

5 April 2018

New Jersey governor eyes offshore crown

New Jersey is ready to reclaim its place as a leader in the US offshore wind industry following a long period in limbo, according to Governor Phil Murphy. **p2**

Offshore faces lobbying fight for its future

Industries opposed to offshore wind are "trying to strangle" the nascent US sector "in its crib", IPF 2018 has been warned. **p3**



EEW, Bay State map Massachusetts yard

German company EEW has signed a deal with Bay State Wind partners Orsted and Eversource to establish a facility in Massachusetts for the manufacture of offshore wind components. **p4**

Europeans sizing up slice of American pie

Trade delegations from across Europe have descended on IPF 2018 this week to strike up long-term relationships with developers in the US market. **p5**

reNEWS.biz

for rolling industry news updates on your PC and mobile

One step at a time, Deepwater warns

The US offshore wind industry must focus on developing projects incrementally and avoid rushing to scale, IPF 2018 has heard.

Deepwater Wind chief executive Jeff Grybowski warned developers not to "naively assume" there will be "massive leaps from small to gargantuan" projects in the short term.

"At the right size we can take US suppliers with us and not simply tell local suppliers they are too small to help," he said.

Grybowski added future wind farms must be developed "appropriately" for communities and other stakeholders, including

commercial fishermen who feel "extraordinarily threatened" by the sector.

The Deepwater chief highlighted political challenges of the market in the US, where federal, state and local officials are all involved in the consenting and construction process, and how they differ from those in Europe.

"Developing offshore wind in the US is going to be complicated. It is not about taking a model used elsewhere, picking it up and dropping it on the US seaboard."

Deepwater vice president of development Clint Plummer said industry will nevertheless be "very surprised" at just how

low the price of offshore wind will go "and how quickly" it will get there.

Plummer told delegates that better technology and a maturing supply chain will aid the push to reduce the cost of energy.

This shift will present the sector and policymakers with a challenge of whether to lock in projects now or "ride that cost curve down" and build later.

Deepwater built America's first offshore wind farm, the 30MW Block Island demo off Rhode Island, in 2016. It also has a number of late-stage developments preparing for construction off the north-east coast.

'Competition will spark US supply chain'

The US offshore wind industry will truly take off if new lease zones are identified and more developers compete for capacity, according to MHI Vestas market lead Adam Thomsen.

Greater competition among suppliers including turbine manufacturers is

also key to unleashing the US sector and bringing down the cost of energy, Thomsen told IPF 2018.

The sector needs long-term visibility to attract new entrants and spark growth among the domestic supply chain, which has "huge potential".

MHI Vestas staff stateside

have been told "if you can find someone to do it in the US, you pick them", said Thomsen.

Obstacles such as port restrictions and the Jones Act will not hold back development, the MHI Vestas man added.

"We will make it work," Thomsen said.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Storage wars

Deepwater, Orsted and UL offer up-to-the-minute thinking on the opportunities presented by the integration of large-scale battery technologies with commercial-scale offshore wind projects.

Thursday, 2pm to 3.15pm, Above the Water Track

Sip and puff

Relax in style after a busy day at the event with a scotch-and-cigars reception sponsored by Alpine Ocean Seismic Survey and Cathie Associates.

Thursday, 9.30pm to 11.30pm, Terrace View

Atlantic motion

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management officials provide an update on the way forward for offshore wind in federal waters along the eastern seaboard. Subjects include permitting, leasing, fisheries and environmental reviews.

Friday, 8.45am to 9.30am, Forrestal Ballroom

Happy trails

High-profile speakers including NYSERDA chief executive Alicia Barton send delegates on their way home with closing remarks. Safe travel and look forward to seeing you next time.

Friday, 12.00pm, Forrestal Ballroom

ADVISORS TO THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENERGY PIONEERS

PretiFlaherty | PretiSTRATEGIES



New Jersey governor eyes offshore crown

New Jersey is ready to reclaim its place as a leader in the US offshore wind industry following a long period in limbo, according to Governor Phil Murphy.

A 2010 vow to support 1.1GW of capacity in this decade has failed to materialise but the state

“must now aspire to do more”. Murphy, who has signed off on a 2030 target of 3.5GW, said New Jersey will “rebuild” its position in the sector “on the back of organised labor”.

The 2030 plan is “entirely achievable” and is part of a wider blueprint for a 100% clean energy electricity system

by 2050. The state has one of the best locations for offshore wind in the country.

“As a coastal state this should be a matter of common sense. It is a complete and utter no-brainer,” he said.

Orsted said this week it will open a new office in Atlantic City and “begin local hiring”.

The governor added: “We need to be a state that is not afraid to tilt at a few windmills.”

Steve Sweeney, president of the New Jersey state senate, said work on the Fisherman’s Energy 24MW Atlantic City demo project could begin within a year and kickstart the state’s plan. New legislation will be put before the senate shortly to outline future plans, added Sweeney.

“It has taken too long. New Jersey is ready to move forward. Legislation is sitting there waiting to be enacted.”

Orsted makes case for US installation armada

The delivery of a Jones Act-compliant installation vessel will kick-start construction in the US offshore wind sector, IPF 2018 has heard.

Orsted head of US procurement Annegrethe Jeppesen said the lack of a local jack-up is the biggest obstacle to progress.

Jeppesen said there is a market for at least two installation vessels to tackle foundation and turbine

installation based on current gigawatt projections to 2030. US-flagged vessels would help reduce installation timelines, decrease the overall cost of energy and offer greater safety, added Jeppesen.

Existing offerings from the oil and gas industry “cannot do the job efficiently for us.”

GustoMSC senior engineer Karel Wagner warned there are a limited number of US yards able to build a jack-up.



Rallying call for local heroes

The US offshore wind supply chain faces a “challenge” to support the current multi-gigawatt pipeline of offshore wind, IPF 2018 delegates have heard.

Business Network for Offshore Wind executive director Liz Burdock (pictured at the podium) said the importance of gearing up

local suppliers “has never been greater”.

Burdock said there is the potential to have up to 8GW of offshore wind connected or under late-stage development by end-2030.

“The Network recognises we need everybody. We all need to work together to build this capacity,” she said.

Photo: IPF

Monitor to avoid sinking assets

US offshore wind developers must put in place asset monitoring plans to guard against the sort of problems that affected early European projects.

Foundation tilt, steel corrosion, seabed movement and cable problems were among the potential pitfalls highlight by DNV GL senior geotechnical engineering Alice

Maynard at IPF 2018. Any problems with components can reduce the overall value of the project, affect refinancing opportunities and cause difficulties when attempting to offload stakes in a site, she said.

“It might cost you more (to monitor assets) but it will save you money in the end,” added Maynard.

OCEANEERING[®]
Connecting What's Needed with What's Next™

EMPOWER YOUR PROJECT, REDUCE YOUR COSTS

■ Connect with what's next at oceaneering.com

1ST USA BUILT CTV BLOCK ISLAND

Blount BOATS

South Boats

Blount Boats Inc.
461 Water Street
PO Box 368
Warren, Rhode Island 02885
USA
401.245.8300
info@blountboats.com
www.blountboats.com

Offshore faces lobbying fight for its future

Industries opposed to offshore wind are “trying to strangle” the nascent US sector “in its crib”, IPF 2018 has been warned.

National Wildlife Federation chief executive Collin O’Mara told delegates that bipartisan federal support is sometimes replaced by resistance at the state level.

According to O’Mara, the problems are created by “incumbent industries” that are “terrified of the explosive potential” of the sector.

He said: “Some folks are trying to cap the potential growth of offshore wind... whatever the market can bear should be the upper limiting factor.”

A reduced scope for the offshore sector could be the “death knell” for hopes of creating thousands of jobs,

added O’Mara. He called on the industry to “step up” its game to avoid “20 years of playing defence”.

“If you do not all hang together you will all surely hang alone,” he warned.

At present, companies are spending a “fraction” of their money on local politics compared with engineering and development, according to O’Mara.

US offshore wind is “light years behind” on lobbying compared with more established industries.

“If we are not at the table then we are on the menu. Right now offshore wind is on the menu because a lot of folks are not in the room,” he said.

O’Mara added that the offshore sector has the “full support” of NWF.

IN BRIEF

■ French utility EDF is to acquire the planned 24MW Atlantic City demo project off New Jersey from developer Fishermen’s Energy.

The project will generate skilled construction and operations jobs, positioning the local workforce to help build gigawatts of wind projects off the state, EDF said.

Regional project development manager Doug Copeland said: “We are eager to work with Fishermen’s Energy to provide an immediate opportunity for New Jersey to gain the benefit of local investment, jobs, infrastructure and experience.”

■ Avangrid and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners have joined the race to supply 200MW of offshore wind to Connecticut.

The Vineyard Wind partners have submitted a bid following the state’s request for proposals, which closed on Monday and aims to have projects up and running in 2025. The developer has yet to confirm its plan for Connecticut but it is expected it will dovetail with offerings already in play in other markets. Winners are due to be named in June.

reNEWS.biz

BOEM calls a huddle on new Atlantic lease zones

The US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is seeking input on the way forward for leasing of new offshore wind zones across the Atlantic outer continental shelf.

BOEM is conducting a “high-level assessment of all waters” for potential future lease locations.

Associated documents will be published in the Federal Register on 6 April.

Factors seen by BOEM as making an area attractive for future leasing include a location at least 10 nautical miles from shore in waters less than 60 metres deep.

Other preferences are for areas adjacent to states with offshore wind economic incentives, waters off states with an interest in new lease areas and locations where industry has expressed an interest in development.

Factors that could make an area more likely to be excluded are existing military uses and established marine

traffic channels. “BOEM is seeking input on all aspects of our proposed path forward but particularly the merits of these factors and whether there are other factors that should be considered at this preliminary stage,” said the agency.

Comments will be taken until 21 May.

■ BOEM is changing the way its taskforces operate in a bid to improve engagement with stakeholders, according to acting director Walter Cruickshank.

BOEM will “improve the quality and depth of conversations” at meetings to “dig a little deeper”, he told IPF 2018 delegates.

Taskforces will also “reach out” to more people and “increase the transparency of decision-making”.

“To realise the full potential of offshore wind we need to transcend state boundaries out in the ocean,” Cruickshank added.



AXIS

YOUR POWERFUL INSURANCE PARTNER



WIND ENERGY INSURANCE SOLUTIONS

We insure wind energy projects of all sizes working with:

- Developers
- EPCs
- OEM providers
- Owners and operators
- Manufacturers

World class coverage of:

- Marine Cargo
- Marine Delay in Start-up
- Construction All Risks
- Delay in Start-up
- Testing and Commissioning
- Interim Operations
- Operating All Risks
- Mechanical Breakdown/Boiler & Machinery
- Business Interruption

- Contingent Business Interruption
- Critical Catastrophe Risk
- General Liability

axisrenewables@axiscapital.com

www.axiscapital.com

Aeolus launches bold fleet plans

Aeolus Energy Group has unveiled an "aggressive" investment strategy including the construction of a new jack-up installation vessel to serve the US offshore wind industry.

The Florida operations and maintenance specialist is also planning new cableway, service and crew transfer vessels as part of an expansion to build a "Jones Act-compliant construction fleet" for the sector.

Up to 4000 new jobs will be created as part of its push into offshore and unspecified facilities in Massachusetts and Maryland will be upgraded.

The new jack-up will be able to install the latest 8MW to 10MW turbines and the investment plan is "our demonstration of confidence" in the US market, said chief executive Elia Golfín.

Aeolus has meanwhile awarded Ventower Industries a deal to fabricate training towers to be installed at a new offshore wind facility in Massachusetts.



THINKING BIG: XL monopile manufactured for the Arkona wind farm in the Baltic Sea Photo: EEW

EEW, Bay State map Massachusetts yard

German company EEW has signed a deal with Bay State Wind partners Orsted and Eversource to establish a facility in Massachusetts for the manufacture of offshore wind components.

The Rostock yard will partner with Louisiana company Gulf Island Fabrication, which has played a key role in the early development of the US sector, to create 500 jobs.

The new facility will focus on the production of monopile foundations and

transition pieces, including secondary steel components, and painting. EEW will manufacture tubulars and primary pieces while Gulf Island will outfit the secondary materials and tackle coatings.

"The collaboration will deploy new and specialised manufacturing capabilities that are not currently utilised in the US," said the partners.

EEW managing partner Christoph Schorge said: "The US, with Massachusetts and the Northeast at the fore, has long been ripe for robust

development of offshore wind energy." A new hub at an undisclosed location will host fabrication and load-out, generating up to 1200 indirect jobs in addition to onsite employment.

EEW was previously lined up alongside Danish company Bladt to supply foundations to the since-lapsed 468MW Cape Wind off Massachusetts.

Bay State has proposed an 800MW project into the offshore wind call in the same state with a decision due from officials this month.

MassCEC chasing \$20m R&D prize

The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and research group Power-US are hoping to win a \$20m innovation award from the US government.

The duo will if chosen work in collaboration with university departments across the country to promote research and development.

Final grant award is expected in June.

MassCEC programme director Nils Bolgen said work will focus on advancing wind turbine technology, improving O&M and the collection of metocean data.

Bolgen will be speaking at IPF 2018 on Thursday at a session titled Using Science to Inform Offshore Wind Development Decisions. He will present recent research into acoustic monitoring to track the location of endangered North Atlantic right whales in real-time.

Results could lengthen the construction window for projects off the northeast coast by increasing the time on the water for pile driving.



seajacks.com

Seajacks Scylla

Next Generation Wind Installation Jack Up

Monopile & jacket installation

Capable of installing 12MW+ WTGs and above

Available for charter. Contact us now to discuss your wind installation project, email marketing@seajacks.com



IN BRIEF

■ Houston-based engineer Zentech and Renewables Resources International of Virginia are converting an existing US vessel into a self-propelled jack-up.

Work is due to begin this year and be completed by the end of 2019. The vessel is designed to handle four 8MW to 9MW turbines and will also be able to install foundations.

■ The Business Network for Offshore Wind, which organizes the IPF, is joining forces with Scottish industry group Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group to promote mutual commercial, strategic and policy interests in offshore wind in the US and UK.

■ The Global Wind Organisation wants US offshore wind players to sign up to its training standards for workers during IPF 2018.

■ Replacing met masts with floating lidar devices to carry out metocean monitoring could offer significant cost reductions at in-development offshore wind projects, IPF 2018 will hear at a session taking place Thursday at 4pm.

renews.biz

Europeans sizing up slice of American pie

Trade delegations from across Europe have descended on IPF 2018 this week in a bid to strike up long-term relationships with developers in the US market.

A 12-strong UK party pieced together by Innovate UK featuring members from eight government and industry bodies is among those looking to make inroads

at the New Jersey event. "We are looking at areas where the UK is a leader, like project design, engineering, site surveys, subsea ROVs and condition monitoring," said delegation member and Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult bid manager James Battersby.

Norwegian Energy Partners is leading a group

of 15 companies and will host meetings with project developers and other stakeholders. "We are looking to push the competencies our companies have gained in oil and gas into the arena of offshore wind," said wind director David Ottesen.

A delegation led by the Danish Energy Association will also be wooing US players.

Countdown to 2021 for AK Suda jack-up

Louisiana marine designer AK Suda is poised to begin construction of a purpose-built offshore wind installation vessel in the US.

The company is due to start keel-laying by the end of the second quarter of this year, according to managing director Ajay Suda.

The New Orleans-based outfit has partnered with

All Coast, a US liftboat management company, which will own and operate the new JG10000 vessel.

The jack-up, which will be capable of carrying and installing eight 8MW turbines, is expected to be ready for charter in mid-2021 to dovetail with planned wind farm construction off Massachusetts.

Revolution plot for state power

US developer Deepwater Wind has proposed supplying 200MW of offshore wind to Connecticut from its planned Revolution wind farm.

The company responded to the New England's state recent request for proposals, which closed on 2 April.

Revolution is located in federal waters roughly halfway between Montauk, New York, and Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and is designed to serve as a regional energy center.

The Connecticut scheme could be developed as a standalone or extension project, depending on the result of a separate procurement off Massachusetts due to be unveiled later this month.

Deepwater is also proposing an optional storage component.

Construction on Revolution could begin in 2022 with the project potentially connecting to the grid in 2023.

Survey work is already underway.

reNEWS
 Publisher
Renews Limited
 St George's House,
 St George's Street,
 Winchester,
 Hampshire,
 SO23 8BG, UK.
 ISSN 1478-307X
 © All articles appearing in reNEWS are protected by copyright. Any unauthorised reproduction is strictly prohibited.
editorial@renews.biz
renews.biz

Expertise, on the surface and beyond

Fully-integrated marine services, from a single source.

jfmarsine-services.com

James Fisher and Sons plc
 Marine Services Worldwide

James Fisher
 Marine Services

