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Rinse and repeat on turbines to help supply chain invest

The offshore wind supply chain would benefit from standardisation instead of a focus on the 'arms race' to make the next mega turbine, delegates were told on Day 1 at GOW 2023. **p2**

RUK seeks CfD reforms to ease cost pressures

RenewableUK has called on London to address the structure of Contracts for Difference as soon as possible to help meet the challenges of rising costs and supply chain issues. **p3**

Scottish engineer lands SENSEWind demo job

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Profit versus safety battles stifle sector

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Stuart backs 'sound' CfD regime amid costs gloom

UK Energy Minister Graham Stuart (*pictured*) has declared the country's Contracts for Different system is "sound", despite calls for changes to the auction regime to address intense cost pressures swamping the offshore wind sector.

Stuart told reNEWS on the sidelines of GOW 2023 he recognises the impact inflation and the rising cost of finance are having on projects but pointed out developers are still reaching final investment decisions.

The Energy Minister said non-financial criteria are under consideration for the future but declined to commit to any alterations to AR6 next year, saying officials will await the outcome of the current auction before deciding what comes next.

He also declined to comment on questions about the potential for AR5 to be undersubscribed due to the pressure on costs.

However, he pointed out that the government has examined financing and supply chain data in setting the current Allocation Round 5 strike price of £44 per megawatt-hour. Many developers have privately



said this will not be enough to finance projects in the current economic environment.

"There are areas of change such as non-financial factors to bring into CfDs. We always aim to work with stakeholders to make sure there are no shocks. We have a sound system," he said.

Earlier, RenewableUK chief executive Dan McGrail called on the UK government to address the CfD structure as soon as possible to help meet the challenges of rising costs and supply chain issues.

Stuart meanwhile pledged to study grid connections and attract investment to the country's offshore wind industry.

"Grid connections are not where they need to be," Stuart said at the opening session of GOW 2023.

"We need to speed up

facilitation of grid connections because if we can generate the electrons but not get them to where they need to be, then we have to improve."

Stuart said his department is working on a grid connection plan and will report on it later this year, adding it is not just a case of speeding up connection dates but also building networks and infrastructure.

"We are rebuilding our industrial landscape and we need to do it quicker," he said, adding that there needs to be a "national conversation on net zero" to bring people with government on infrastructure delivery onshore.

The minister also said the UK was "open to partnerships here and around the world" to attract investment and maintain growth in offshore wind.

He claimed the investment environment for the UK is positive and he was "extremely confident" in the UK's ability to thrive given its strong regulatory and legal frameworks, as well as the nation's commitment to net zero goals regardless of any potential changes in government following the 2024 general election.

TRENDING ON reNEWS.BIZ

MingYang eyes UK offshore wind market

Operry Group is to form a strategic partnership with MingYang Smart Energy Group as the latter seeks to enter the UK offshore wind market. [Click here](#)

UK offshore wind jobs 'to exceed 100,000 by 2030'

A new report by the Offshore Wind Industry Council predicts a significant increase in jobs in the UK offshore wind sector by 2030, with forecast jobs exceeding 100,000 for the first time. [Click here](#)

Copenhagen Energy receives state backing for Oz project

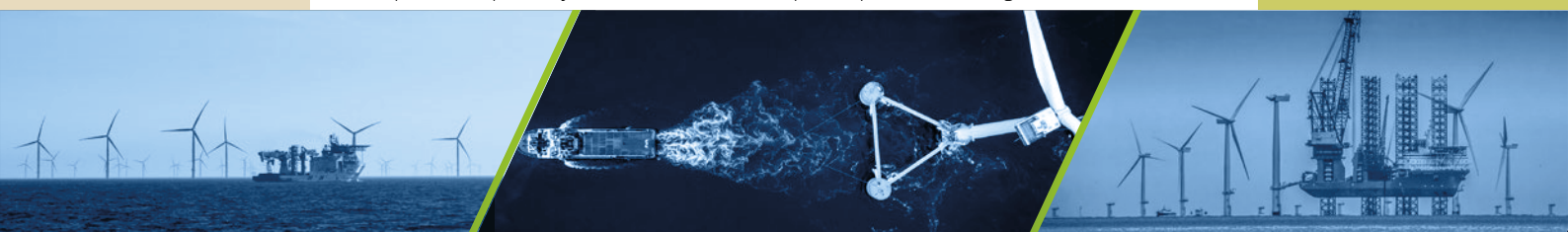
Copenhagen Energy has received support from the Western Australia Government as it progresses plans for its Leeuwin offshore wind farm. [Click here](#)

Semco Maritime bags Baltica 2 substations contract

Semco Maritime and PTSC Mechanical & Construction have been awarded an engineering, procurement and construction contract for the offshore substations for the Baltica 2 project. [Click here](#)

Doris, Equinor ink offshore wind agreement

Doris has been chosen by Equinor to provide owner's engineering services under a master services framework agreement. [Click here](#)



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Rinse and repeat on turbines to help supply chain invest

The offshore wind supply chain would benefit from standardisation instead of a focus on the 'arms race' to make the next mega turbine, delegates were told on Day 1 at GOW 2023.

With the industry looking to grow to meet demand, the urge for larger machines is understandable but could inhibit the development of the supply chain as companies are not certain what the market needs, the conference heard.

Could new vessels, for example, be obsolete once built if they are not capable of installing the latest large facilities, asked DEME Offshore general manager Bart De Poorter.

He said there is a lot of appetite to invest in new vessels, noting: "We see huge

portfolios so it is stupid not to invest. But invest in what? What size and type of vessels? We need visibility and we are struggling with this."

Longer contracts for ships, such as the recent RWE-Jan De Nul long-term double-vessel deal, "is the way forward, it is much more than just signing a contract", added De Poorter (pictured).

Focusing on current turbine technology rather than jumping to brand new platforms will help the supply chain recover and the offshore wind sector grow, delegates heard.

Nils de Baar, president of Northern and Central Europe

at Vestas, said "stabilising technology" will give companies the opportunity "to industrialise and localise global skills in a cost effective way".

"It will take away risk for our customers," said de Baar.

"We have done a huge investment in getting a new turbine to the market, we also need a decent return. All those elements add up. We are in a turbine arms race."

Global business director offshore wind at SSE Renewables Paul Cooley meanwhile said standardisation was critical to floating offshore wind because at present "there are about 20 models" for foundations. The only way to reduce costs for floating offshore wind is to trim these numbers.



Cost pressures here to stay

Cost pressures driving up prices in the supply chain are unlikely to ease in the medium-term, GOW 2023 has heard.

Delegates on Day 1 were told this will hinder the growth of the sector if not addressed.

RWE Renewables offshore chief executive Sven Utermöhlen said: "Costs have risen and I don't expect them to come back down again soon given situations in the global supply chain haven't changed."

"(Offshore wind) is still attractive and is the right thing to do for society. I don't

expect cost levels to come back down to pre-Ukraine levels."

The RWE man pointed out the existing supply chain is also not big enough to deliver the sector's projected expansion.

"There are a number of signs which should make us concerned. If you add up growth projections, the size of offshore wind's supply chain is not big enough to deliver."

"If there isn't enough money in the system then someone will not earn a living, the supply chain breaks and the whole thing doesn't work."

New blood needed to build sector

Gaining access to new talent and building up the workforce are vital to ensure offshore wind can grow, GOW 2023 heard.

Speakers on Day 1 said the success of the sector is not just built in-house or on the supply chain but an understanding of issues such as consenting and regulations is key and depends on an educated workforce.

Equinor Europe business development vice president Justine Burg said: "There are

many ways to address these through inspiring younger generations but it's also

about building bridges with in-house industries. There are a lot of people working within consenting. How can we skill them up with offshore wind competencies so they can bring these technicalities to the sector?"

Speakers also said offshore wind needs to help upskill existing employees and ensure cross-sector integration.



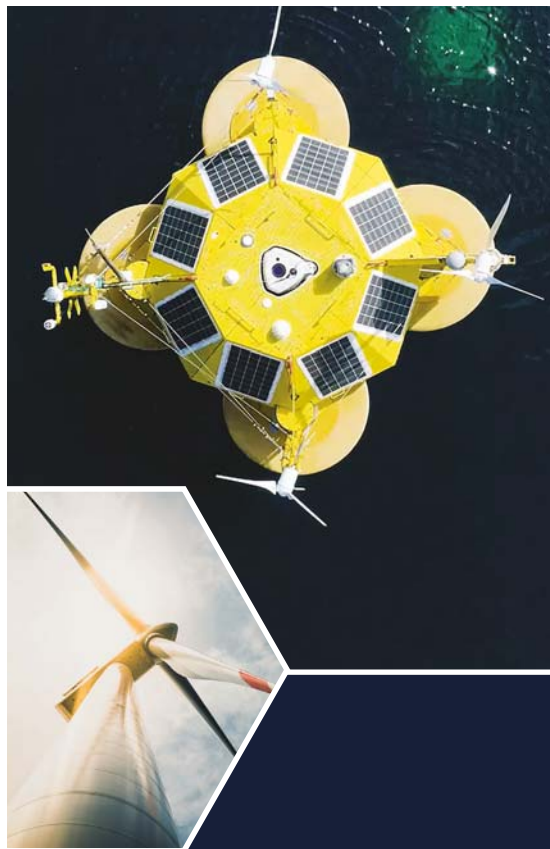
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JDR bags wires gig for 30MW Eolmed site

JDR has secured a contract to supply array cables for Qair's 30MW Eolmed floating wind farm off France.

The UK manufacturer, which is part of the TFK Group, will deliver 66kV-rated dynamic lines, which it will also test and terminate.

Cores will be produced at TFK's Bydgoszcz plant in Poland, before transport and final assembly and testing at JDR's Hartlepool facility in north-east England. The manufacture and delivery of the cables will be completed in the second half of 2024.

Bourbon Offshore Gaïa will transport and install the wires and accessories between each of the 10MW floating turbines and floating electrical hub.

Siemens Gamesa seals blades deal

Siemens Gamesa it to supply RWE with recyclable blades for the 1GW Thor wind farm off Denmark. The manufacturer will fit 40 of 72 14MW units with the kit. Installation is due in 2026 under the deal, which was announced at GOW 2023.

RWE offshore chief executive Sven Utermöhlen said the company is already testing recyclable blades at its Kaskasi project in the German North Sea.

■ Great Yarmouth shipbuilder Alicat Workboats has won a contract to deliver two offshore wind daughter craft for vessel operator North Star. The hybrid-propulsion workboats, designed by Chartwell Marine, will be integrated into North Star's SOV fleet.

Simply Blue and Archirodon team up on Greek floaters

Simply Blue has linked up with Greek developer Archirodon to explore floating offshore wind projects in the latter's home market.

The ArcoBlue alliance will bring together the Irish developer's experience in several markets with Archirodon's energy sector nous, they said. The latter has a 2.5GW onshore portfolio in Greece. Simply Blue chief executive Sam

RUK seeks CfD reforms to ease cost pressures

RenewableUK has called on the UK government to address the structure of Contracts for Difference as soon as possible to help meet the challenges of rising costs and supply chain issues.

The trade group's chief

executive Dan McGrail (pictured) opened GOW 2023 on Day 1 with confidence and realism, pointing



to a "pipeline valued in the trillions" making offshore wind a truly global industry but also one facing many challenges.

Getting the CfD design right for 2024 onwards is vital to help boost the supply chain and skilled workforce, he told delegates in London on Wednesday.

"The stresses on projects

and the supply chain are unlike anything we have experienced in our time," said McGrail, adding the sector is now talking in terms of value rather than price.

"The limits of offshore wind are mostly external," he said.

In terms of employment, McGrail said the UK sector now supports 100,000 jobs, a 7000 increase on 2022 levels, and needs to continue attracting and training the workforce.

However, the supply chain "arms race is heating up" and the UK needs to respond via CfD design and keep attracting investment.

Technological innovation is an area that must be sustained to allow for supply chain growth and export of products and services.

McGrail added more grid connections need to be provided faster to support the build-out of offshore wind.

RES enters Norway, Oz

RES has entered the Norwegian and Australian offshore wind markets.

The developer revealed on Day 1 of GOW 23 it has teamed up with Zephyr to establish the Siravind consortium to bid for one of three plots at the Utsira Nord zone off Norway. The partners are eyeing an up to 500MW project and bids are due by September.

RES is meanwhile exploring a number of areas along the

Australian coast, in particular sites off the southern coast of Victoria in Gippsland.

Offshore commercial director Rob Fradley said: "Our focus is on how we can help build the local industries in both Australia and Norway to capitalise on the growth in the offshore wind sector by supporting local production/fabrication and employment opportunities as we know these are the elements that will foster success."

Roch-Perks said the deal, announced on Day 1 of GOW 2023, marks his company's entry into the Greek market.

"The potential for wind energy in Greece is significant, especially for floaters given the technical characteristics of Greek waters. With a strong naval and maritime heritage and world-class supply chain facilities, the country can become a hub for floating

wind in the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe," he said.

"In 2022, its parliament approved Greece's first Offshore Wind Law. By 2030 Athens wants to build at least 2.6GW of offshore wind, so our ambition is to support this target by bringing the lessons learnt from our early projects and build a footprint for future developments beyond 2030."



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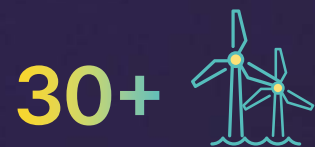
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Scottish engineer lands SENSEWind demo job

Scottish engineering company Caley Ocean Systems has won a deal to manufacture the carriage system for installation technology company SENSEWind's 2MW demo project.

The Glasgow-based outfit,

part of the engineering solutions provider Pryme Group, will fabricate the kit, which is designed to install tower sections and assembled nacelles and rotors.

The carriage is attached to the turbine tower and allows

the nacelle and rotor to be installed without the need for heavy-lift cranes. It is suitable for fixed-bottom and floating offshore wind, as well as onshore.

SENSEWind said a demonstrator is due to be

commissioned in early 2024. The deal will be confirmed at GOW 2023.

"The design is complete and now we start manufacture. The contract signing is a noteworthy step forward for SENSEWind as we bring this game-changing technology to the global wind sector," said board chair Julian Brown at GOW 2023.

"We're delighted to be partnering with Caley, an industry leader in lifting and handling systems, and look forward to seeing the SENSE carriage come to life. The UK supply chain is stepping up and delivering."

"We are delighted to be working in partnership with SENSEWind to bring its revolutionary technology to life in our Glasgow facilities," added Caley managing director Simon Wain.

Uncrewed vessels 'will help satisfy survey demand'

Deploying uncrewed vessels to survey offshore wind farms will enable the sector to meet growing demand for site studies, GOW 2023 will hear.

Fugro business development manager Stephen Thomson said fuel consumption is reduced by more than 95% when using uncrewed surface vessels (USVs) compared to traditional survey ships. They also offer near real-time data delivery and improve the safety of engineers as they are moved to remote operation centres.

Thomson, who is speaking on Day 2, told reNEWS: "Combined with the other capabilities, such as structural and environmental monitoring, USVs are a key component in this transition."

"Instead of a vessel undertaking standalone operations with the results passed on to clients to interpret, the USV will enable us to acquire, analyse, and then provide advice based on the data received."

LANDMARK REACHED: SSE Renewables has published a new report to celebrate 20 years in offshore wind, outlining its journey to become a leading developer. It charts the course since the company completed the 25MW Arklow Bank off east Ireland to the multi-gigawatt pipeline it is pursuing today. The document was unveiled at GOW 2023 by offshore director Paul Cooley (left) and RUK chief executive Dan McGrail.




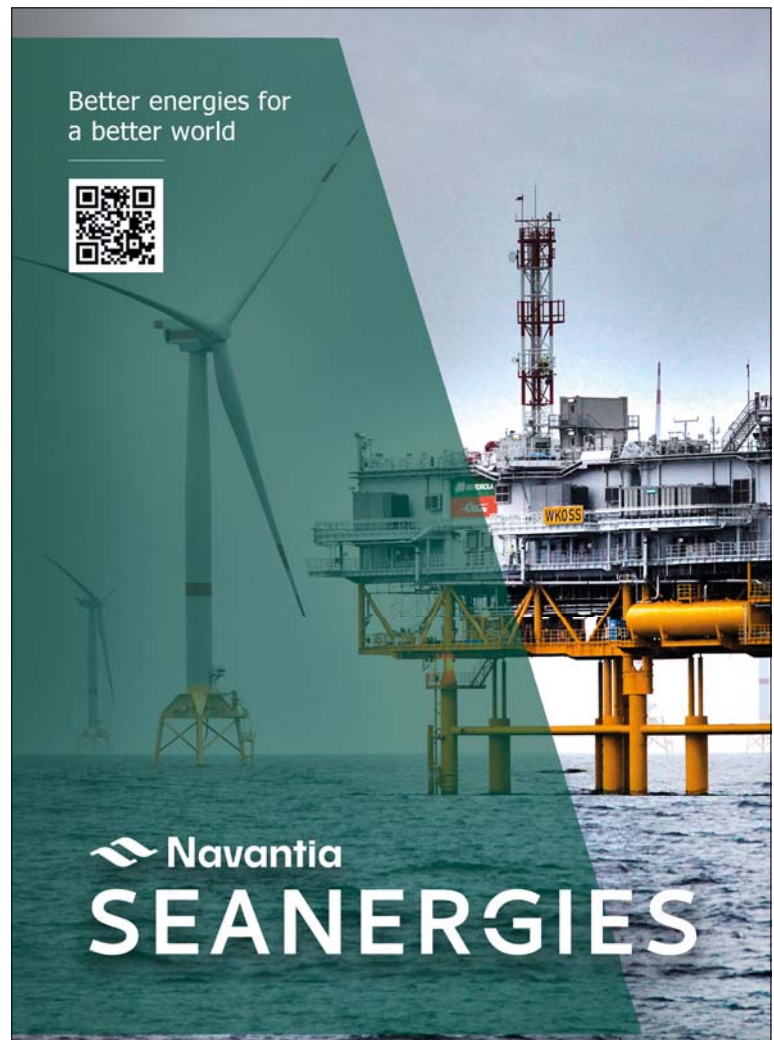

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THE INTERVIEW reNEWS



Setting the scene for GOW 2023, senior industry figures talk to reNEWS about vital issues shaping the sector. Today it is the turn of Vestas Northern & Central Europe president **Nils de Baar** (left)

Q What is Vestas's main message at GOW 2023 in London this week?

A Our key message revolves around the expected growth of offshore wind which necessitates a sustainable and profitable supply chain capable of reinvesting in scalability. Vestas is convinced that this is best achieved if we leverage the technology that is readily available to us, allowing for the industrialisation and localisation of proven technology on a global scale.

Growing sustainably is another critical aspect we must address. Rising supply chain costs and the continual decrease in Contracts for Difference prices pose significant challenges to achieving the growth we need. It is essential that the CfD rounds enable manufacturers to produce at a sustainable price.

Q How does the UK fare against other markets such as the US and EU in terms of incentivising the establishment of supply chain manufacturing, and what needs to change?

A The UK has experienced growth in the offshore wind sector for several years, benefiting from its world-class wind resource. In terms of incentivising the establishment of the wind supply chain, the UK now faces strong competition from other markets.

Offshore wind is growing globally, with markets around the world competing for investment. The US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provides market opportunities and major incentives to invest.

The EU has responded with the Green Deal Industrial Plan. The UK, just like anywhere else in the world, needs to be an internationally-competitive location with a growing market and measures to attract supply chain investment.

Q What needs to be done to ensure a sustainable global workforce and financially sustainable global supply chain to deliver on offshore wind targets and meet climate goals?

A The magnitude of the planned build-out of offshore wind means that there is a growing need for a sustainable and profitable supply chain that can continue to reinvest into scale.

One of the biggest challenges for the supply chain's ability to deliver is the ever-shortening lifecycle of existing products. Increasingly larger turbines challenge the entire industry's ability to develop reliable, optimised technology and threatens sustainable and robust supply chains. Ever-bigger turbines means bigger components, and this requires us and suppliers to constantly invest in new tools, new moulds, new manufacturing, cranes, vessels and ports.

What we need are reliable world-class quality turbines that can be industrialised and localised at a global scale. We need to focus on deploying the proven technology we already have – enabling the development of a sustainable and scalable supply chain – and on expanding the infrastructure needed to execute and operate our projects.

Q How concerned are you by cost pressures in the sector right now, and what is your view of non-price criteria for future CfD rounds in the UK?

A Cost pressures in the wind sector are a major issue. Over the past two years project costs have escalated by 30% to 40%, while CfD prices have been decreasing. The combination of sustained inflation and decreasing CfD prices poses a challenge for the market and industry. I agree that well-designed non-price criteria have the potential to be part of the solution. They could ensure that CfD prices accurately reflect the costs and value associated with the substantial investments required in infrastructure, supply chain capacity, skilled workforce, and technological advancements.

Q Energy Minister Graham Stuart is addressing GOW 2023 on Day 1; what is the key message he needs to hear from the sector?

A I can of course only speak for Vestas. We stand ready to support the continued expansion of offshore wind to reach the UK government's goal of 50GW by 2030. However, the ambitious plans and investments must be economically viable: indeed, the projects and supply investments must be financially viable. Offshore wind projects are capital-intensive and CfD prices are one of the biggest drivers for the realisation. Hence, CfDs need to reflect the cost environment we are in and provide the incentives to sustain the level of investment required.

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Profit versus safety battles stifle sector



Better long-term decision-making and incentive structures will cut down on firefighting, says ARMSA Academy chief technology officer **Rakesh Maharaj**

In the offshore renewable energy sector, deep in the inner sanctum of a project operations centre, traditional thinking pits profit versus safety. You have to choose one or the other. If you are in project operations, you know what I mean.

Profit versus safety is a false dilemma, holding the sector back at a time when it most needs to flourish. At the highest levels, in prepared speeches, profit and safety sit on the same side of the table – as they should.

However, somewhere between the board room and the operations centre, safety is shoved to the other side of the table and the two priorities square off against each other in a battle of short-term decision-making.

Asset developers, owners, service providers and manufacturers all play a crucial role in the race to our climate targets. The need for renewable energy is high and we are under immense pressure to deliver. We are all in this together.

While everyone shares the same dream, however, the

real work often happens in a disjointed manner across internal departments, and profitability pressure drives supply chain participants to optimise only their own operation.

From a risk point of view, it is challenging to identify problematic or marginal projects before the construction phase, which results in organisations constantly finding themselves in firefighting mode.

Additionally, as gigawatt-scale projects become the norm we see a growing number of farm-downs, joint venture arrangements, and consortium partnerships. Projects can transform

markedly over time, but much of the tacit knowledge does not transfer between stakeholders, which leads to more firefighting.

Conventional management and safety training cannot solve these problems. They are too slow to support the blistering sector growth rate. The result is the status quo – project delays, high downtime, frequent repairs, frustration within teams, and safety concerns.

I believe the only way to solve these problems is to keep profit and safety on the same side of the table in your business. This will require a different mindset which has to start at the top. It is essential

that senior executives embrace a systems-thinking approach that re-aligns reality with operational and safety performance. It is taking a brutally honest look at how your organisational capability stacks up against your operational demand. Simply throwing people at it is not how you increase your capability.

I have no doubt that profit and safety are both possible. It all depends on mindset, longer-term decision-making, and incentive structure. After all, these outcomes – safety, reliability, profitability, optimal performance – actually do sit on the same side of the table. In the long run a safer

work environment is a more profitable one.

Humans run on incentives. Companies, too. An asset manager who knows they will be reprimanded for shutting down a turbine due to a moderate safety concern will be less likely to do so, even if it goes against better judgement. When we incentivise the correct action the long-term benefits are exponential.

The offshore renewables sector is approaching a new dawn – new opportunities, new markets and new projects are all poised to accelerate after we emerge from this current challenging period.

Perhaps your company will enter new territories. You have a fresh opportunity now to think holistically across the business, to bring short-term and long-term decision-making into better balance.

You have an opportunity to keep profit and safety on the same side of the table, to re-think incentives so that your staff feel empowered to make the right call – a safe call – every time. ■



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After a fantastic first day, there are even more exciting sessions to join and opportunities to connect throughout the event today.

For instance, why not join delegates for a conversation with Ed Milliband MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State of Climate Change and Net Zero? He will present his vision for the UK's offshore wind industry in Stream A at 09:15. You also won't want to miss Gillian Martin MSP, Minister for Energy, Scottish government, as she discusses how we might deliver on Scotland's floating wind potential, also in Stream A at 09:50-10:10.

The final ministerial keynote will be presented by Vaughan Gething MS, Minister for Economy, Welsh government, at 10:30 in Stream A. He will be discussing achievements in the offshore wind sector to date, and considering how the government may support growth of the industry.

Among other sessions of interest to delegates will be a panel discussion around future-proofing our electricity markets. Experts from an array of organisations will provide an overview of the current electricity sectors around the globe before moving onto how we might facilitate and broaden the benefits of renewable energy generation.

If you haven't already, this is your last chance to discover the innovative EnergyPulse platform, which provides real-time insight into the global offshore wind market. The RenewableUK EnergyPulse team will be available to deliver live demonstrations of the platform and discuss one-to-one how it could support your organisation. It is offered free to RenewableUK members and is available for a small fee to non-members, so book your slot with the team today. You can make your booking via the RenewableUK event app.

Plus, don't forget to swing by the Switch List Coffee Morning in South Gallery Meeting Room 2, where you can meet Switch List speakers and support RenewableUK's campaign to boost diversity and inclusivity across the offshore wind industry (09:30-11:00).

We hope you have another great day at GOW23.

Thursday's Highlights

Floating voter

Join this session to hear how INTOG projects off Scotland and Celtic Sea sites can be delivered amid challenges facing the nascent floating offshore wind sector. Includes contributions from ScottishPower Renewables, Aker Solutions and Crown Estate Scotland.

1030-1130, Stream A, Platinum 1

Future proof

Siemens Energy, National Grid Ventures and SSE Renewables speakers give an overview of electricity market reforms happening around the world. The sessions will also discuss how to enable the benefits of renewables generation.

1145-1245, Stream A, Platinum 1

Over hurdles

Xodus's Lauren McIntosh discusses the primary challenges



and obstacles facing small- and medium-size businesses in the offshore wind supply chain.

1300-1310, Energy Transition Zone

Belt tightening

Join Acteon Group's Tim Eyles to get an insight into how to reduce operational expenditure on floating offshore wind projects using a holistic O&M strategy.

1345-1355, Innovation Theatre

Market entries

How can you navigate regulations to emerging markets to broaden your horizon? That question and more will be answered by a panel of speakers including the Undersecretary Felix William Fuentebella, undersecretary at the Department of Energy in the Philippines.

1415-1515, Stream A, Platinum 1

On manoeuvres

Mission Renewable's James Cameron gives a talk on engagement between the Armed Forces and the renewables sector.

1515-1525, Supply Chain Hub

Need for speed

BP's Richard Sandford, David Rowen of Vestas and outgoing offshore wind champion Tim Pick join a panel to discuss how to accelerate offshore wind delivery.

1530-1630, Stream A, Platinum 1

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- **Smart Energy NI 2023** | 19 October 2023 | Belfast
- **Global Offshore Wind Awards 2023** | 26 October | London
- **Future Energy Wales 2023** | 6–7 November 2023 | Newport
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