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Principle Power unveils foundations blueprint

Floating foundations outfit Principle Power it to outline a new industrialisation vision at FOW 2023 this week to deploy 300 WindFloat bases by the end of 2030. **p2**

RUK seeks Coutinho talks to discuss revamp of CfDs

RenewableUK is seeking a meeting with London to make its case for an overhaul of the Contracts for Difference regime for floating offshore wind, the trade body will tell FOW 2023. **p3**



UK needs long-term plan to back floating

London must change its approach in future auctions to restore confidence, writes ORE Catapult head of floating offshore wind Ralph Torr. **p5**

ABP plans Cromarty Firth floating wind manufacturing hub

Associated British Ports is exploring establishing a major offshore wind manufacturing and assembly facility on the Cromarty Firth in Scotland.

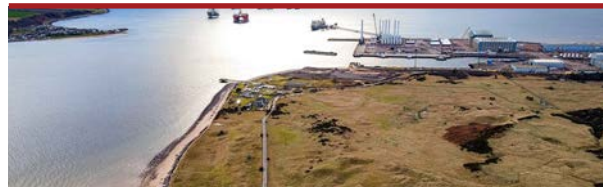
The port operator has signed an option agreement for a large parcel of land at Pitcalzean Farm adjacent to the existing Nigg Energy Park that would host the infrastructure development.

The deal clears ABP, which will outline its plans at Floating Offshore Wind 2023 this week in Aberdeen, to carry out detailed investigations and local consultations for the proposal.

Acreage is within the proposed Nigg and Pitcalzean tax site of the Inverness and Cromarty Firth Green Freeport, which would offer tax efficiencies to users.

It has easy access to the North Sea, the right physical characteristics to serve fixed and floating offshore wind, and is close to a number of facilities already active in energy, ABP said.

The proposal is being seen as adding value to the existing



IN THE MIX: Associated British Ports has signed an option agreement on a tract of land at Pitcalzean Farm

Photo: ABP

Cromarty Firth offerings, and is particularly crucial for upcoming ScotWind floating offshore wind farms, which require large port hubs for manufacturing and assembly of foundations and turbines.

ABP head of offshore wind Andy Reay said the “bespoke” plan is at an early stage and the company may have a facility in place to support construction of the first wave of ScotWind projects.

“This is an exciting development that plays a vital role in the UK government’s net zero targets and its stated requirements for offshore wind projects in Scottish waters,” he said.

Experts estimates the cost of such a facility to be well into the hundreds of millions

of pounds. Several companies are already exploring setting up shop in and around the area, including Japanese cable company Sumitomo.

ABP chief executive Henrik Pedersen added: “This new project emphasises ABP’s commitment to supporting green growth projects and is closely linked to our recently launched sustainability strategy – Ready for Tomorrow – which sets out plans for reaching net zero from our own operations by 2040.

“We are excited to explore the potential of Nigg, applying our experience from our Port Talbot development. We look forward to working with key local partners, the community and public sector stakeholders.”

WEDNESDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

The Holyrood mood

Scottish Energy Minister Gillian Martin addresses delegates during the opening session of Floating Offshore Wind 2023 alongside Scottish Renewables chief executive Claire Mack.

Stream A, Conference Suite 1, 0900-0930

Industrious industrialisation

Join this “state-of-the-nation” overview of the sector in the UK. Panellists will address what industrialised floating offshore wind looks like and deal with questions around what it needs from government to support that vision.

Stream A, Conference Suite 1, 0930-1030

Pedal to the metal

When it comes to getting projects in the water and commissioned, who needs to step up and who needs to step aside? That is the question panellists from Corio, SPR and Orsted will attempt to answer in this session on accelerating development.

Stream A, Conference Suite 1, 1100-1200

Poetry in motion

The team behind the Ossian project, the largest seabed lease awarded in the ScotWind auction, outlines its plans and hosts experts to highlight innovative industry solutions.

SSE Renewables Theatre, Exhibition Hall, 1215-1255

Work the room

Network like a pro at this year’s official networking reception, sponsored by Mainstream Renewable Power.

Exhibition Hall, 1700-1900

THE INTERVIEW reNEWS

Today, ScottishPower Renewables offshore managing director Gillian Noble. **p4**

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FLOATING OFFSHORE WIND 2023

Day 1 highlights

Deep impact
A deep dive session on environmental impacts from floaters. ORE Catapult and Xodus are among those represented.

Deep Dive Sessions, Conference Suite 3, 0930-1200

Grid game
How significant is the issue of timely grid connection for UK floating offshore wind? Get the inside track from a panel of speakers including from National Grid ESO, Ofgem and SSEN Transmission.

Stream B, Conference Suite 2, 1300-1400

Careful now
A forum including officials from G+ and IMCA will discuss whether the floating industry has enough awareness of specific health and safety issues. Speakers will also address critical areas and potential bottlenecks for different life stages of commercial-scale projects.

Stream B, Conference Suite 2, 1430-1530

Moor, moor, moor
Dublin Offshore's Danny Golden gives his take on cost-effective mooring design with a load reduction device for a Celtic Sea test and demonstration project.

SSE Renewables Theatre, Exhibition Hall, 1530-1540

Thank you to our partners








Principle Power unveils foundations blueprint

Floating foundations outfit Principle Power it to outline a new industrialisation vision at FOW 2023 this week to deploy 300 WindFloat bases by the end of 2030.

Chief commercial officer Aaron Smith told reNEWS ahead of the show the 300x30 plan would help create 60,000

full-time jobs. The company will outline a four-point roadmap including the launch of new products such as WindFloat F, introduced last month.

Principle Power aims to maximise automation and minimise schedules to improve throughput of

bases, assure high quality and reduce the levelised cost of electricity. The company wants to accelerate final assembly processes through modularity and develop "productive collaboration" with the supply chain including purpose-built, automated facilities in the future.

Smith said the vision also includes a call to policymakers to provide clear directions on market frameworks. This includes a coordinated, streamlined permitting process, timely build of transmission to make development timelines predictable and clarity on public/private port investment strategies.

The plan calls on industry to "prioritise realistic project schedules, costs and execution plans" and to choose proven technologies and experienced contractors to deliver projects on time and on budget.

'We must learn from car makers'

Floating wind developers should learn lessons from the Lego-loving car industry to slash the cost of building sub-structures and reduce lead times.

Andrew Strowbridge, associate director at BVG Associates, will tell the FOW 2023 conference embracing platform architecture and standardising manufacturing processes could help the sector cope with the "speed bumps" of rising concrete and steel prices. Strowbridge

pointed to a new "unboxed" final automotive process from car maker Tesla that could improve utilisation of factory space and manufacturing time at the company by 30%.

"In the same way, the floating wind industry could have broadly standard dimensions such as maximum tip height and standard processes and manufacturing lines for flat panels, tubular and prefabricated concrete," he said.

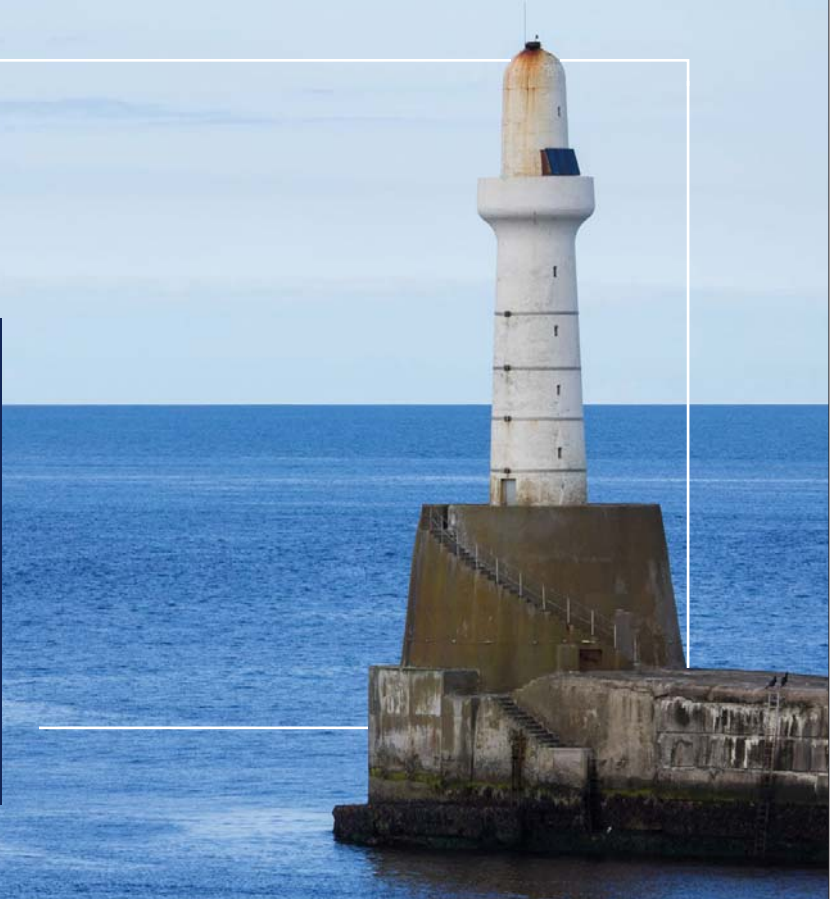
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Stand K20: MarramWind & CampionWind

We're working to deliver some of the world's first large-scale commercial floating windfarms.

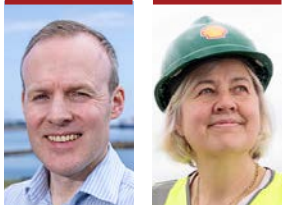
MarramWind & CampionWind could deliver up to 5 GW of renewable energy – that's enough renewable electricity to power more than 6 million homes.

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Our sponsors open the FOW doors

A very warm welcome to Aberdeen for Floating Offshore Wind 2023, write MarramWind and CampionWind project director **Richard Eakin** and deputy project director **Denise Neill**



For the first time, ScottishPower Renewables and Shell are attending and supporting the event under the banner of our floating wind joint ventures. Given recent debates about the importance of net zero and the role of offshore wind in getting us there, this year's conference is more significant than ever before.

Quite simply, there is no net zero without offshore wind, and floaters will be a huge part of that.

The FOW sector won't just deliver an unprecedented amount of clean, green electricity – it means billions of pounds in investment and thousands of jobs.

As we all know, building green assets that will last for 20 or 30 years doesn't come without its challenges, with cost being one of the biggest.

New technologies like floating wind will always be more expensive to begin with, but we know from

experience prices will come down. We also have a golden opportunity to establish a homegrown supply chain, attract investment into Scotland and lead innovation in the sector.

Through MarramWind and CampionWind, we're giving that a real helping hand, with a total of £50m from our stimulus funds to directly support the local supply chain.

There's also the challenge of getting projects through the consenting process.

However, setting the course for how we will collectively bring commercial-scale floating wind to our waters is exactly what we're here to discuss. We know there will be lots of engaging conversations over the next couple of days.

We're proud to be here at MarramWind and CampionWind and working with you all to chart the course to a floating net zero future.



RUK seeks Coutinho talks to discuss revamp of CfDs

RenewableUK is seeking a meeting with the UK government to make its case for an overhaul of the Contracts for Difference regime for floating offshore wind, the trade body will tell FOW 2023.

Senior policy analyst on emerging technologies Laurie Heyworth told reNEWS ahead of the Aberdeen event the outcome of this year's CfD auction, which failed to secure any capacity for the sector despite about 250MW being ready to build, means a step-change is urgently needed.

"We are calling on the government to change its emphasis, to focus on

deployment and growing the UK's supply chain, as opposed to the current race to the bottom on securing the lowest conceivable strike price."

RUK has written to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero Claire Coutinho asking for a meeting to discuss its views in more detail, so it "can ensure the UK seizes the industrial benefits of developing innovative green technology and ports around the country".

"The government needs to set the administrative strike price for floating wind at a level which is consistent with market realities and the

costs associated with these projects."

Heyworth believes major cost reduction in the floating industry can only happen once a large, healthy fleet of operational stepping-stone projects has been built.

"Fortunately, the government's target of reaching 5GW of floating wind target by 2030 remains achievable. But the next CfD auction and future rounds need to be underpinned by sustainable parameters in order to maximise deployment, drive down costs and incentivise investment into domestic supply chains," Hayworth said.

Crown Estate boosts Celtic Sea auction to 4.5GW

The Crown Estate has increased the capacity target for its Round 5 Celtic Sea leasing round to 4.5GW.

The seabed landlord said the exercise, which was previously billed as a 4GW process, will now award

development rights for three 1.5GW areas, down from the four 1GW zones originally planned.

The changes to the round were revealed in an update published ahead of FOW 2023, which also confirmed

developers can only secure one plot each.

An information memorandum is expected to be published before the end of this year ahead of the formal start of the tender process.

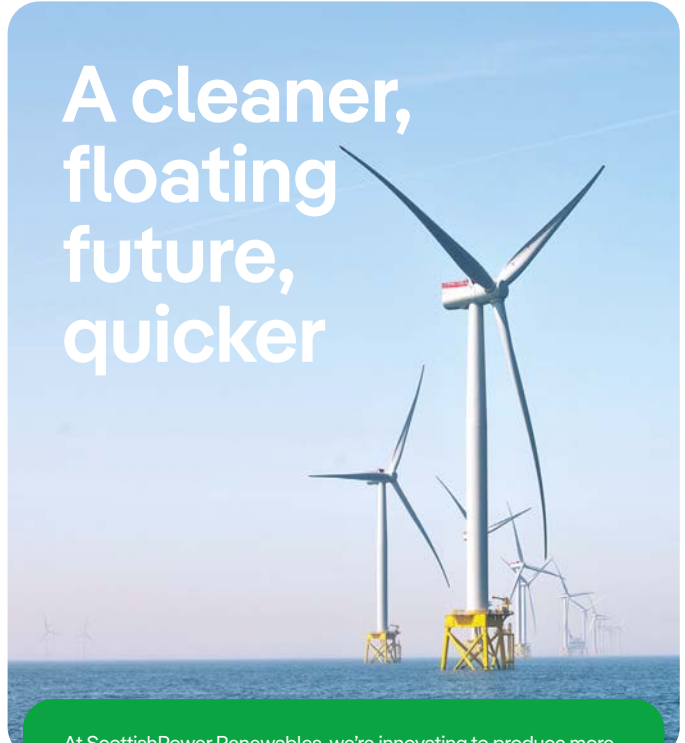
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At ScottishPower Renewables, we're innovating to produce more homegrown green electricity and deliver long-term energy security through new technologies – including floating offshore wind. Supporting the supply chain and local partners, we're powering a new green industry and a clean energy future for us all.



THE INTERVIEW reNEWS



ScottishPower Renewables offshore managing director **Gillian Noble** (left) explains the steps needed to deliver floating offshore wind's 5GW by 2030 target for the UK

Q What is your main message at FOW 2023 this week?

A We all know the size and scale of the opportunities floating offshore wind will create for Scotland and the UK and collectively we need to ensure we are geared up to deliver on ambitions for the sector.

At ScottishPower Renewables, we are starting to develop two exciting sites in partnership with Shell that will bring an unprecedented amount of green electricity on to the grid while delivering billions in investment.

To do that, we need a planning system that supports project development alongside appropriate scrutiny, an ambitious Contracts for Differences (CfD) auction strategy that offers sustainable pricing and forward-looking certainty to developers and the supply chain, investment to upgrade the UK's port infrastructure, effective programmes to grow a skilled workforce, and the framework to speed up the organisation and delivery of grid infrastructure so the green electricity produced can get where it needs to go.

Q What is your reaction to the AR5 result for floating wind?

A The lack of any offshore wind, fixed or floating, is a massive missed opportunity for government,

industry, supply chain and consumers. The CfD scheme helped establish the UK as a global leader in the sector and has given us a headstart in the race to deliver the economic and environmental benefits of net zero, but it has to keep pace with the external environment.

The AR5 outcome is a real wake-up call for government.

Q What needs to change in AR6 to support the sector?

A Most of the current floating wind pipeline will be looking to auction rounds beyond next year, but government needs to put the mechanisms in place now to take account of the cost pressures faced by industry.

To guarantee the success of floating wind and support its transition to commercial scale, London must ringfence budget in AR6 and future tenders.

We also need to see a roadmap from government for auctions, setting out the expected capacity procured and the budgets. This will allow investment to continue at scale and pace.

Q What is SPR's view on the latest design of the Round 5 Celtic Sea lease auction?

A We don't believe uncapped financial auctions, such as that being proposed for AR5, are the best

way to deliver offshore wind projects at the best value to the consumer. This is more likely to come through leasing processes which recognise the capability and experience of the participants, and which focus on the strength of the developments being proposed.

The requirements for port integration and environmental and social value creation are welcomed, but when the ultimate determinant is price, it is difficult to see how meaningful these will be for Wales and the south-west.

Q Is the 5GW by 2030 sector target still a viable one?

A It is challenging, but achievable, as long as we build momentum and address the barriers to growth and investment like planning, grid infrastructure and the auction process.

But it is not just about what we can achieve over the next seven years – government also needs to develop longer-term targets beyond 2030 and a clear strategy for how we accelerate the deployment of floating wind, deliver the pipeline of commercial-scale projects and drive costs down.

Floating wind is a real game-changer that will create a new green industry in the UK, open up incredible opportunities for local supply chains and deliver economic and social benefits far beyond the green energy wind farms will produce.

It's up to all of us to make that happen.

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The outcome of Allocation Round 5 has laid bare the disconnect between the current realities of financing, constructing, and operating large-scale offshore wind projects in the UK, and the availability of support mechanisms to facilitate them.

While next year's AR6 offers another chance to get back on track with deployment, rebuilding investor and sector confidence will not be such an easy fix. A significant change of approach between government and industry to ensure auctions facilitate the required offshore installation, economic growth, energy security and the appetite of backers is urgently needed.

Within AR5, support for FOW was absent, as neither the strike prices nor overall budgets facilitated the scale of UK projects.

With the potential to unlock more than 250MW of deployment in the Celtic Sea, off north-east England and Scotland, the lack of support was a setback for the sector. This is especially stark in the context of other technologies included in Pot 2 such as tidal, which were afforded

UK needs long-term plan to back floating



London must change its approach in future auctions to restore industry and investor confidence, writes ORE Catapult head of floating offshore wind **Ralph Torr** (left)

appropriate and higher levels of backing. While the country has world-leading volumes of floaters entering development, deployment is the key driver of cost reduction. As such, AR5 will be seen as a missed opportunity to allow industry to take a significant step forward.

The UK has long maintained its position as a global leader in floating, giving its domestic supply chain a unique advantage to deploy projects and services. However, other international markets are catching up, each with support mechanisms designed to attract investment, infrastructure, logistics and innovation.

Given the vital role FOW will play in the delivery of net zero, how can stakeholders

ensure AR6 and beyond facilitates the growth of the sector, which will in turn drive deployment, economic growth, and energy security?

First, we must develop a shared understanding between industry and government regarding the cost reduction pathways for floating, and the actions to facilitate it. This is vital to maximise UK opportunities, with support for all involved to secure equitable returns.

We also need a long-term vision and delivery plan to deploy the volumes of offshore wind to achieve a cost-effective net zero. This is vital to building confidence and unlocking investment in projects, infrastructure

and supply chain capacity. Headline figures for leasing round allocations are not the same as a credible pipeline of site development and delivery. The latter is the result of long-term planning that identifies and allocates the key actions needed.

Support for critical port and site infrastructure in the next 12 months is also required, unlocking significant short-term private investment. There are several such projects that demand urgent government support to allow them to move forward and rebuild sector confidence.

Within the UK's Floating Offshore Wind Task Force, in collaboration with ORE Catapult's Floating Offshore

Wind Centre of Excellence (FOW CoE), a detailed range of actions for the sector are being developed. If enacted, they will deliver these outcomes.

In this context, stakeholders are well-placed to respond in a rapid, coordinated fashion, ensuring the UK maximises the opportunity presented by AR6 and beyond, and rebuilds confidence in the ability of industry and government to work together for mutual success.

■ Torr will take part in the panel discussion 'Accelerating Progress: Time to step up or step aside?' on Day 1 at 1100.

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