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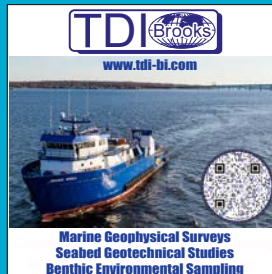
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reNEWS

LIVE @ IPF 2025

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28 April 2025

TRENDING ON
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RWE pauses US offshore operations

RWE has temporarily ceased its US offshore wind operations, citing regulatory uncertainty under the administration of Donald Trump.

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EnBW installs first He Dreiht turbine

EnBW has announced that the first Vestas V236-15MW turbine at its 960MW He Dreiht wind farm off Germany has been installed.

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EA3 monopile installation gets underway

ScottishPower Renewables has commenced offshore construction at the 1.4GW East Anglia 3 wind farm off east England.

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Iberdrola, Kansai close Windanker investment deal

Iberdrola has agreed with Japanese power company Kansai to co-invest in the 315MW Windanker offshore wind farm in the German Baltic Sea.

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CS Wind Offshore considers cuts to Odense workforce

CS Wind Offshore is idling its monopile production facility at Odense Port in Denmark and is considering staff cuts citing project cancellations and postponements.

[Click here](#)

USFR to press ahead with production site

US Forged Rings (USFR) is set to press ahead with plans to build a steel ring production facility on the Chowan River in North Carolina, despite the challenges facing the US offshore sector. [p2](#)

US offshore wind is open for business

The US sector has faced real challenges over the past

year, but our message is clear: We Power ON, writes Liz Burdock, Oceanic Network CEO. [p3](#)



US offshore wind gripped by turmoil

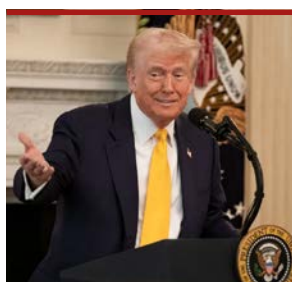
The US offshore wind industry is facing an unprecedented crisis of confidence as attendees gather in Virginia Beach for this year's IPF 2025 conference.

President Donald Trump's broadside against the sector has brought with it a new era of uncertainty as projects formerly thought to be safe such as EDF's up to 4GW Atlantic Shores have had permits revoked, while Equinor's 810MW Empire Wind in New York was ordered to stop work earlier this month.

Former Bureau of Ocean Energy Management director Elizabeth Klein told reNEWS ahead of IPF 2025 that it remains unclear which National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration document Interior Secretary Doug Burgum's shutdown order against Empire Wind was citing.

"I don't think there is any document that exists that would justify the action they are taking," Klein said.

"None of it makes any sense, frankly, and it's no wonder that the US is increasingly being seen as a



PRESSING PAUSE: President Donald Trump Photo: The White House

risky investment by industries of all kinds."

RWE's confirmation last week that it is halting US offshore operations has further underscored the concern over short-term investment plans.

The move against Empire has thrown into disarray New York's grid planning efforts as well as long term climate goals, and the state's procurement authority has decied the "irrefutable harm" created by the shutdown. "The floor is falling out," added one Tier 1 supplier.

Klein said: "If a burgeoning industry like offshore wind that holds the prospect of billions of dollars in domestic economic development can be subject to personal whims and vendettas like this, I

would think industries of all kinds will seek economic opportunities elsewhere."

Delegates attending IPF 2025 will be urged to stay the course, however, as supply chain, grid investments and state level policy moves can still be made in the short term while the political dust settles.

Legal experts have pointed to the flimsiness of some of the administration's legal arguments for shutting down Empire Wind, and believe a challenge to the Department of Interior's order to stop work would likely be successful.

It should be relatively straightforward for a court to grant an injunction stopping the shutdown order, sources said, as the irreparable harm and public interest standards needed for such an intervention can be clearly argued.

Attendees at IPF 2025 will, meanwhile, be eager to hear about Canada's plans for offshore wind leasing opportunities north of the border off the coast of Nova Scotia, as the province's Premier Tim Houston takes to the plenary stage on Tuesday.

THE INTERVIEW reNEWS

Clarksons director of subsea and offshore wind Jonathan Lints speaks about fleet pressure, policy uncertainty and the future of offshore support. [p4](#)

What's on at IPF 2025?

Selected highlights from the networking and educational programme. [p5](#)



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Sponsor's welcome

We are delighted to welcome everyone at IPF 2025 in Virginia, writes *Ampelmann chief executive officer Jan van der Tempel.*

As an industry, we are facing significant headwinds at the moment. Yet, facing wind head on is actually what we do. It shows our resilience to keep innovating and moving forward as we know the benefits of offshore wind will outlast this political environment.

Offshore wind is where cutting-edge technology meets environmental responsibility, creating a sustainable path toward a cleaner energy future.

As part of this dynamic field, you are joining a diverse and passionate community of engineers, developers, scientists, project managers, policymakers, and skilled tradespeople. Together, we are building the infrastructure that will power communities,



reduce carbon emissions, and drive economic growth across coastal regions around the world.

We understand that navigating an often-uncertain political environment can be challenging. Regulatory shifts, changing priorities, and policy delays can create real barriers. But they also reveal the vital importance of what we do. We are proud of the team we have built up by increasing our local presence to help the sector grow in these early years.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your work and involvement will help shape our country's independent energy future – not just for the next decade, but for generations to come.

Welcome aboard, and let's harness the power of the wind – together – head-on.

USFR to press ahead with production site

US Forged Rings (USFR) is set to press ahead with plans to build a large-scale steel ring production facility on the Chowan River in North Carolina, despite the challenges facing the US offshore sector.

Company president Giacomo Sozzi told *reNEWS* that the facility is poised to supply monopiles, transition pieces and towers for US Wind's up to 2.2GW Maryland Offshore Wind project.

The plant is scheduled to enter construction next year. USFR has meanwhile



FORGING AHEAD: Giacomo Sozzi

Photo: USFR

pivoted toward other energy applications like nuclear and its hydrocarbon business, while the sector waits to "regain its feet". He added that

US Wind is "probably better positioned than all other fully approved projects in the pipeline, because they have a manufacturing base".

Ahead of his Monday afternoon panel appearance at IPF 2025 discussing legislative approaches to domestic steel procurement, Sozzi said developers should focus on market fundamentals.

"If you have a good project that has the right cost basis, stay the course because the market in the end always wins," he added.

States urged to prioritise grid upgrades amid uncertainty

State authorities and transmission operators have an opportunity to work on grid upgrades amid the chaos engulfing the federal approach to offshore wind.

Such works will need to come first in many cases before offshore wind

development pipelines are established, said Power Advisory director Peter Shattuck.

"Transmission needs to go first, and so that's where the states should focus right now," he told *reNEWS*.

He added that timelines

might need to be adjusted based on the political questions facing the industry.

Shattuck will be part of a panel discussion on the lessons learned from New England's long-term regional grid planning initiative on Tuesday afternoon.



AMPELMANN

Building the offshore wind industry, together with you. Ampelmann.



US offshore wind is open for business

IPF 2025 will reflect industry momentum, writes

Liz Burdock,
CEO of Oceantic Network



POSITIVE MESSAGE: Liz Burdock

Photo: Oceantic Network

Welcome to the 2025 International Partnering Forum (IPF) in Virginia Beach. I'm honoured to welcome you as we come together at a pivotal moment for offshore renewable energy. Our industry has faced real challenges over the past year, but our message is clear: We Power ON.

Despite setbacks, we've seen progress on all fronts: vessels delivered, steel in the water, and power flowing to the grid. What was once an ambitious vision is now a tangible, growing reality, and the US offshore wind market is very much open for business.

Virginia Beach is an inspiring place to gather this year. The Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project represents a generational opportunity, not just for the region, but for the entire country.

A growing supply chain is coming to life, with infrastructure investments, manufacturing expansion, and workforce development all pointing to a future in which offshore renewable energy is a key part of our country's energy mix.

This is a city and a region that's not just watching the industry grow but leading it, demonstrating the kind of state and local commitment that continues to drive US momentum.

Throughout this week, you'll see how IPF reflects the expanding scope of our work. The Ocean Renewables Summit will explore emerging ocean-based technologies

like wave, tidal, and offshore solar energy, building toward a more interconnected clean energy future.

The Central Atlantic Supplier Fair will connect project developers and Tier 1 suppliers with the businesses that are working hard to support and grow this industry on the ground. Local supply chain tours will give you a first-hand look at what's being built and the people making it happen.

At Oceantic Network, we've broadened our focus while staying grounded in our core mission: connecting companies, communities, and government partners to accelerate the growth of offshore wind and related ocean industries.

We know this work cannot be done in isolation. That's why your presence here matters. Every meeting you take, every conversation you start, every lesson you share contributes to the long-term success of the industry across a global network that increasingly relies on international collaboration and shared progress.

I encourage you to use this week to strengthen your

connections and expand your perspective. IPF has always been a place where new ideas take shape and long-term partnerships begin.

Whether you're here to learn about a new market, finalise a deal, or understand what's working on the ground, IPF is designed to help you walk away with something real – something you can act on when you return to your office, your community, or your project site.

I also want to extend my sincere thanks to our host sponsors: the City of Virginia Beach, Dominion Energy, LS GreenLink USA, and RWE. Their leadership and partnership have helped bring this year's event to life, and their commitment to building a strong future for offshore wind in the US is evident in everything they do.

Thank you for being here. And to those reading from afar, there's still time to get involved. I look forward to meeting many of you throughout the week, and I hope this year's IPF provides you with the knowledge, partnerships, and confidence to keep moving forward. Let's get to work. ■



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THE INTERVIEW reNEWS



Setting the scene for IPF 2025, Clarkson's director of subsea and offshore wind **Jonathan Lints** (left) speaks about fleet pressure, policy uncertainty and the future of offshore support

Q What is your message to stakeholders attending IPF 2025 in Virginia this week?

A My main message to stakeholders is to highlight the scale of US vessels that have been involved in the offshore wind farm market to date, and that stopping this industry will have a huge impact on the balance of supply and demand.

Like in Europe, the offshore fleet needs multiple energy sectors to keep vessels utilised, rather than just one.

We talk about making American shipbuilding great again, but the irony is that it is only vessels for the offshore wind farm market that have been built recently in the US – crew transfer vessels (CTVs), service operation vessels (SOVs), wind turbine installation vessels (WTIVs) and a rock-dumping vessel.

No offshore support vessels (OSVs) or multipurpose support vessels (MPSVs) have been built anywhere in the US in recent times as it is too expensive and there are no long-term contracts to back them up.

Q What are the specific challenges facing the US vessel sector in this uncertain era?

A Although the US vessel market has adapted extremely well to the needs of offshore wind,

there are still a few challenges.

One is a lack of contingency options compared to other regions.

For example there is no 'spot market' on the east coast and usually vessels require to be mobilised from Louisiana or beyond.

There is also competition from foreign-flagged vessels for scopes where Jones Act compliance is not required, while some vessel types are not part of the existing US fleet so need to come from other parts of the world.

The US has an ageing fleet, but the cost of building is too high to justify. Political uncertainty will, meanwhile, stop investment in the US, especially where the industry is impacted by every incoming administration.

Q How have the dynamics of the US vessel landscape changed in the past year?

A A large number of subsea vessels have relocated to the east coast to perform subsea and accommodation scopes.

Some OSVs have been converted (temporary and permanent) for walk-to-work/accommodation scopes.

Several foreign-flagged vessels have mobilised to the US for non-Jones Act scopes including survey and cable laying.

Q Where do you see the US vessel market going in the next year?

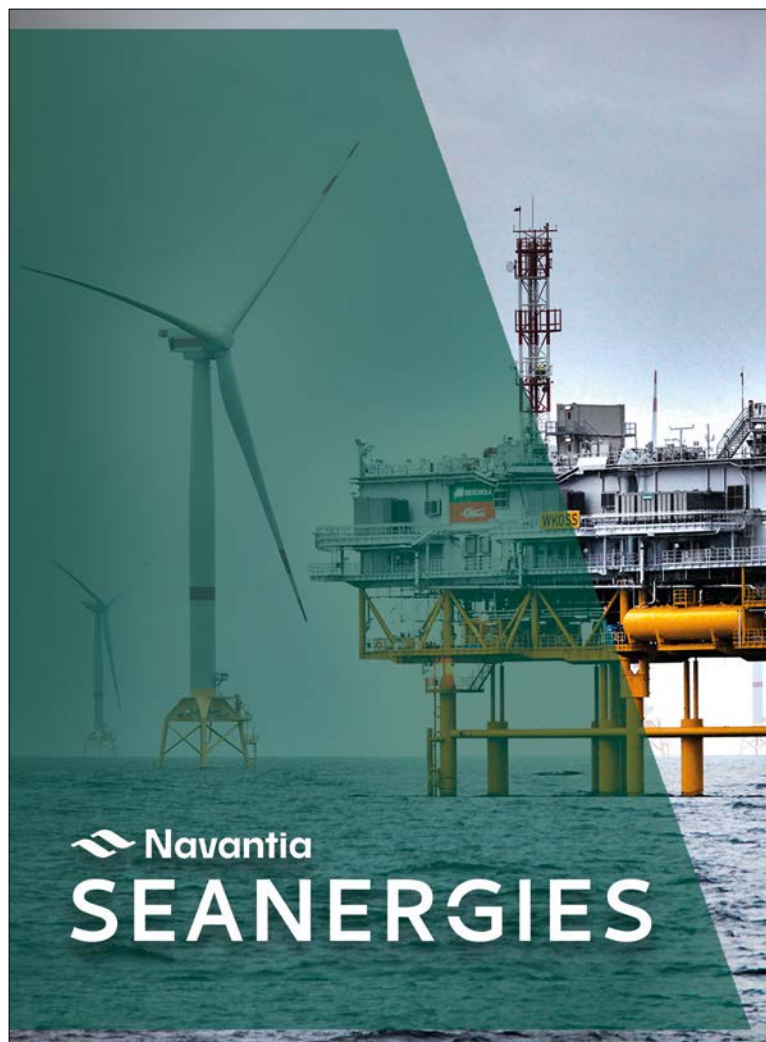
A This is a very hard question to answer right now – a lot will depend on the outcome of Empire Wind because multiple vessels were expected to be utilised on this project so supply and demand will be impacted.

Q Will the uncertainty in the US offshore wind sector increase vessel availability in other markets?

A The short answer is yes. However, there is also a lot of uncertainty in the O&G market right now. Brazil will continue to take some US vessels from the fleet, but the short-term outlook is bearish for the MPSV and OSV markets. In fact, we have already seen some subsea contractors choose to release vessels on charter rather than extend.

Q What's the most important trend to be aware of in the market?

A Many of the trends mentioned above are important, but perhaps the ageing fleet. This may lead to more breakdowns, which when coupled with the lack of contingency of vessels, can lead to high costs.



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IPF25 OCEANIC NETWORK

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Central Atlantic Supplier Fair

A networking event bringing attendees together with developers, Tier 1 suppliers, and OEMs. Learn about business opportunities for offshore wind projects, with a particular focus on the Central Atlantic region.

1300-1600, DoubleTree Hotel, Grand Ballroom

Next Steps for States in a Changing Political Landscape

Speakers will explore opportunities to work with the new Presidential administration such as on permitting reform, lessons from past processes, as well as domestic supply chain and workforce development.

1310-1340, Meeting Room 1BC, Level 2

Charting the Course for Successful Floating Offshore Wind Deployment

State officials will discuss recent

milestones in floating offshore wind development, including the Gulf of Maine auction and the California Energy Commission's AB 525 Offshore Wind Strategic Plan.

1500-1530, Meeting Room 1BC, Level 2

Buy American Steel: A Legislative Approach to Building a Stronger Market

This panel will look at the New York Buy American Act, with speakers to discuss how this legislative approach encourages domestic steel production and creates opportunities for US-based steel suppliers.

1530-1600, Meeting Room 1BC, Level 2

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Evolving Offshore Wind Procurement: Strategies to Add Value and Flexibility

Panelists will discuss new strategies to



MEET AND DRINK: IPF 2025 will provide networking and learning opportunities

Photo: Oceanic Network

evolve how the industry approaches big procurement contracts including incorporating broader criteria, encouraging more collaboration, and sharing assets and information to bring more certainty to the supply chain.

1300-1400, Meeting Room 1A, Level 2

Preparing the Grid for Offshore Wind: Strategies for Cross-Value Benefits

This session will investigate the common links between transmission for offshore wind and other needs, approaches to identifying synergies, and examples of how cross-value benefits of transmission upgrades are being considered in the US

and Europe.

1430-1530, Meeting Room 1D, Level 2

Unpacking the New Presidential Directives on Offshore Wind: What They Mean and What Comes Next

Speakers will address what the Executive Memorandum does and does not do, how it relates to other executive actions on energy policy, how its implementation is already influencing – and may continue to affect – industry development, and what options the sector has.

1430-1530, Meeting Room 5ABC, Level 2



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Manufacturing a sustainable world

Smulders is multidisciplinary and international organisation with a passion for steel and sustainability. We take care of full engineering, manufacturing and systems integration projects. The whole world is our field of action, and we are the European market leader when it comes to building the foundations and substations for offshore wind projects as we already produced more than 2,500 transition pieces, 160 jackets, 3 floating foundations, and 40 substations.

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