

11 November 2025

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Odfjell Oceanwind gets Deepsea Star design nod

Norway's Odfjell Oceanwind has received basic design approval (BDA) from DNV for its Deepsea Star platform that will host 15MW turbines at floating offshore wind farms. **p2**

AR7 tender firmly under the spotlight at FOW 25

The UK's upcoming AR7 Contracts for Difference auction will be squarely in focus at FOW 25. **p2**

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Scotland's net zero dream hinges on workforce action

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What's on at FOW 2025?

Highlights from Wednesday's programme. **p5**

Ports alliance to unlock potential

Ports groups from the UK, France and Ireland have formed a floating offshore wind alliance, with plans to expand worldwide to help unlock the energy technology's full potential.

Port capacity has been one of the key challenges facing the nascent floating offshore wind industry, and, ahead of FOW 25 in Aberdeen this week, the new group – named the Floating Offshore Wind Ports Alliance – plans to foster collaboration on facility design, standardisation and best operational practices.

It will aim to strengthen and accelerate knowledge and experience sharing between ports and share best practices and innovations while respecting competition law, Associated British Ports (ABP), Brest Port and Shannon Foynes Port said.

"Today marks an important milestone for the development of floating offshore wind in Europe," said Andy Reay, group head of offshore wind at ABP, which has 21 ports that handle about a quarter of the UK's seaborne trade. "We believe



KEY SITE: Port Talbot is receiving significant investment from ABP

Photo: ABP

that one of the biggest clean energy opportunities for the UK is the development of floating offshore wind," he added. ABP sees the Celtic Sea and Scotland as key sites for floating offshore wind and is investing in a facility at Port Talbot in Wales and the Cromarty Firth Energy Park in Scotland.

The Brittany region of France has meanwhile committed €250m to the construction of the polder for its Offshore Renewable Energy Terminal at the port of Brest. The terminal is already partially operational and expected to be fully ramped up by 2027.

"Our commitment to the sector is reflected in our plans to invest €900m in developments heavily focusing on the energy

transition," said Arnaud Le Roy, ORE Terminal development manager at Brest Port.

Elsewhere, Shannon Foynes Port Company has responsibility for the maritime management of the Shannon Estuary, identified by the Irish government as a pathway of up to 30GW of Atlantic Ocean offshore wind energy by 2050.

"Participation in the FLOW Ports Alliance will help us deliver on this potential as we pool the collective insights and expertise of the leaders in this sector," said Pat Keating, chief executive. "This is fundamentally about us all working together to realise the enormous economic and environmental dividend that Ireland, the UK and mainland Europe will derive from floating offshore wind."

TRENDING ON
reNEWS.BIZ

MunmuBaram clears key marine safety milestone

Hexion has completed a marine traffic safety examination for its 750MMW MunmuBaram floater off South Korea. [Click here](#)

Shell hands back 2GW ChampionWind lease

Shell has confirmed the return of a lease for the 2GW ChampionWind floating offshore project to Crown Estate Scotland as part of the oil giant's exit from the sector. [Click here](#)

ScottishPower takes full control of MarramWind

ScottishPower Renewables has assumed full ownership of the 3GW MarramWind floater off Aberdeenshire, Scotland, following an agreement with former joint venture partner Shell. [Click here](#)

Mingyang partners on 2GW Philippines site

Mingyang has partnered with PetroGreen Energy subsidiary Buhawind Energy to explore the feasibility of a 2GW floating wind farm off Ilocos Norte in Philippines. [Click here](#)

Qair takes full control of 1GW Ayre ScotWind site

Qair has assumed full ownership of the 2GW Ayre ScotWind floater and will develop the project alone. The company has also exited the 1GW Bowdun wind farm. [Click here](#)

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Japan Marine United Corporation is one of Japan's leading shipbuilding companies. In the field of floating offshore wind, we aim to provide comprehensive EPCI services centred on our proprietary semi-submersible floater, Jade Wind, and are currently participating in government-led demonstration projects in Japan.

We look forward to this valuable opportunity to exchange ideas with many companies and experts that are driving floating offshore wind projects worldwide.

We began developing floating offshore wind technology in 1999 and joined the Fukushima floating offshore wind farm demonstration project in the 2010s, where we undertook the EPCI for the world's first floating offshore substation and a 5MW floating offshore

wind turbine. Building on that experience we developed the Jade Wind floater design. In the current demonstration project, we plan to install the latest large-scale wind turbines and are steadily preparing for commercial projects.

As a shipbuilding company, we also provide offshore wind-related work vessels. For AHTs, which are essential for floating offshore wind, we have delivered more than 30 units for oil and gas applications and are now developing vessels specifically for floating wind projects.

Leveraging our proven technologies in floaters and work vessels, we aim to expand into the global floating offshore wind market, including the UK.

Please visit us at Booth D52 to share insights and discuss the future of floating offshore wind.



Japan Marine United Corporation

Odfjell Oceanwind gets Deepsea Star design nod

Norway's Odfjell Oceanwind has received basic design approval (BDA) from DNV for its Deepsea Star platform that will host 15MW turbines at floating offshore wind farms.

The approval, announced ahead of this year's FOW 25 conference, covers the use of Siemens Gamesa's SG DD-236 15MW turbine in a wide range of conditions, including locations in the North Sea, Odfjell Oceanwind said.

Design assessments reviewed the strength and grade of the steel material used in the main structure, corrosion protection, stability,



PLANS AFLOAT: The Deepsea Star design

Photo: Odfjell Oceanwind

mooring, and marine and electrical systems, the company said, adding the BDA will provide a foundation for later design optimisation and certification. "By using

a floater design with BDA, the likelihood of getting to financial close is significantly increased," said chief executive Per Lund.

"We expect this form of certification to be instrumental in the journey of safely bringing down costs and making floating offshore wind relevant in the future energy mix."

The column-stabilised, semi-submersible steel design lends itself to mass production, lowering the unit cost and increasing supply chain efficiency, the company said.

AR7 tender firmly under the spotlight at FOW 25

The UK's upcoming AR7 Contracts for Difference auction will be squarely in focus at FOW 25.

The government has set aside £180m for the technology, which for the first time has its own dedicated funding pot. "This step could

unlock investment in new test and demonstration projects, with real supply-chain opportunities in the near future," said RenewableUK.

A panel discussion on Wednesday with speakers from the UK and Scottish governments as well as GB

Energy will explore ambitions for the next allocation round.

On Thursday morning, a session will get into the details of how to ensure the CfD mechanism best enables project deployment, and if alternative allocation models could be used in the future.



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THE INTERVIEW reNEWS



Ossian project director **David Willson** (left) discusses maintaining momentum in the floating wind sector, looking beyond the UK's 2030 targets, and grid challenges for developers

Q What is Ossian's key message for the industry at the Floating Offshore Wind conference this year?

A It feels like we are at a critical juncture. It's fair to say that the industry and the wider world is in a very different place than it was three years ago when the ScotWind winners were announced.

Some of that early optimism may have been dented by industry challenges and wider geopolitical and economic headwinds. While these headwinds are undeniable, so too is the huge opportunity to establish Scotland and the UK as a world leader in floating wind.

We need to redouble our efforts to ensure that the momentum isn't lost. In order to do this, developers and investors need confidence in the road to deployment to unlock investment.

That requires stakeholders across the spectrum to pull together in one direction including timely delivery of grid infrastructure, timely planning decisions, and adequate government support for early enabling projects. The opportunity is still there for the taking.

Q What does the sector need to see from government to support project delivery – are there any key 'asks' of policymakers?

A We need to keep one eye on the horizon and look beyond 2030. Now is the time to lay strong foundations for the next decade by ensuring that

adequate government support and funding, through the likes of the Industrial Growth Plan, is directed at establishing the supply chain to support the projects of the future and the gigawatts of floating wind deploying in the 2030s.

There remains some low hanging fruit that government and policy could unlock to support floating wind, including extensions to CfD delivery windows to reflect lengthening lead times and support early commitments to the supply chain.

Q How must the supply chain be prepared/evolved to meet the demands of the UK's floating wind pipeline?

A We understand that the supply chain has struggled with programme uncertainty as much as developers. Hopefully we are entering a phase where this picture will become clearer. In the short term, building in as much flexibility into business plans as possible will continue to be key.

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

A I'm sure every floating developer would answer differently but, for our part, I hope this is the last year that grid tops this list.

There is no denying the enormity of the task that the

Holistic Network Design and connections reform has presented, but it has been a challenge progressing with development given the uncertainty that these processes have introduced.

I'm hugely proud of the progress Ossian's made and the significant milestones we've achieved despite this uncertain landscape.

Q Can you provide an update on the development of Ossian – any big milestones coming up, and what is the current delivery timeline?

A 2025 has been a busy year for the project. Site activity included the conclusion of a measurement campaign to gather more than two years' worth of wind data, crucial for the development of the floating array, as well as a month-long benthic campaign along our export route to Lincolnshire.

Works to progress our connection to Lincolnshire have continued with the submission of an EIA scoping report for the transmission infrastructure and a series of events in the county in the spring in support of our non-statutory consultation.

We also currently have a live statutory consultation for the array consent application, following the submission of additional environmental information.

Looking forward, 2026 is set to be an exciting year as we remain hopeful of a timely and positive determination on our array consent.

JMU Japan Marine United Corporation

Experience

1980's~2000's
Development & building
of Semi-sub Drilling Rigs



1980's
~2000's

2010's~

2010's

Fukushima Floating Offshore Wind
Demonstration Project



"Fukushima Kizuna"
The World's first floating
substation



"Fukushima Hamakaze"
5MW Floating
wind turbine

2020's ~

Green Innovation Fund Project

Phase-1 R&D (2021-2023)

- R&D for Mass Production & Cost Reduction of Offshore Wind
- Performed the scaled demonstration test at site.

Phase-2 Demonstration(2024-2030)

- Project Site : Akita, Japan
- 12-15MW x 2 Units
- 400m Water Depth
- Planned Operation in 2029



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Floating offshore wind production in Scotland is set to catapult us into a net zero future.

Across our shorelines, the opportunities are plentiful, and Scotland could be a powerhouse for global green energy production driven by skilled workers. But when it comes to sticking to one coordinated plan to back our clean energy workforce, we, as an industry, have been too scattered in our approach.

Initiatives for identifying future talent and also reskilling those seeking to move from a high carbon to low carbon role have been uncoordinated, causing duplication of effort across Scotland and the UK while allowing key actions to fall through the cracks. This puts us at a two-fold risk of failing to plug the skills gap to drive economic growth and tackle the climate emergency.

Earlier this year, we saw a significant step forward in the infrastructure for floating offshore wind production with Kishorn Port receiving over £24m to help expand the west Highland dock

Scotland's net zero dream hinges on workforce action



Disjointed talent pipeline risks stalling progress in a booming clean energy sector, writes **Stewart McKinlay**, SOWEC workforce skills and training group chair

for manufacturing floating offshore wind foundations, offering up to 1500 jobs once fully developed.

As it stands, we do not yet have a robust and fully coordinated talent pipeline in place to make sure floating offshore wind manufacturing projects like these are built, despite there being a huge untapped opportunity to offer roles to those struggling with unemployment or underemployed.

The latest figures from the UK government estimate that 14.5% of young people

(aged 16-24) are currently unemployed, an increase of 0.8% from the previous year. Meanwhile, Skills Development Scotland estimates that youth unemployment was at 11.8% between June to August 2025.

Our unemployment rate increasing while countless roles in an industry with such growth potential remain empty would be a golden opportunity missed, putting a sustainable future for Scotland in jeopardy.

The Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council (SOWEC)

has published a Skills Guide, which identifies 25 roles in offshore wind with critical shortages of employees.

Our aim is that by bringing together supply chain employers, academia and developers, we will be able to pinpoint the key roles so vitally needed in our industry.

Additionally, the Short Life Working Group (established as a recommendation from the SOWEC Workforce, Skills and Training Group) has now shortlisted the most pressing of those roles along with actions that will begin to have

an immediate effect in one of Scotland's most economically important sectors.

We are seeing collaboration being demonstrated by the development of the Energy Skills Passport portal to help attract experienced talent to the industries in Scotland and the UK. While this helps signpost those already in possession of the relevant skills needed, far more effort is required to help guide young people entering the industry straight from further or higher education.

If the floating offshore wind sector is to meet its potential as a source of energy for generations to come, everyone needs to buy into the coordinated and clear plan being created to bridge the skills gap and take a collaborative approach to training routes and better engagement with young people.

Scotland's offshore wind industry has set a course for net zero, but without more concrete action to back a dedicated workforce plan, the wind will be taken out of our sails. ■



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FLOATING OFFSHORE WIND 2025

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

milestones for the sector over the past year and how government policy is shaping the future.

0930-1030, Conference Suite 1

Green Volt

Vargronn and Flotation Energy chief executives Stephen Bull and Barry MacLeod reveal the lessons learned so far from developing the 560MW Green Volt floating project. They are joined by executives from ORE Catapult, ESB, Crown Estate Scotland and the Welsh government.

1100-1200, Conference Suite 1

Scottish government address

Scotland's Deputy First Minister Kate Forbes will address the FOW 25 conference.

1245-1300, Conference Suite 1

Mooring and anchoring

Deep dive session into mooring and anchoring systems for floating offshore wind, with quick-fire insights from Bureau Veritas, Buchan Offshore, Subsea Micropiles, 2H Offshore Engineering, Dublin Offshore and ORE Catapult.

1300-1530, Conference Suite 2B

Clean Energy Cluster

A workshop focused on how concrete can be used for floating offshore wind substructures and how the supply chain is innovating to meet new demand. With insights from the Mineral Products Association, BW Ideol and Kishorn Port.

1430-1545, Conference Suite 2A

Project updates

Developers will present updates covering key delivery progress at ScotWind, INTOG and Celtic Sea floating offshore wind schemes.

Delegates will hear from Gwynt Glas, Fred Olsen Seawind, Copenhagen Offshore Partners, MarramWind, Equinor, Salamander, Buchan, Cierco and Ossian.

1600-1700, Conference Suite 1

Networking reception

Waves Group sponsors the Wednesday drinks reception in the exhibition hall. Time to unwind and catch up with colleagues.

1700, Exhibition Hall

Welcome remarks

RenewableUK deputy chief executive Jane Cooper will open FOW 25 in Aberdeen with a keynote address to the conference.

0915-0930, Conference Suite 1

Progress and priorities

Panelists including from DESNZ, the Scottish government and GB Energy will discuss key



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- ✓ In-depth analysis of all renewable technologies across Scotland
- ✓ Key insights into onshore and offshore wind projects
- ✓ The inside track on ScotWind and CfD auctions, merchant opportunities and PPAs

Published to all **reNEWS PREMIUM** subscribers on 2 April 2026
 Advertising booking deadline: 12 March



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