



10 October 2024

reNEWS
CORE MEDIA PARTNER

Scotland vows 'absolute certainty' on wind policy

Scottish First Minister John Swinney has pledged to deliver "absolute policy certainty" for the offshore wind sector. **p2**

Vital policy revamp 'yet to materialise'

The "systemic change" required to revitalise the UK offshore wind industry is not taking place, FOW 2024 has heard.

RWE UK and Ireland offshore development director Danielle Lane told delegates in Aberdeen on Day 1 that key challenges on grid and consenting remain.

Lane said there are reports, roadmaps and ambitions that highlight these issues but little tangible progress.

"What practically are we going to change to make delivery happen and get the advantage of jobs and industrialisation in the UK,"

she asked at the conference. "What really concerns me at the moment is I'm not hearing those answers from people who are putting out the reports."

She acknowledged the industry has a role in coming up with solutions but said "systemic change" is required in how wind farms are delivered.

She said it would be a "missed opportunity" if the offshore transmission regime was not overhauled. Lane added cost reduction goals are also welcome "but actually we're seeing costs go up and not seeing revenue go up

in the same way". The RWE director meanwhile added the floating sector should learn from fixed-bottom wind that there is a limit to what developers can achieve.

She said there was an expectation they could "do it all" on supply chain investment, consenting and grid for the more established industry.

However, this approach has not been enough to ensure sufficient supply chain investment.

"There is a bigger role for the state here if the state wants (investment in the supply chain) to happen."

THE INTERVIEW reNEWS

Thistle Wind Partners supply chain manager Gavin MacKay weighs up the technical and commercial challenges of delivering gigawatt-scale floating wind farms in the UK. **p3**

Stepping stone sites need CfD rule changes

Smaller-scale schemes risk being crowded out of auctions despite being vital to the future of floating wind, writes ABL Group renewables managing director John MacAskill. **p4**



Day 2 highlights p5

reNEWS.biz

for rolling industry news updates on your PC and mobile

Stromar eyes 1.5GW power play

Orsted, BlueFloat Energy and Nadara are looking to increase top power at the proposed Stromar floating wind farm off north Scotland from 1GW to 1.5GW.

Project director Nicholas Ritchie said the move has come after optimisation work on the ScotWind site.

"Through ongoing site characterisation, we are continually pushing the boundaries to ensure we maximise the benefits that



POWER UP: Project director Nicholas Ritchie

Photo: Orsted

Stromar can bring," he said. The consortium behind the project has filed an application for a grid connection based on the

higher rating. The increase will be subject to approvals and consents. The developers last week submitted a pre-application consultation notice informing planners of a series of events to show off its proposals, due in November.

Up to 100 turbines are planned 50km off Caithness, with as many as three offshore substations and a reactive compensation platform, according to the notice.

TRENDING ON reNEWS.BIZ

UK floating wind 'could create 97,000 jobs by 2050'

A new report by the joint UK government-industry Floating Offshore Wind Taskforce shows floating wind could be this century's biggest British industrial success story – if the right measures are put in place to enable more projects to go ahead faster. [Click here](#)

Equinor, Masdar complete Hywind Scotland repairs

Equinor and Masdar have completed a heavy maintenance campaign on the 30MW Hywind Scotland, with all five turbines now reconnected to the grid. [Click here](#)

North Star forms group to advance new SOV

North Star has signed an MoU to establish a dedicated working group of industry experts to help fast-track the design and testing of a new SOV concept. [Click here](#)

Japan Marine United launches 30MW Japanese floater

Japan Marine United has started work on the deep-sea 30MW Southern Akita floating demonstration project off the Asian country's coast. [Click here](#)

MingYang seals 2.8GW Med Wind floating wind farm FEED contract

Renexia and MingYang have signed a contract for the front-end engineering design of the 2.8GW Med Wind floating project in Italy. [Click here](#)

Leading the way in offshore wind

Engaged in **50+**
floating wind projects
worldwide



kentplc.com

Scotland vows 'absolute certainty' on wind policy

Scottish First Minister John Swinney has pledged to deliver "absolute policy certainty" for the offshore wind sector.

The SNP leader told delegates at Floating Offshore Wind 2024 his government will ensure there is a "dynamic" consenting regime and new state investment in the supply chain.

Swinney declared to delegates in Aberdeen on Day 1 of the event that the sector is at the heart of Holyrood policy.

"I cannot stress enough to you the importance of offshore wind to my vision for Scotland's future as a diverse, modern and dynamic country," he said.

Swinney highlighted Scotland's backing of the onshore wind sector, which he claimed had not wavered for "one second" in almost 20 years of SNP government.

"Offshore wind isn't just



PLEDGE: Scottish First Minister John Swinney Photo: RUK

part of the plan, it is key to unlocking a new chapter of Scottish prosperity."

The government will ensure there is an "efficient and dynamic consenting regime" that takes decisions in an "orderly, proper and well considered fashion".

He said the government is taking "rapid action" to streamline the process and has beefed-up staffing levels.

"That symmetry between consenting decisions and the path to investment is critical to secure investor

confidence." He appealed also to developers to ensure "stronger" applications are filed that address key impact issues, which will help the government make quicker decisions.

He added his administration is "moving quickly" to "finalise" an updated sectoral marine plan next year.

Commercial talks to invest some of the government's £500m supply chain war chest in unnamed companies are meanwhile "progressing quickly", he said.

The investment will provide market certainty and capacity for the sector, and follow up on support already allocated for Ardersier Port and Sumitomo's cable factory at Nigg.

Swinney added the number of options the government has for investment in the sector are "literally jaw dropping".

Equinor slashes costs on 88MW Hywind Tampen

Equinor achieved a 40% cost reduction on the 88MW Hywind Tampen floater off Norway compared to the 30MW Hywind Scotland.

UK operations vice president Trine Ulla said lessons learned from the latter meant a switch from steel to concrete foundations as well as changes to the assembly and O&M strategies.

She added the company has also learned a lot from the component exchange campaign on Hywind Scotland completed this week.

She told delegates floating wind remains in the early phase of the learning curve but with standardisation and ongoing project delivery it can scale up and reduce costs.

'Floating sector needs specialist ports and infrastructure support'

Governments must realise that floating wind requires different enabling infrastructure to fixed-bottom wind, FOW 2024 has heard.

Vargronn chief executive Stephen Bull said the design envelope for developments such as its 560MW Green Volt differs substantially from the more established sector.

He added a 15MW turbine configuration on a semi-submersible foundation will require different weather

windows and vast amounts of port space for assembly.

Bull told delegates the project will need up to 50 acres of laydown space, 10 acres of storage and an at least 500-metre quay with over 12-metre water depths.

He said not every port in the UK offers that and even in the Norwegian fjords such capacity is limited.

"The government has to pick some winners in ports" to support project delivery, he added.

MarramWind  ChampionWind 

MarramWind & ChampionWind

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

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

Visit our websites to find out more:
www.marramwind.co.uk
www.championwind.co.uk

OrkneyFuturePorts

Leading the way towards a greener future

orkneyfutureports.com

Visit us at stand K40




Orkney
 Marine Services & Transportation


ORKNEY
 ISLANDS COUNCIL

THE INTERVIEW reNEWS



Thistle Wind Partners supply chain manager **Gavin MacKay** (left) weighs up the technical and commercial challenges of delivering gigawatt-scale floating wind farms in the UK

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

A Building gigawatt-scale floaters is a massive technical and commercial challenge with once-in-a-generation potential to transform the economies of coastal communities in the UK. Greater coordination is required at all levels if we're going to grasp the opportunity and address the volume and investability challenges to get to gigawatt-scale and drive down costs.

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

A The UK has created the largest global floating wind market and it's a tremendous opportunity. There is still some way to go though, to consent, construct, connect and offtake the volumes required to realise the opportunity. It's well understood grid, planning and route to market are critical issues that need to be solved.

Creating certainty will drive investor confidence and we'll see more successes in UK infrastructure and manufacturing investments which will lead to the quality, sustainable jobs we need to deliver as an industry.

This investor confidence is demonstrated by the conditions created in other parts of Europe where two of TWP's main shareholders are investing in major floating wind specific port infrastructure, as well as achieving exceptionally high levels of local content on the EolMed floating wind demonstration project – this is learning we're keen to apply here.

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

A Achieving gigawatt-scale floating wind farms is the most pressing technical and commercial challenge. We need to tackle volume and investability at the same time. This needs convergence on a clear set of standards, internationally recognised by certifiers and investors. Better guidelines and requirements to speed up innovation, shorten development time and provide an opportunity to all technologies and finally, targeted and regulated research and innovation funding.

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

A Green Volt's AR6 success is fantastic and it's a seminal moment for the UK's floating wind industry. The whole sector is rooting for them. Future allocations rounds need be able to strike that balance between the higher cost of smaller floating projects with the valuable learning and local content opportunities that take place on these for the supply chain to develop and transition skills and know-how into floating wind.

Long-term certainty is critical to building confidence in floating wind for both developers and supply chain. A target capacity (in GW) per auction pot will retain competition but crucially, facilitate better investment decisions in favour of building a UK supply industry.

At this stage in its development, floating wind has

many more complexities in the construction phase than fixed bottom projects. An extension of the timeframe from CfD contract award to project commissioning is a simple feature that would alleviate this issue ahead of learning rates kicking in and efficiencies in the construction phase being realised.

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

A If we can provide the right signals to the supply chain, I think that many of the commonalities and convergences we've seen in fixed, will also be achieved in floating. Fundamentally we're talking about a volume challenge and that will require greater coordination across governments, treasury, investors and supply chain. I'm passionate about the UK supply chain and there are lot of areas where UK supply can be an integral part of cost reduction e.g. by mobilising oil and gas competencies into floating wind innovation and focussing on manufacturing of components that lend themselves to highly automated production processes.

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

A TWP is a joint venture between Qair, DEME and Aspiravi. We're developing two ScotWind projects, both 1GW. Our floating scheme Ayre is on track for consent submission next year and we're targeting construction from 2029.



Ossian is a floating offshore wind farm under development, located 84 km off Scotland's east coast. Its scale makes it a leader in the UK renewable energy sector, playing a vital role in the journey to net zero.

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.

FOR PROJECT UPDATES VISIT
OSSIANWINDFARM.COM



As the UK offshore wind industry recovers from last year's setbacks, we were rightly pleased with the AR6 auction, but significant questions remain about how the CfD framework can better support floating wind's future, particularly when it comes to smaller stepping-stone sites.

With AR6's entire floating wind allocation secured by Green Volt's impressive 400MW project, AR7 presents an opportunity to rethink how we can create a more balanced approach, ensuring we can build a bridge to fully commercial floating wind.

The challenge for next year's auction is to ensure smaller, 100MW-200MW projects, critical to advancing technology and refining supply chains, aren't overlooked.

These stepping-stone projects de-risk floating wind development, which is still needed, and pave the way for larger commercial projects post-2030.

Without deliberate changes to the CfD auction parameters and structure, these projects could struggle, slowing industry growth and limiting

Stepping stone sites need CfD rule changes



Smaller-scale schemes risk being crowded out of auctions despite being vital to the future of floating wind, writes ABL Group renewables managing director **John MacAskill** (left)

the UK's ability to drive down LCOE.

The rationale for smaller floating projects is simple: they are essential testing grounds for innovation. These projects enable real-world validation of new designs, mooring systems, and installation techniques.

However, the current CfD process favours larger developments, where costs can be spread across greater capacity. This makes it difficult for smaller projects to compete. AR7 offers an opportunity to correct this imbalance by creating a more inclusive framework.

One solution is to carve out a specific allocation within

the floating wind CfD pot for 100MW-200MW projects.

This would guarantee these vital stepping stones aren't crowded out.

In previous rounds, the market reference prices have also been set too low and the load factors unrealistically high; this means that the calculated budget impact of the bids has been overestimated and has unnecessarily restricted the capacity awarded within each given budget pot.

Getting these values right for AR7 is an easy win, increasing the capacity awarded for no additional cost to the consumers.

We stand at a crossroads

in the development of floating wind in the UK. Large projects will undoubtedly be essential for meeting capacity targets, but the sector cannot mature sustainably without nurturing smaller ventures.

There are two paths ahead: pushing toward large projects by importing solutions from global supply chains or fostering homegrown innovation and industrialisation.

To me, the latter offers a better chance to drive down costs over time, de-risk new technologies, and establish a UK-based supply chain capable of competing globally.

The floating wind sector needs these smaller projects not only to mature

technologically but also to secure long-term benefits for the UK supply chain.

By focusing on both large and small projects, we can lay the groundwork for a robust, sustainable floater industry.

The future of the UK's floating wind industry depends on getting AR7 and future rounds right. While AR6 has made significant strides in large-scale development, the next auction rounds must provide space for smaller, stepping-stone projects that will validate emerging technologies, build local supply chains, and reduce costs.

reNEWS

Publisher
Renews Limited
 PO Box 808,
 Winchester, Hampshire,
 SO23 3TS, UK

ISSN 1478-307X

© All articles appearing in reNEWS are protected by copyright. Any unauthorised reproduction is strictly prohibited.

editorial@reNEWS.biz
reNEWS.biz

TWP
 THISTLE WIND PARTNERS

A leading developer of fixed and floating offshore wind farms in Scotland

Thistle Wind Partners (TWP) is currently developing 2GW of floating and fixed-foundation offshore wind capacity at our ScotWind leasing sites: the Ayre Offshore Wind Farm off the east coast of Orkney and the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm in Aberdeenshire.

Our founder companies – DEME Group, Qair, and Aspiravi – bring experience from a global renewables portfolio that is distinguished by offshore engineering excellence and a track record of delivering local economic benefit.

DEME CONCESSIONS

Qair

Aspiravi
 DRIVEN BY WIND, TOGETHER

www.twp.scot

in **f** **X** **@TWPScot**

RenewableUK
 CYMRU

Future EnergyWales

In unity there's energy
Mewn undod mae ynni

Register today

#RUKFEW24
 12-13 November 2024
 ICC Wales, Newport

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Breakfast briefing
The early birds will catch the worms at ORE Catapult's talk on accelerating consenting for offshore renewables deployment. Registration required for the event.
0800-0900, The View

Financing the future
A panel of speakers from Ocean Winds, EDF Renewables, SNIB and UK government discuss whether floating offshore wind is truly the next

wave in renewable energy and if the sector can achieve profitability by 2030 through scale and industrialisation. The session will also explore how to unlock investment from a variety of sources.
1000-1100, Conference Suite 1

Deep dive session
Mooring and anchoring systems. Open to conference pass holders only.
1000-1230, Conference Suite 2B

Off to the races
Join a state of the nations overview of key markets

in floating offshore wind and understand which countries are leading the race and why. The analysis features contributions from Iberdrola, BW Ideol and Oceanic Network.
1130-1230, Conference Suite 1

Totally wired
Deep dive session on dynamic cabling systems. Open to conference pass holders only.
1300-1535, Conference Suite 2B

Locking in benefits
What is the risk to places like Aberdeen, its communities and workers if the transition to renewables isn't managed well? This question and others will be tackled by a panel of expert speakers from across the spectrum of stakeholders, including trade unions, government and developers.
1330-1430, Conference Suite 1

Port upgrades
ABP, Global Energy Group and Port of Aberdeen speakers discuss what port upgrades should be prioritised, and what is the most effective way of approaching this task. How developers and ports can best work together to achieve necessary upgrades will also be on the agenda.
1500-1600, Conference Suite 1

Goodbye and good luck
RenewableUK offshore wind executive director Jane Cooper gives this year's closing remarks to bring the curtain down on FOW 2024.
1600-1610, Conference Suite 1



Thank you to our event partners

reNEWS

Global Offshore Wind Report 2024

- ✓ Unrivalled coverage of the latest regulatory and political developments
- ✓ Exclusive data tables providing a snapshot of project progress in every country
- ✓ Detailed analysis on European and Asian construction campaigns

Published to all **reNEWS PREMIUM** subscribers on 21 November 2024
Advertising booking deadline: 31 October

Click above to view a sample of the 2023 Global Offshore Wind Report

Enhance your presence in this market by advertising in our annual special report

For more information contact sales@renews.biz

Sponsorship opportunities are also available