

POWER cluster



Overcoming Challenges for the Offshore Wind Industry

The offshore wind industry still has substantial challenges to overcome, including the development of the supply chain and ensuring there are more suitably qualified people. Many of these issues have been gradually resolved in the closely related offshore oil & gas industry.

POWER cluster responded to this by commissioning a study looking at both challenges facing the offshore wind industry and what could be learnt from the oil and gas industry.

Learning from the Oil & Gas Industry

One of the findings indicated that the offshore wind industry is dominated by turbine manufacturing companies who tend to be secretive and unwilling to share their experiences. While the oil and gas industry has a more collaborative approach to facing the problems of working in the North Sea.



Adopting a similar approach may reduce both risks and cost. Although the most important area the offshore wind industry could benefit from is experience. The oil and gas industry has 40 years experience and this could be particularly important for

the planned expansion of the industry.

Overcoming Challenges

Arguably the biggest challenge is reducing the cost of offshore wind farms. The planned expansion of offshore wind farms provides an opportunity to drive down these costs by developing a more competitive market. However there is no 'magic bullet' it can only be achieved by optimizing every stage of development, manufacture, installation and operation.

Main Outputs and Results

Some of our key achievements include:

- 4 workshops organised to input into the study and encourage debate between oil and gas and offshore wind companies,
- Comprehensive study detailing recommendations to overcome challenges and learn from the oil and gas industry,
- Study promoted at high profile events in different POWER cluster regions.

Legacy

Partners will collaborate to raise awareness of the challenges facing the offshore wind industry and how they can be overcome. It is particularly important that the offshore wind industry capitalises on existing experience from other industries such as oil and gas.



Partners involved

Suffolk County Council, UK
East of England Energy Group, UK
Offshore Centre Danmark, DK
South Denmark European Office, DK
Greater Stavanger Economic Development, NO
Chalmers University, SE
Ministry of Science, Economic Affairs and Transport of the land Schleswig-Holstein, DE
BIS Bremerhavener Gesellschaft für Investitionsförderung und Stadtentwicklung mbH, DE

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