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Permit freeze ignores studies, says industry

Donald Trump's presidential memorandum to halt all permitting on US offshore wind pending a review was issued despite a bank of environmental and economic studies. **p2**

THE INTERVIEW reNEWS

LS Cable & System America project director Bill Wall discusses how long term and global thinking, as well as keeping the faith, can help the US offshore wind industry navigate the current choppy waters. **p3**

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US offshore wind can overcome challenges

The sector can navigate a course through political divides to reshape the energy landscape, writes

Ampelmann regional manager for Americas, Gus DeOliveira. **p5**



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Canada set to roll out 2.5GW auction

Canada is ready to welcome offshore developers jilted by US federal policy and will launch a 2.5GW lease auction later this year, attendees at IPF 2025 in Virginia heard on Tuesday.

Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston told the conference that this week's federal election in Canada, which will see the Liberals return to power under new Prime Minister Mark Carney, is a "helpful result for this sector".

"We have a lot to offer," he said, citing the country's "incredible wind speeds", good seabed conditions and port infrastructure. "My government is committed to moving forward," he added.

Nova Scotia is aiming to launch the lease auction in the autumn, sources said, and Houston told attendees that there will be a total of five tender rounds by 2030.

He was also clear about the need to export power from offshore wind to the US.

"We know that our own internal domestic demand will grow but we also know that demand in New England and across the United States is growing as well. That demand



REACHING OUT: Tim Houston Photo: Oceanic Network

has to be met and we want to be part of meeting it," Houston said.

Establishing an offtake market for Nova Scotian offshore wind power will require a cable to Massachusetts or Ontario, or both, he added.

The pitch to industry players comes against the backdrop of a clampdown from the White House that has rocked the US offshore wind sector and stopped projects in their tracks, including the recent order to shut down construction at Equinor's 810MW Empire Wind 1 off New York.

"If the US doesn't want

billions (of dollars) in investment and job creation, Nova Scotia and Canada will surely take it," Oceanic Network chief executive Liz Burdock told delegates in her address to IPF 2025.

"It's open for offshore wind development, even as doors try to close in the US," she said.

The supply chain network that has developed in the US in recent years can be redeployed to serve Canadian offshore wind needs, Burdock added.

"We're not going to let our network of highly capable supply chain companies sit idle," she said. "We'll walk through that global gateway into other markets."

Nova Scotia finalised five areas for offshore wind development last month: French Bank, Middle Bank, Sable Island Bank, Sydney Bight, and the Western/ Emerald Bank.

In October, Canada's parliament passed Bill 49, establishing the legislative authority for the federal and Nova Scotian governments to jointly manage offshore wind auctions.

TRENDING ON reNEWS.BIZ

Empire Wind halt 'unlawful'
Equinor chief executive Anders Opedal has described the US government's order to halt work on the 810MW Empire Wind 1 wind farm as "unprecedented and unlawful", adding the company is "considering our legal options". **Click here**

First Thor monopile in place
The first of 72 monopiles has been installed at RWE's 1.1GW Thor offshore wind farm in the Danish North Sea. Turbines are due to be delivered from 2026 with commissioning targeted in 2027. **Click here**

RWE calls for UK CfD reforms
RWE is calling for targeted reforms to the UK's Contracts for Difference scheme to accelerate offshore wind deployment and protect consumers, including 25-year lifespans for the agreements. **Click here**

PD Ports plans £200m UK offshore wind hub
PD Ports is planning to build the £200m Teesport Offshore Gateway offshore wind manufacturing and installation hub in the UK. **Click here**

Equinor, Polenergia secure permit for 1.6GW Bałtyk 1
Equinor and Polenergia have secured the final environmental decision for their planned 1.6GW Bałtyk 1 offshore wind project off Poland. **Click here**

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Permit freeze ignores studies, says industry

Donald Trump's presidential memorandum to halt all permitting on US offshore wind pending a review was issued despite an existing bank of environmental and economic studies having already been developed, according to deputy chief of the Massachusetts Attorney General energy and environment bureau, Turner Smith.



POLICY PAIN: Turner Smith

Photo: LinkedIn

The official told attendees at IPF 2025 yesterday that the "extensive" records of decisions from various permitting authorities have been held up by numerous courts all along the east coast.

The president's memorandum orders a "comprehensive assessment" of offshore wind permitting, including the intermittency of the technology and the role of subsidy in the industry.

"All of those things have been comprehensively

studied already in the context of specific projects and programmatic ways as well," said Smith, adding that the review ordered by the president cites no legal authority or statute under which it will take place.

The US offshore wind industry is among the most heavily regulated marine industries in the country, American Clean Power Association (ACP) offshore permitting senior director

Brian Krevor added.

He told delegates the lengthy review undergone by Equinor's 810MW Empire Wind 1 project began before he had children. He now has three.

The amount of reporting requirements is "sky high" and has increased with every project, Krevor said, which flies in the face of the Trump administration's assertion in its stop work order that approvals for Empire Wind were rushed.

New York Attorney General senior counsel Michael Myers said that the offshore wind projects threatened by Trump's moves are crucial for the state's energy and job creation goals.

"If one of our main strategies to deal with (increasing demand for energy) is being stopped in its tracks, that is super concerning," Myers warned.

Northeast states unite for transmission grid strategy

States across the US northeast have this week launched a strategic action plan on transmission grid upgrades, including a call for a coordinated approach to future offshore wind procurements.

This would allow states to evaluate procurement bids on the basis of potential future regional and interregional networking options for offshore wind export cables.

Administrations from Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode

Island, and Vermont are involved in the collaboration.

The action plan also calls for greater alignment across states in export cable standards, and the development of bid criteria prioritising regional and interregional transmission solutions.

States across the northeast should develop a uniform HVDC design standard, according to the action plan, which cites technological development in Europe that has created a de-facto transmission standard.

Orsted unleashes robot dogs

Orsted is piloting the use of robotic dogs from Boston Dynamics for operations and maintenance work on its offshore wind farms, according to head of offshore asset management Martin Mogstad.

The Danish developer uses the robot dogs on substations where they are "walking

around autonomously, checking on different gauges, and sending that data back without having to have the technicians out there all the time", Mogstad said.

He highlighted the history of US innovation and said the initiative demonstrates the best of what the US market has to offer the sector.



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THE INTERVIEW reNEWS



LS Cable & System America project director **Bill Wall** (left) discusses how long term and global thinking, as well as keeping the faith, can help the US offshore wind industry navigate the current choppy waters

Q What is your key message to attendees at IPF 2025 in Virginia this week?

A Think long term. Let's face it, most of the sensible or achievable commercial operations dates of projects that were permitted in 2024 and had achieved offtake from a state programme were at least 2031 or 2032 at the earliest. So now they will be 2033 or 2034.

Offshore wind is not a 'flash-in-the-pan' or 'get rich quick' construction game, it is a long, drawn-out process with years of detailed planning to get to final implementation and then a 30-year lifespan producing clean energy.

Remember the old adage, 'you cannot build vast projects with half-vast ideas'. So, let's get building for the long term.

Q How is LS Cable navigating the turbulence in the sector?

A By thinking globally. That's globally both in the geographical sense and the customer base.

Submarine cable has a worldwide demand curve - when one region may slack off another gets busy.

Also, major utilities in the US and Europe are upgrading their electrical grids and, given the headaches of permitting through cities and neighbourhoods, submarine cables are an attractive alternative for the utility interconnector market.

Q What should developers in the US be concentrating on in the short and medium term?

A Consolidate their local supply chain wherever possible. Continue local, grassroots outreach to strengthen the support required when the market rebounds.

Pay close attention to the energy demand curves in areas with strong growth in data centre construction.

Historically, especially in the US, investor-owned utilities take a long time to catch up with demand. Renewables can help bridge that gap.

Q How should other Tier 1 contractors handle the current dynamics in the US market?

A Keep the faith!

Q What can you tell us about the new facility in Virginia where LS GreenLink broke ground this week?

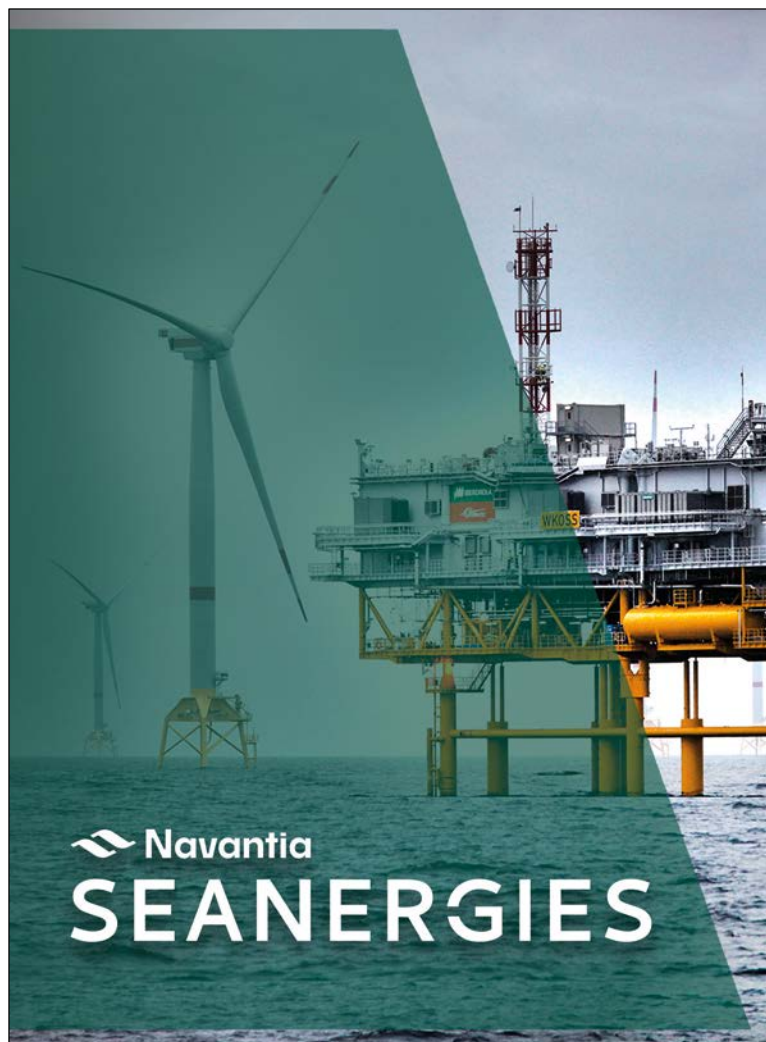
A To further strengthen our commitment to providing a sustainable US offshore wind energy solution, we are taking a pioneering step by establishing a new US-based subsidiary, LS GreenLink USA Inc.

The focus of LS GreenLink is to construct a cutting-edge submarine power cable factory in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Strategically located near one of the largest BOEM lease areas on the east coast, this factory will revolutionise the US submarine power cable supply chain.

The close proximity to the east coast BOEM lease areas will significantly augment the efficiency of transport and installation operations for developers, as the LS GreenLink facility is just a short vessel transit away from the work sites.

The factory project will have a major social impact on the local city of Chesapeake, Chesapeake County and the state of Virginia as a whole. This social impact will primarily stem from local job creation, both direct and indirect, local property tax revenue and income tax revenue.



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IPF25 OCEANTIC NETWORK

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Preserving Offshore Wind Port Development Momentum Amid Market Uncertainty

A lack of fit-for-purpose ports is a critical

bottleneck impeding the growth of the US offshore wind industry, and closing the existing infrastructure gap will require more than \$36bn in investment over the next decade, according to a 2023 Oceanic

Network report. This workshop will take stock of current funding and financing approaches, discuss opportunities for improvement, and identify barriers to investment.

0900-1000, Meeting Room 1D, Level 2

The Case for Regional Offshore Wind Hubs

Regional hubs bring together industry and local government to attract new businesses to the area, yielding jobs and new investments. In this workshop,

speakers will discuss what goes into these partnerships, their economic benefits, and how this work can help states reach their clean energy goals, as well as giving advice to other regions looking to do the same.

0900-1000, Meeting Room 1A, Level 2

Bridging the Divide: Engaging Republican Lawmakers on Offshore Wind and Renewable Energy

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the offshore wind market, it is essential to depoliticise the issue, and engaging lawmakers across the political spectrum is vital to achieving this goal. This workshop is designed to equip industry leaders and advocates with the skills and strategies to effectively communicate the benefits of offshore wind and other renewable resources to Republican lawmakers.

1030-1130, Meeting Room 1A, Level 2

Innovative Approaches to Reduce Floating Wind Costs and Construction Timelines

This session will explore new innovations in floating offshore wind platform construction and assembly that seek to reduce costs and accelerate production

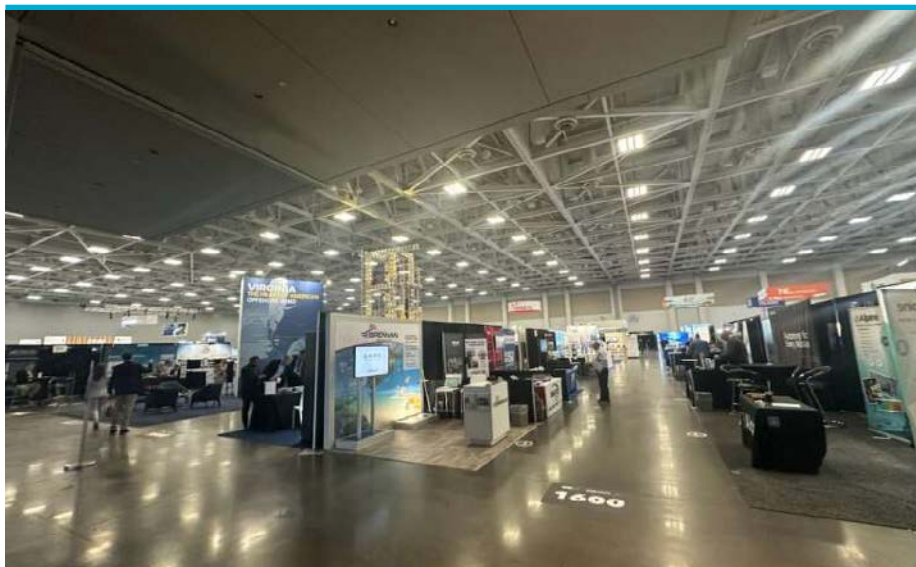
timelines. Speakers will share insights on alternative approaches to floating platform fabrication and discuss pathways to commercial viability.

1300-1400, Meeting Room 1BC, Level 2

What's New & Spinning

Join the world's leading offshore wind developers as they share an overview of their current projects, discuss procurement processes and opportunities, and highlight what's coming through the pipeline. Speakers include Dominion Energy's GT Hollett and Invenery's Daniel Runyan

1300-1500, Power ON Stage



HALL SYSTEMS GO: The exhibition hall at the Virginia Beach Convention Centre Photo: reNEWS

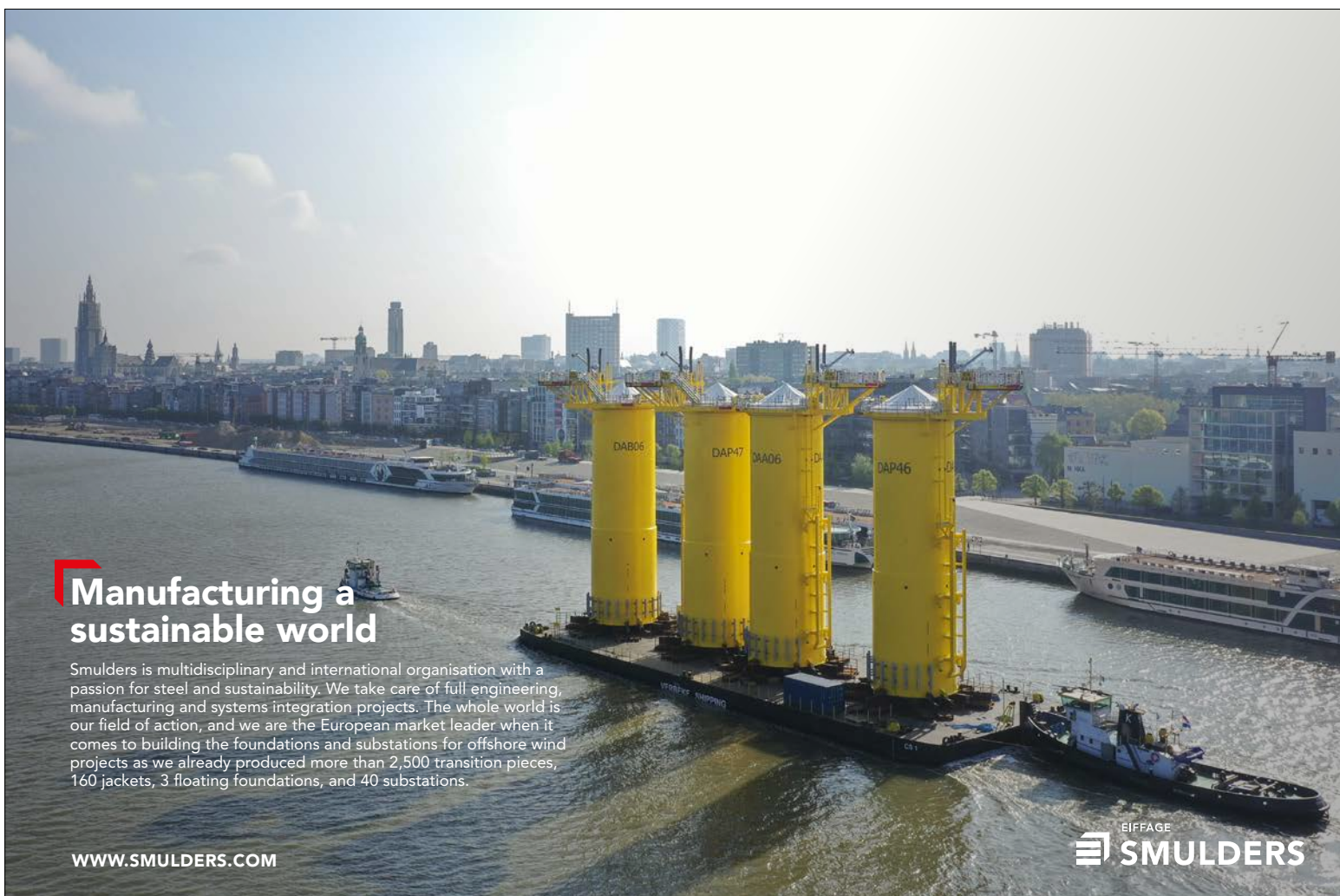
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Smulders is multidisciplinary and international organisation with a passion for steel and sustainability. We take care of full engineering, manufacturing and systems integration projects. The whole world is our field of action, and we are the European 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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US offshore wind can overcome challenges

The sector can navigate a course through political divides to reshape the energy landscape, writes Ampelmann regional manager for Americas, **Gus DeOliveira**

As the global push for clean energy intensifies, the US offshore wind market has emerged as one of the most dynamic and promising frontiers for renewables development.

At Ampelmann we've embraced this momentum not just as a business opportunity, but as a generational chance to be part of the reshaping of America's energy landscape.

Our growth in this sector has been driven by innovation, partnerships, and a commitment to long-term sustainability.

This young industry has allowed us to increase our

local staff and talent to new heights.

With new office locations in Providence and Boston to support the northeast wind farm cluster demand, we are set up for success through the early stages of US wind. We are committed to developing local talent that believes in the future of this industry.

US offshore wind has come a long way in a short time: from a single operational wind farm in 2016 to gigawatts of capacity now in development across the east coast.

We saw early on that offshore wind would not just be a niche sector for

us – it would be a pillar of the country's clean energy transition.

That insight shaped our strategy from day one.

We knew that success here would require close engagement with local communities, labour unions, regulatory bodies, and other industry leaders.

Our commitment to growing the US local pool for offshore wind has allowed us to deliver on our promise to the industry. Bringing decades of international wind experience, we have been able to deliver high level service in a challenging environment.

Our team is always eager to help, push and drive this market forward. We believe that wind can deliver not only a clean future to the US, but a prosperous one for our US industries across the board.

Of course, challenges remain. The US offshore wind market faces political challenges from shifting federal and state priorities, which can affect permitting timelines and long-term policy support.

Additionally, partisan divides over renewable energy can impact funding, infrastructure development, and overall momentum for the industry.

Nevertheless, our journey in this market has only just begun. With projects in the pipeline across multiple states, we are confident that our company will remain at the forefront of this growing sector. Our commitment has never wavered on this belief as we charge forward.

Offshore wind is not just about energy. It is about building a future where prosperity and sustainability go hand in hand. It is about a future where our grandchildren will know that this current US generation put us on the right path forward.

At Ampelmann, we are proud to play our part in that future. ■



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OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK: Gus DeOliveira

Photo: Ampelmann



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