



Business Network for Offshore Wind Floating Offshore Wind Working Group

Setting the Scene

The offshore wind (“OSW”) industry is on track to be a cornerstone in the ongoing transformation of the U.S. energy sector. This is particularly true for East Coast states, whose coastal waters are characterized by moderate water depths that permit the deployment of OSW turbines atop bottom-fixed foundations.

However, the majority of the U.S. OSW resource is located in deep water, which will require floating foundations. This technology is confronted by many of the same hurdles—supply chain, ports, permitting—that face its fixed-bottom counterpart. However, floating wind brings additional challenges because the floating foundation technology itself is at an earlier stage of maturity. Additionally, floating wind facilities are currently envisioned for installation offshore of states that have not solidified their commitment to offshore wind.

Given the immense resource potential of deep water wind, but acknowledging its attendant challenges, the Business Network for Offshore Wind and Ramboll have deemed it critical to convene a cohesive discussion among key U.S. stakeholders to identify the most pressing industry needs and required responses to best ensure the entry of floating wind technology.

Objectives

- Identify and discuss important initiatives of the industry to advance the U.S. floating offshore wind and its associated supply chain and stakeholders
- Develop solutions and industry responses to the most pressing industry needs that will enable this technology towards a competitive levelized cost of energy level
- Utilize and review State strategies to advance floating wind projects
- Engage with State government stakeholders to prepare for deployment of floating OSW and establishment of required local U.S. supply chain and infrastructure
- Set forth a clear Work Plan for the next several years—a course of actions for industry and a subset of the Business Network for Offshore Wind’s membership to implement during the calendar year

Attendance

Attendance is open to developers, OEMs, and Tier 1 suppliers that are currently Leadership-level Members of the Business Network for Offshore Wind. Attendance at meetings is limited to C-Level and Senior Executives and preferably one representative per company. The Working Group is chaired by a Member of the Network Board of Directors, and supported by employees of the Network.

Work Scope

1. Assemble the leaders of the U.S. floating offshore wind industry
2. Identify important initiatives that will advance the U.S. floating offshore wind sector, with principal objectives focused on supply chain, infrastructure, and State policy
3. Collaboratively develop an annual work plan, including assigning responsibilities within the Working Group and the Business Network for Offshore Wind to implement actions
4. Research and publish regarding best practices for U.S. states/state-clusters interested in floating wind, and to drive engagement across the broader U.S. OSW stakeholder landscape
5. Convene in-person meetings at industry events/conferences (when permitted)
6. Build upon best practices from experiences in Europe and Asia and invite outside subject experts as guest speakers to explore new approaches and align in development of this technology (e.g. in close cooperation with WFO/NREL)
7. Pinpoint and pursue sources/levels of grant funding for any identified Working Group activities; may include requests to government, Joint Industry Partnerships with Academia
8. Report results of the actions to the Business Network Board of Directors