative off-take solutions and options that can create a legacy for the project.

Q What turbine and substructure design in your view would best fit Muir Mhòr and when can we see a finalised concept?

A The project team is currently undertaking an extensive technology assessment of floating platforms. Paired with the findings from wider ongoing assessments of suitable installation, marshalling and port facilities we will shortlist indicative foundation designs, with the ambition of supporting the leading offerings from turbine manufacturers. Whilst we do not yet have a clear view of how the final design will look, we are actively engaging with industry and the supply chain and will continue to do so as the project progresses.

Q The parties have around £10m of supply chain contracts in procurement. How important is local content to the team?

A Ensuring that we enable opportunities to procure local content is central to our approach for Muir Mhòr. Over £3m has already been awarded to Scottish suppliers in development contracts, and we are delighted with feedback showing our project has conducted the best supply chain engagement to date. We are actively developing work packages and will ensure clear and regular communication with the supply chain community as we progress the scheme.

Q What are the next steps for the project and when are you hoping to generate first power?

A Early ecological and environmental survey work is currently underway at the site, in collaboration with other developers in the E1 and E2 zones. Flidar and metocean analysis will commence before the end of 2022, with geophysical studies taking place early next year. We are awaiting the final grid connection location from HND2 (Holistic Network Design), so the project timeline will be informed by analysis of export and onshore cable route options together with survey findings. We intend to work closely with communities on the onshore aspects of our proposal from an early stage, with consultations on an initial plan starting in 2023. Subject to planning and grid infrastructure provision, we are on schedule to generate in 2030.

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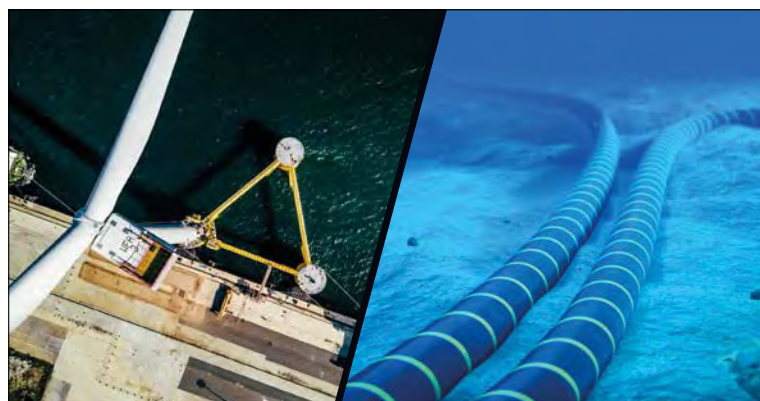
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Day 2 Highlights 13 October 2022

Selected Stream A and Stream B events, plus networking opportunities

Registration & exhibition opening
9.00-9.30, Hall C

Keynote speech

The route to decarbonisation: Offshore wind and leveraging integrated value chains

Hugo Buis *vice president offshore wind power EMEA, Shell*
9.30-9.50, Hall C

A6: Floating wind in the Celtic Sea

The Crown Estate Celtic Sea Leasing Round: what are the expected timelines and opportunities for the supply chain? What already exists and where are the gaps?

Panel discussion

Jane Cooper *Director of Offshore Wind, Offshore Wind Industry Council*

Helen Donovan *Senior Industrial Transformation Manager, Welsh Government*

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Catherine Maloney *Head of Business Development, UK Offshore Wind, Equinor*

Adam Morrison *UK Country Manager, Ocean Winds*

Tim Stiven *Innovation and New Ventures Lead (Marine), The Crown Estate*

Seb Rae *Bid Manager, RWE*

Martin Carruth *Commercial Director, Marine Power Systems*

9.50-11.05, Hall C

Coffee & networking

11.05-11.30, Hall C

Ministerial address

Morag Watson *Director of Policy, Scottish Renewables*

Michael Matheson MSP *Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, Scottish Government*

11.30-12.00, Hall C

Lunch & networking

13.00-14.00, Hall C

A8: Investing in Ports and Harbours for Floating Wind

How well do we understand the future needs of the fixed and floating offshore wind

industries with respect to port infrastructure? Do we know enough about what we need? Where is there still high uncertainty in the business case for major port development / investment? Where are the remaining significant risks?

Panel discussion

Ralph Torr *Head of Floating Offshore Wind, ORE Catapult*

Tom Findlay *Energy Ports Development Manager, Crown Estate Scotland*

Richard Crossick *Head of Public Affairs UK, Ørsted*

Joanne Allday *Strategic*

Business Development Manager, Port of Cromarty Firth

Sarah Marshall *Senior T&I Manager*

- Floating Wind, RWE Renewables
Andy Reay *Head of Offshore Wind, ABP*

14:00-15:00, Hall C

B8: Green hydrogen and floating wind

Route to market and securing demand for hydrogen. Who are the consumers? As traditional offshore wind developers haven't had to consider their end users before, what does that mean for the development of offshore wind to hydrogen projects?

Panel discussion

John MacAskill *Managing Director Renewables, ABL Group*

Clare Lavelle *Director - Energy & Advisory Leader, Arup*

Molly Iliffe *Director, Hydrogen Ventures, ERM*

Caroline Justet *Vice President Europe, Strohm*

14.00-15.00,

Conference room 1AB

Closing remarks

Jane Cooper *Offshore Wind Industry Council*

16.15-16.25, Hall C



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