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LIVE @ IPF 2024



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23 April 2024

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Workforce Summit

The summit is a participatory gathering of workforce development leaders, experts, government officials, and others to foster partnerships and new programmes.

Tuesday, 0800-1730, Hilton - Churchill A&B

What's new and spinning

Dominion Energy, Attentive Energy and Invenery give offshore wind portfolio updates in New Orleans.

Tuesday, 1430-1550, Sea Change Stage, Exhibit Hall

Plenary session

Speakers including US Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, Atlantic Shores chief Joris Veldhoven, NYSERDA boss Doreen Harris and US Deputy Energy Secretary David Turk address key issues in the sector.

Wednesday, 0830-1030, Great Hall A&D

The IRA and offshore wind

Industry and government leaders review the impacts of the IRA and what long-term benefits should be expected.

Wednesday, 1300-1400, Room 217

Playing politics

Gain an understanding of the successful methodologies to develop Conservative champions for clean energy.

Wednesday, 1545-1645, Rooms 220-221

Singing the blues

Join your industry colleagues for drinks, food, and live music from Making Wind.

Wednesday, 2000-0000, House of Blues

Gulf poised to become US shipbuilding centre

The Gulf of Mexico is primed to become a hotbed of Jones Act-compliant vessel construction given the area's oil and gas heritage. IPF 2024 will hear this week in New Orleans. **p2**

Gulf of Mexico states in pole position

Conditions on Gulf coast are perfect for region to mirror rise of Boston as offshore wind hub, with IPF 2024-host state Louisiana particularly well-placed to capitalise. **p3**

Change happening as supply chain bursts into life

After a year of setbacks left the sector in the doldrums, 2024 is seeing it bounce back and move in the right direction, says Oceantic Network chief executive Liz Burdock. **p4**



Louisiana makes play to spearhead US supply chain

Louisiana will set out its stall this week to become the home of the US offshore wind supply chain as it welcomes delegates to the Pelican State for IPF 2024.

Businesses across the value chain will capitalise on increasing demand for offshore wind energy across the US, according to new research to be launched in New Orleans.

The report, compiled by global energy consultancy Xodus and the Pew Research Trust, will contain recommendations to spur development by harnessing existing expertise in the energy sector, it is understood.

In total, the study will make nearly 20 suggestions to Louisiana authorities, developers, suppliers, and players across education and workforce training.

Pew senior officer Courtney Durham Shane told reNEWS the research demonstrates the state has an oil and gas workforce primed to



REPORT: Courtney Durham Shane
Photo: Pew Research Trust

transition to offshore wind. The report will identify particular suppliers best suited to make the switch. "Louisiana has a unique opportunity to establish itself as the leader for the offshore wind supply chain," said Shane.

The Louisiana Offshore Wind Supply Chain Assessment will be launched on Thursday morning at the Ernest Morial Convention Center.

"Louisiana businesses have been instrumental in using their offshore expertise to help build this

emerging energy sector since the first US offshore wind farm was constructed near Rhode Island," the research consortium added.

RWE Americas chief Sam Eaton told reNEWS the Gulf's companies and workforce have been "instrumental" in the first American projects and that role will only grow as the industry scales up.

The German developer controls the only active lease area in the region's waters.

"Not only will the existing expertise in offshore energy, shipbuilding and maritime manufacturing be essential to American offshore wind, but the Gulf region will also be developing innovative technology for the industry that can be exported to markets around the world," he said.

The report will be launched by officials and experts from the Pew Charitable Trusts, Greater New Orleans Inc, Port of Lake Charles, Xodus Group, Nunez Community College, and Grand Isle Shipyard.

We exhibit at 2024 IPF April 22-25, in New Orleans

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Gulf poised to become US shipbuilding centre

The Gulf of Mexico is primed to become a hotbed of Jones Act-compliant vessel construction given the area's oil and gas heritage, IPF 2024 will hear this week in New Orleans.

Shipbuilding is a lot cheaper in the region than on the east coast of the country, making it more attractive for the offshore wind sector, Clarksons broker Tyler Boje told reNEWS.

The company will host a panel on Wednesday at the annual conference discussing vessel issues in the nascent US sector. Speaking ahead

of the event, Boje said there are cheaper labour costs and well-developed port infrastructure along the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition, there is a mentality to work 24/7, Boje said, as opposed to the more heavily unionised north-east with its densely populated coastline that leaves less room for port and shipyard development. However, the Clarksons man said offshore wind vessel operators will face stiff competition from the oil and gas industry for access to yards.

"The Jones Act makes

it a captive market, and elevates the cost," Boje said, adding costs in the US have increased faster than in the rest of the world.

Another factor slowing the development of vessels in the country has to do with the US Coast Guard, Boje said.

"The US is different than other regions in the world because the US Coast Guard gets involved more heavily than in foreign areas," Boje said, explaining the Federal Code of Regulations around ships is interpreted differently by the service branch in various regions.

Call for states to standardise wind policy

Trade association Oceanic is calling for a standardised approach to key offshore wind policy from US states.

The group said in a new report it believes procurement models, supply chains, data collection, and tax guidance across the sector should be the same.

The study, released ahead of IPF 2024, is based on feedback from industry leaders taken at Oceanic's Leadership 100 Summit late last year and issues 10 separate calls for action.

First among them is the call for the formation of an ad-hoc committee that would study state procurement models

throughout the country at a time of market transition, and determine how the plan "can be adjusted to build stability, maximise benefits, and drive down costs".

Oceanic also declares in the report it will continue to advocate for a shared and coordinated transmission strategy, and push out new research on port development needs in order to de-risk projects.

The current levelised cost of electricity model is outdated, the study argues, and industry should build a more relevant understanding of costs and benefits.

In order to do so, the sector

needs to collect better data, the report states. Better data would help it explain what is driving up costs and make the case for shared infrastructure like ports and transmission.

The trade association also called for the swift issuance of tax guidance in the wake of the passage of the US government's Inflation Reduction Act.

The summit "produced critical insights on how the industry can ensure its success into the future by bringing together industry leaders to identify shared hurdles to growth and find concrete ways to address them", it added.

IPF delegates hungry for inside line on NY auctions after Round 3 spiked

IPF 2024 delegates will seek information from New York officials this week on the next steps for offshore wind auctions after authorities pulled the plug on the 4GW Round 3.

Attendees in New Orleans will be looking for some indication from speakers, including New York State Energy and Research Authority (NYSERDA) chief Doreen Harris, on the fallout from the decision last week not to progress three 1.3GW schemes selected last October. Harris is due to speak during the plenary session on

Wednesday at IPF 2024. NYSERDA said last week GE Vernova's ditching of an 18MW turbine – first revealed by subscriber-only reNEWS in February – has caused "material changes" to Corio, Total and Rise Light & Power's 1.3GW Attentive 1, RWE and National Grid Ventures' 1.3GW Community and Vineyard Offshore's 1.3GW Excelsior.

NYSERDA also provisionally awarded \$300m of New York State grant funding to GE Vernova and LM Wind Power for nacelle and blade manufacturing in New York's Capital Region,



SPEAKER: Doreen Harris

Photo: NYSERDA

which was associated with the provisionally awarded projects.

NYSERDA said it is taking "proactive measures" to respond and address head on "evolving challenges" facing the offshore wind industry.



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Gulf states in pole position

Conditions are perfect for region to mirror rise of Boston, writes **Michael Lee-Murphy**

renews.biz

The Gulf coast is poised to become a key region for US offshore wind development, with IPF 2024-host state Louisiana particularly well-placed to capitalise.

Bureau Veritas vice president of offshore wind Hiram Mechling said the area is in the same position Massachusetts was a number of years ago. The combination of trade groups advocating

for project development, universities like Tulane and New Orleans, and a favourable political climate have created the conditions for the region's industry to mirror Boston's rise as a sector hub for the north-east.

"If I look back a couple years, and thinking about what the market would look like, I would never have guessed that we would be where we are," Mechling said.

The recent proposal by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to add a pair of new lease areas in the Gulf of Mexico closer to Louisiana's shores signals the agency is recognising the growth of the state's industry, he added. The two sites will be put up for grabs alongside two zones that were unallocated in last year's process.

Released in late March, BOEM's proposal covered some 410,060 acres, and has won early plaudits from the Southeastern Wind Coalition

and the Greater New Orleans Wind Alliance (GNO Inc).

Texas has shown less interest in developing an offshore wind industry than neighbouring Louisiana, and Mechling thinks the latter can lead the charge on its own.

"It would be great if Texas was more on board (with offshore wind), but it seems like Louisiana is. I think there's an interest in jobs in the Gulf of Mexico. The workforce here has been ready to go for a long time," Mechling told reNEWS.

Success in Louisiana will bring the entire Gulf region along, he said. "Even if your adjacent state isn't all about (offshore wind), that's okay. Maybe that is a good thing."

The quick-fire launch of the new leasing exercise after the first auction in the Gulf, in which RWE was the sole winning bid, is a result of BOEM and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's programmatic environmental assessment

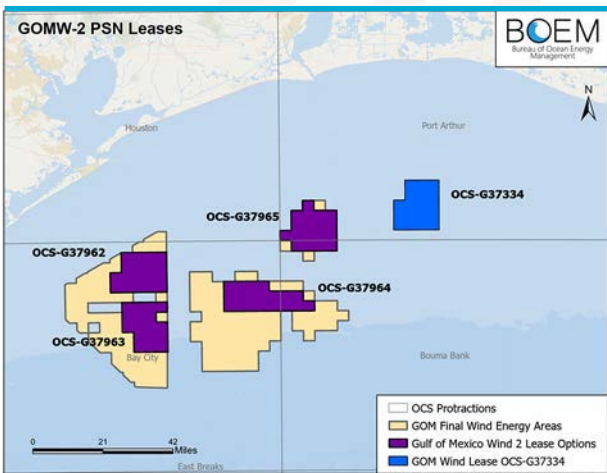
strategy, according to GNO Inc energy and innovation associate Cameron Poole.

"I don't think I can (praise) the regional office (of BOEM) enough in being extremely close partners," Poole said.

He added green hydrogen stipulations in Phase 2 leasing, which make clear production of the fuel is potentially one off-take avenue, was a direct outcome of consultation with GNO Inc members.

The relatively low price for the first lease in the Gulf of Mexico, relative to higher prices in New England, caught some developers off-guard, Poole said, and will likely result in more interest in the second round. RWE won its area with a bid of \$5.6m, while lease areas off the north-east have cost north of \$100m.

"BOEM is understanding that right now Louisiana has some ambitions of leadership here, and they very rightfully brought some opportunities closer to our shores." ■



UP FOR GRABS: How the lease zones break down Photo: BOEM

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Oceanic Network is excited to welcome companies and organisations from across the offshore wind industry to New Orleans – The Big Easy – for our 2024 International Partnering Forum (IPF).

IPF is the largest offshore wind conference in the Americas and reflects the breadth of the industry's growing global and local supply chains, where change is happening with increased fervour. The supply chain is coming to life with people at work and power flowing to the grid.

After setbacks in 2023, this year we are seeing change.

Since our last IPF, the US offshore wind industry has seen its first commercial-scale project, South Fork Wind, complete installation off the coast of New York. Another, Vineyard Wind, is nearing completion and already providing power to Massachusetts.

At the same time, we faced many difficulties as projects cancelled or delayed their offtake agreements, and investment in supply

Change happening as offshore supply chain bursts into life



After a year of setbacks left the sector in the doldrums, 2024 is seeing it bounce back and move in the right direction, says Oceanic Network chief executive **Liz Burdock** (left)

chain development slowed.

Still, critical manufacturing investments were made across the East Coast and several new offshore wind vessels were launched, addressing bottlenecks in the domestic supply chain. Amid these developments, it is clear more must be done to ensure the US is prepared to support further development of offshore wind energy.

Ultimately, the solution to our problems is a massive buildout of our supply chain driven by broad collaboration. That is exactly what Oceanic

Network aims to do at IPF. We must work together to build strong working relationships, not only to create business opportunities but also to proliferate institutional knowledge that makes the industry more effective.

The problems we face are not caused by – nor can they be solved by – individual companies or governments.

At IPF we will discuss the most pressing industry topics, including a deeper focus on floating offshore wind and new attention on other ocean renewable industries. The

Network's mission is to bring together the supply chain and facilitate industry collaboration as we work toward the common goal of transitioning away from fossil fuels.

This year's IPF has more to offer than ever, with government officials including US Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, Deputy Secretary of Energy David Turk, Maine Governor Janet Mills and others, who will speak on critical developments from the past year that have brought the industry into operation.

They'll also look to the future to envision how we can continue to build a successful offshore wind industry in the coming years.

At IPF, we'll discuss concrete actions to advance the offshore supply chain nationwide, ensuring a flourishing industry well into the future.

Following our rebrand to Oceanic Network, IPF will also feature content related to emerging sectors, like offshore solar, wave and tidal energy and green hydrogen production at sea.

IPF Week gives you four days of new insights and experiences. As you attend Wednesday's Plenary Session, walk the Exhibit Hall, and attend workshops and receptions, I ask that you keep the question "how will I be part of the sea change?" at the front of your mind.

Our team at the Oceanic Network welcomed you to join us in New Orleans and we look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. We know this IPF will bring your business success as it drives the U.S. toward a clean energy future. ■

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THE INTERVIEW reNEWS



Setting the scene for IPF 2024 RWE US offshore wind chief executive **Sam Eaton** (left) speaks about how the company plans to drive the country's burgeoning sector forward

Q What is your main message for IPF 2024 this week?

A The momentum is gaining behind offshore wind in the US and the entire supply chain has a role to play in sustaining it. In the last year we have seen the first major US projects come online and over 10GW of projects have been approved, with more on the way. That's enough capacity to power four million homes. Now the success of the American offshore wind industry depends on partners across the value chain delivering on commitments so states and the US can achieve their offshore wind development goals.

Q It seems that there is some moderation in the supply chain crunch. Do you think the sector is getting back on track?

A The industry is in a better position than this time last year. But we -- both RWE and the US offshore wind industry -- need partners from across the value chain to support the deployment of offshore wind at scale, starting with building robust domestic supply chains.

Global capacity is still constrained and if we want to be successful, we need each market to build its own supply chain to make sure our goals are scaled realistically. To ensure those supply chains are sustainable for the long term, all partners need to deliver on their commitments in order to support the industry's continued growth viability into the future.

Q What do you see as the future of the corporate PPA market in the Gulf and wider country?

A It is an interesting prospect and one we will look at as the US market matures. RWE is a global offshore wind leader and we have over 20 years of experience in the industry in Europe, where we have some corporate offtake agreements tied to offshore projects.

So far in the US we see offshore wind demand being driven by state procurements. However, as more corporate players and industrial customers set and expand their own decarbonisation goals, it is likely that offtake from offshore wind projects can play a role in diversifying their supply of clean energy.

As the market matures corporate offtake partnerships could become more common, and as a developer we welcome conversations with C&I customers who could benefit from our projects. C&I customers considering 24/7 clean energy solutions and offshore wind's capacity factor and generation profile could play an important role in that resource mix.

Q What needs to happen at the government level for the momentum of early 2024 to continue?

A The Biden-Harris administration has done a tremendous job to help grow the offshore wind industry in coordination with great partners in the states. We have seen a lot of great governmental support for offshore wind through new solicitations,

procurements designed to de-risk offshore projects and certainly through policies like the Inflation Reduction Act. The Biden Administration has now approved over 10GW of projects with more on the way, which is an important demand signal to the supply chain.

At the same time, the industry will need more significant reforms to modernise permitting processes and upgrade transmission infrastructure to accommodate the offshore wind projects slated to come online in the next decade. Finalising implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act, especially the tax-related provisions, is also essential so that we can keep making investments in the supply chain and building our local workforce. And new state markets like California and the Gulf of Mexico will need to establish their own offtake regimes, which can be shaped by some of the early learnings on the east coast.

reNEWS

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