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LIVE @ FOW 2024



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Principle foundation revamp 'marries with new turbines'

Principle Power believes its newly expanded WindFloat floating platform portfolio will set the industry up for long-term success by accommodating both 'softer' and 'stiffer' turbine towers. **p2**



'Strategic backing needed for floating supply chain vision'

The UK floating wind industry will seek strategic support from the government at FOW 2024 to keep hopes alive that a domestic supply chain can emerge amid project delays.

Speakers will call for fresh backing for ports and other investments at the Aberdeen event this week while companies await procurement and construction activity, which is being held up by costs challenges, route to market questions and grid uncertainty.

The UK floating wind industry is "naive" to believe supply chain capacity and capability can be fully scaled up by the end of the decade, the conference will hear.

RWE director of development for the UK and Ireland Danielle Lane will say bringing the fledgling sector to readiness "does not go from 0-60mph overnight".

Lane, who will speak during the first industry panel session on Day 1, told reNEWS fixed-bottom wind has had the benefit of 10 to 15 years



WARNING: RWE director of development for the UK and Ireland Danielle Lane Photo: RWE

of deployment. She will warn floating technology will need a similar period to mature.

She said: "I have concern at the naivety of how quickly it can scale up. Floating wind seems to be 'let's do it in five years' and we need to be aware of the technology readiness curve."

Associated British Ports head of offshore wind Andy Reay will meanwhile call for a new UK strategy to target investment in frontrunner ports.

He will tell a conference session on Day 2 that stronger signals are needed from London on which locations are best placed to support commercial-scale deployment. Reay will argue

the move would also allow ministers to better coordinate limited public funding.

He told reNEWS: "We need to make funding commitments to ports in advance of demand from developers.

"We also need a new UK strategy around that as the loop of more grant schemes like FLOWMIS could get ports developed that are not strategic, are in the wrong place and not necessarily what the industry needs."

JDR Cables chief strategy and compliance officer James Young, who will speak on Day 1, added UK government and industry support is needed for supply chain resilience.

"Investment in the floating offshore wind sector is crucial for innovation and industry growth," he said.

The FLOW Taskforce's Vision for 2050 will also be launched tomorrow. The report is expected to outline the potential economic prize floating wind could offer the UK beyond the nation's ambition of deploying 5GW by 2030.

Global floating offshore wind project pipeline hits 266GW

The global floating offshore wind project pipeline has grown by 9% over the last 12 months to 266GW, according to a report from RenewableUK.

[Click here](#)

Equinor acquires 10% stake in Danish developer Orsted

Equinor has acquired a stake in Orsted establishing it as the second largest shareholder after the Danish state.

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RWE, TotalEnergies forge German offshore joint venture

RWE and TotalEnergies have agreed to jointly develop two offshore wind projects off the German coast with a total capacity of 4GW.

[Click here](#)

Haizea finishes first monopile for 1.4GW East Anglia 3 wind farm

Haizea Wind Group has completed manufacturing one of the first of 50 monopiles it has been contracted to produce for ScottishPower Renewables' 1.4GW East Anglia 3 offshore wind farm.

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BlueFloat Energy makes Taiwan floating offshore wind pact

BlueFloat Energy has taken a significant step forward in Taiwan's floating offshore wind sector by signing key collaboration agreements with the Ship and Ocean Industries R&D Center and the CR Classification Society.

[Click here](#)

THE INTERVIEW reNEWS

Project director of Fred Olsen Seawind and Vattenfall's 1GW Muir Mhor floating offshore wind farm David Hinshelwood explains what the industry expects of government. **p3**

Demonstrators critical for floater future

AR6 results highlight need for diversified project pipeline, writes ORE Catapult head of analysis & insights Tom Quinn. **p4**

'Floating wind can be engine of economic growth in UK'

Sector must seize opportunity as other countries are determined to unleash nascent technology, writes RenewableUK chief executive Dan McGrail. **p5**



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Principle foundation revamp ‘marries with new floating turbines’

Principle Power believes its newly expanded WindFloat floating platform portfolio will set the industry up for long-term success by accommodating both ‘softer’ and ‘stiffer’ turbine towers.

The company, which is exhibiting at FOW 2024 on stand J53, has added to its existing perimeter column designs, more optimal for basic tower geometries available for fixed-bottom projects and turbines up to 15MW.

The new offerings including two new tubular and flat panel centre column platforms for stiff towers and larger units developed for floaters.

Principle Power told reNEWS the introduction of floating wind-specific turbine designs present an opportunity



FLOATING FOCUS: The Principle Power designs include new centre column platforms

Illustration: Principle Power and Ocean Winds

for standardisation and optimisation that did not previously exist.

“Turbine manufacturers are looking at the market with a conservativeness stemming from recent financial difficulties and are seeing an opportunity to standardise their products for an emerging sector,” the company said.

“Our role as a floating platform designer is to

provide competitive solutions that deliver optimum performance for any turbine while ensuring full compatibility with existing supply chain standards.”

It added: “We find the evolution of our proven designs into a centre column architecture is more optimal for stiffer towers, resulting in cost and performance advantages versus perimeter column designs.”

FOW 2024 spotlight on O&M after repair feats

Long-standing O&M challenges will come under the spotlight in Aberdeen this week following last month’s completion in local waters of what is claimed to be the world’s first in-situ major component exchange at a floating offshore wind farm.

The generator swap on a Vestas turbine at the 50MW Kincardine, located 15km off north-east Scotland, was delivered using an offshore support vessel and up-tower crane without the traditional need to tow the unit to a port.

Turbine maintenance has also been the focus at the

nearby 30MW Hywind floater where Equinor has confirmed the completion of a six-month campaign. All five Siemens Gamesa 6MW machines have been returned to their original positions 24km off Peterhead having been disconnected and towed to Wergeland Group in Gulen, Norway, for work including main bearing exchanges.

Both projects are expected to feature in Thursday morning’s O&M conference session where Equinor’s Hyland Scotland plant manager William Munn will be among the speakers.

Partners step up Green Volt procurement

Flotation Energy and Vargronn are stepping up procurement activities for the 560MW Green Volt array after the Scottish floater emerged from this year’s Allocation Round 6 with CfD-backing, FOW 2024 will hear.

Flotation Energy’s supply chain manager Keith Johnson is expected to tell potential suppliers the INTOG scheme

is now “on a path to securing contracts to deliver the project” before first power is reached in 2029.

Johnson, who is slated to speak in a late afternoon panel session on tomorrow’s opening day of the show, told reNEWS recently: “The CfD was a great step to progress the project to becoming a reality.”

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THE INTERVIEW reNEWS



Project director of Fred Olsen Seawind and Vattenfall's 1GW Muir Mhor floating offshore wind farm **David Hinshelwood** (left) explains what the industry expects of government

Q What is your main message for the industry at this week's FOW 2024 in Aberdeen?

A We are developing one of the world's first commercially viable floating wind projects, bringing huge economic benefits to Aberdeenshire, Scotland and the whole of the UK that will last for decades, and support the government's ambition to be a world leader in floating offshore wind and a clean energy superpower by 2030.

Muir Mhor will create a significant number of jobs during its operation and maintenance phases, and we are committed to building a supply chain that will add millions of pounds to the local and wider Scottish and UK economies. More than £6.31m has already been awarded to Scottish suppliers in development contracts, with further procurement planned in 2025.

Q What is the floating industry's key 'asks' of government?

A We would like the UK and Scottish governments to ensure there is a smooth path for projects like ours which will help deliver the UK's energy security, decarbonise the electricity grid, secure a just transition and kickstart a new global industry.

Labour has said it wants to make Britain a clean energy superpower by 2030, with Ministers like Michael Shanks holding a key role in boosting our industry.

The prize is significant. Muir Mhor alone will be able to generate up to 1GW of power, enough to provide electricity for 1.2 million homes every year. We can

significantly contribute to the UK's target of deploying up to 50GW of offshore wind by 2030, with up to 5GW from floating projects.

Q What is the number one challenge for floating offshore wind developers in the UK right now and how must it be addressed?

A Grid reform is the critical activity in the sector now and projects developing at pace, like Muir Mhor, need to be allowed to connect which will in turn unlock and deliver the supply chain investment both the Scottish and UK governments are seeking.

Q How must AR7 and future Allocation Rounds be designed to encourage floating offshore wind?

A We are excited about the work being done within government led by Chris Stark and the Clean Power 2030 team. We hope this will help shake up what has become a lengthy and bureaucratic process and allow significant renewable energy projects to get onto the grid. We also very much support the CfD scheme moving towards a 'first ready, first served' approach to connections.

Q How can floating offshore wind cut costs to become competitive with fixed-bottom offshore wind?

A The UK has been presented with a huge opportunity to become a global leader in floating

offshore wind and secure a just transition away from oil and gas, but significant work to prepare the UK supply chain for the scale of the developments in the pipeline is needed.

This includes addressing things like the rise in demand for technical expertise in areas such as offshore surveys and installation vessels.

We are working with both the industry and government, including the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and the Department for Business and Trade, to help the UK realise this exciting opportunity.

Q Can you give an update on your project in terms of the next big milestones and when you hope to get into construction?

A Muir Mhor is moving at pace, hitting all key development milestones to start generating energy in the early 2030s.

Ornithology, floating LiDAR deployment and offshore geophysical and environmental surveys have all been completed.

The team has also undertaken four rounds of public consultation in Peterhead and Longside, speaking to local residents and businesses, answering their questions and taking account of their feedback.

We are now poised to submit our onshore and offshore planning applications by the end of 2024, hitting another key milestone and demonstrating our commitment to generating as quickly as possible.



Ossian recently celebrated a significant milestone, moving closer to becoming one of the world's largest floating offshore wind farms with the submission of its Array consent application to the Scottish Government.

As we continue to support advancements across the sector, we're excited to sponsor the Networking Reception at this year's Floating Offshore Wind Conference. Join us as we kick off this pivotal event, connecting with industry leaders, catching up with familiar faces, and welcoming new ones.

VISIT OSSIANWINDFARM.COM
FOR MORE PROJECT INFORMATION



Demos critical for floater future

The AR6 auction results for floating wind provide critical insight into what is still a nascent and evolving sector.

Green Volt's eye-catching 400MW bid at £139.93 per megawatt-hour scooped the majority of the budget, with early-stage test and demonstration projects unsuccessful.

While the outcome highlights the progress made in bringing floating wind technology closer to commercial viability, it also raises important considerations regarding cost trajectories and the broader implications for future schemes.

The primary distinction between Green Volt and the demonstration-scale projects (Pentland, Blyth 2, Erebus) is around scale and maturity.

The difference in size impacts various cost factors, such as supply chain dynamics, financing and risk perception among lenders and insurers.

Demonstration projects serve a vital role in reducing uncertainty and driving down costs through iterative learning and experience. They allow for the testing of new designs and installation methods in real-world conditions,

AR6 results highlight need for diversified project pipeline, writes ORE Catapult head of analysis & insights **Tom Quinn** (right)



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which is essential for long-term cost reduction.

It is important to emphasise the strike price for Green Volt should not necessarily be seen as the new market standard for floating wind. This price likely reflects specific conditions unique to the scheme, including its size, status as an INTOG project, financing structure, execution strategy and potential strategic motivations.

As we look towards future auction rounds, in particular AR7, expect developments like Pentland, Blyth 2, and Erebus to return to the fray. Unsuccessful in AR6, there is no reason to suggest the economics of these vital demonstration-scale sites will be any different in AR7.

Therefore, it is reasonable to

anticipate strike prices could rise again in the next auction round, making Green Volt an outlier rather than a trendsetter in early projects.

While the success of Green Volt is a positive development, it does not diminish the need for ongoing investment in demonstration sites.

These smaller-scale initiatives are crucial for validating various design configurations, installation methods, and other technical aspects that will drive cost reduction through implementing lessons learned and standardisation.

Without this foundational work, there is a risk of stagnation, with fewer opportunities to innovate and refine processes, which are key to achieving the economies of scale necessary

for floating wind to become cost-competitive with other low-carbon energy sources.

Moreover, the AR6 results highlight the importance of a diversified project pipeline. Relying too heavily on a single large-scale scheme carries concentration risks. If a single site encounters difficulties, it could delay broader progress in the sector and limit opportunities to test and refine different approaches.

Other demonstration and stepping-stone developments are also critical in providing a broader and more regular pipeline of activity over the coming years, enabling the supply chain to invest in scaling up.

The AR6 results represent a significant milestone, but they should be viewed in context. The strike price is not necessarily indicative of the current market, and the importance of ongoing test schemes remains paramount.

For floating wind to reach its full potential in delivering cost-competitive electricity and contributing to net zero, a concerted effort is needed to continue testing, validating and scaling up diverse project configurations. ■

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'Floating wind can be engine of economic growth in UK'

Sector must seize opportunity as other countries are determined to unleash nascent technology, writes RenewableUK chief executive **Dan McGrail** (right)

Welcome to Floating Offshore Wind 2024, which we are delighted to be hosting in Aberdeen with Scottish Renewables.

This is a truly international event, with over 2400 delegates attending from 29 countries to hear over 200 speakers and visit more than 180 exhibitors over the next two days.

One of the highlights of the conference will be a keynote address by the First Minister of Scotland John Swinney MSP, who will be speaking at tomorrow morning's opening session.

Three-quarters of the UK's massive floating wind pipeline is in Scottish waters (24.8GW), which includes 30 projects, the largest of which has a capacity of 3.6GW – more than two and half times bigger than any offshore wind farm currently operational globally, fixed or floating.

The ScotWind leasing process, in which the majority

of new capacity is floating, represents a significant industrial opportunity for Scotland to attract billions in private investment and create tens of thousands of jobs, including new roles for former Scottish oil and gas workers who have valuable transferable skills; their expertise will play a key part in the energy transition in the years ahead.

We can also build up new supply chains by upgrading ports to manufacture and assemble high-value components for projects here and around the world in what is set to become a multi-billion pound industry.

This is a UK-wide opportunity for green growth at scale, and the majority of floating wind jobs will be in Scotland, Wales and the south west of England – with up to 4.5GW being developed in the first phase of floating projects in the Celtic Sea – revitalising coastal communities which will be at the heart of making



Photo: RenewableUK

and installing 21st Century technology to generate clean power.

Our latest EnergyPulse market intelligence report highlights the fact other countries are determined to seize this opportunity too.

The global race to develop floating wind projects, and the supply chains needed for this new industry, is accelerating and competition between nations at the forefront of the race is becoming increasingly intense.

Our report shows that the global pipeline of floating projects at any stage of development has grown by 9% over the past 12 months.

Although the UK has one of the most advanced floating pipelines in the world (33GW, with seabed already leased for up to 24GW), Italy is in the

lead with 41GW, and the US is second at 35GW – but these projects are at an early stage of development.

Spain is fourth with 25GW and Sweden fifth of 18GW. 62% of the current global pipeline is being developed in Europe, but Asia is catching up fast.

Floating wind has the potential to scale up rapidly in UK waters as long as industry works closely with the government and devolved administrations to put the right policy framework in place to nurture and accelerate its development.

The Floating Offshore Wind Taskforce will be publishing a major report tomorrow, which sets out a vision for future of the industry in the UK not just for the years immediately ahead, but right out to 2050.

It shows this innovative technology can play a crucial role in economic growth and in our clean power system in the decades ahead, enabling the UK to secure and expand our role as a global leader in floating wind.

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Ministerial address
 Scottish First Minister John Swinney will open FOW 2024 in Aberdeen with Scottish Renewables chief executive Claire Mack also due to speak.
0900-0930, Conference Suite 1

The floating wind vision
 A panel of speakers including RWE UK and Ireland

offshore development director Danielle Lane and Vargrønn chief executive Stephen Bull discuss how the new UK government can help build confidence in the floating offshore wind industry. They will also look at GB Energy and what it means for the sector.
0940-1030, Conference Suite 1

Floating supply chain
 How is the supply chain evolving in response to the demands of floating offshore wind and how

should a company's transition to renewables be supported? This session featuring speakers from JDR, SPR and SSE will tackle these questions and more.
1100-1200, Conference Suite 1

Consenting floating
 Is permitting a challenge or opportunity?
1215-1255, SSE Renewables Theatre

FLOW Taskforce
 A deep dive session on the vision to 2050.
1330-1430 Conference Suite 3

Grid game
 Will the UK network be able to handle the level of floating offshore wind due by 2035? NESO and Crown Estate panellists are among those who will discuss

the grid and how to enable more network delivery.
1430-1530, Conference Suite 1

Rapid-fire updates
 Get the latest developments on floating wind projects.
1600-1700, Conference Suite 1

Networking reception
 Ossian Wind Farm sponsors this year's official networking reception. Relax after a busy day at FOW 2024 and connect with new and old friends.
1700-1900, Exhibition Hall



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