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# Telling the whole offshore energy story

## Bringing offshore wind, oil and gas and the maritime sector under one roof, OEEC 2026 explores how innovation, energy security and nature enhancement are shaping the future of the offshore energy industry.

On 24th and 25th November 2026, RAI Amsterdam once again brings the offshore energy industry together. The Offshore Energy Exhibition & Conference (OEEC), organised by Navingo, brings together project developers, suppliers, engineers, policymakers, investors and innovators for two days of business, knowledge sharing and networking.

This year's edition takes the theme 'Securing Energy, Sustaining the Future'. It captures the dual challenge the sector faces today: keeping energy supply reliable and secure in uncertain times, while accelerating the transition to a cleaner energy system.

OEEC 2026 aims to show how the different parts of the offshore industry connect.

### One umbrella, three core markets

'Offshore Energy is the umbrella under which we work,' says Ken Rijkers, Sales Manager at OEEC. 'First and foremost, think of offshore wind and offshore oil and gas production. Neither can happen without the maritime sector. Those are the three core markets we focus on. But around them lies an entire landscape: from ports and other sustainable forms of energy such as marine energy and floating solar, to the dredging that keeps those ports accessible. We want to tell the whole story.'

That broad scope is what sets OEEC apart. Rather than treating offshore wind, oil and gas and shipping as separate worlds, the event brings them together on one exhibition floor and in one conference programme. Visitors will find hydrogen, carbon capture and storage and emerging offshore technologies alongside the established players, reflecting an increasingly connected industry.

### Innovation close to home

Every year, the organisers identify key developments to feature at the event. 'We focus above all on new developments and innovations,' Ken explains. 'The Netherlands is one of the leading countries in offshore energy, so we can find a great deal close to home.'

Nature enhancement at sea is a prime example. A dedicated Nature Enhancement Pavilion brings together key players from the Dutch market to show what is happening in this fast-growing field. Interest group De Rijke Noordzee (The Rich North Sea) will host sessions, and Ecowende will show how to build a wind farm while taking nature into account from the very start.

It reflects a broader shift in thinking. Offshore infrastructure is no longer judged only on the megawatts it delivers or the resources it produces, but also on what it gives back to the marine ecosystem. For visitors, the pavilion offers a practical look at how ecology and engineering can support each other.

### Security on the agenda

'In these times of geopolitical unrest, security deserves our full attention,' argues Ken. 'It has been clear for some time that our infrastructure at sea is highly vulnerable to sabotage by malicious actors.' Cables, pipelines and wind farms form the backbone of Europe's energy supply, and protecting them has become an urgent priority.

At OEEC 2026, the Dutch Ministry of Defence and SeaSec will discuss the use of drone technology for defence. The session gives visitors an insight into how government and industry are working together to safeguard critical assets at sea.

### Converging markets, shared space

'Next to that, we see the core markets we focus on growing ever closer together,' Ken says. 'Especially in the North Sea, where space is limited, you see the need to collaborate. This system integration is further reinforced by the demand for energy security. Alongside sustainable energy, it is also wise to be able to guarantee our own supply of oil and gas.'




That convergence runs through the entire programme. A prominent example is North Sea Energy, which will host a side event at OEEC and share its findings during the conference. 'We are proud to have them with us,' Ken comments. The research programme brings together national and international organisations from across the energy value chain.

Together, they investigate the benefits of an integrated approach to offshore energy: cost savings, efficient use of space, effects on nature and the environment, and lower $CO_2$ emissions.

For visitors, it is a chance to see how the North Sea is developing into a connected energy system in which wind, gas, carbon storage and shipping increasingly depend on one another.

Join the community. Shape the future.

Join OEEC 2026 on 24th and 25th November at RAI Amsterdam to discover the latest developments, connect with industry leaders and explore new business opportunities.

You can also start planning your organisation's participation in OEEC 2027. Visitors, sponsors and exhibitors can all take part in the discussion about the industry's future.

oeec.biz

## Things not to miss

**The Award Dinner and the first Offshore Energy Oyster**

The event opens on Monday evening with the Award Dinner. 'This year, for the first time, we will present the Offshore Energy Oyster to an individual and to an organisation or company that has left its mark on our industry,' reveals Ken.

The award is no ordinary oyster, but a fossilised one. These oysters are millions of years old and lived in environments that, over time, were transformed into oil and gas reserves. Today, the oyster still plays a role in the sector. It symbolises a commitment to giving back to nature by putting nature enhancement and sustainability at the centre of the sector's work.

**The Innovators Area and the Innovation Awards**

OEEC offers a look at the technologies being developed for the sector. On the exhibition floor, the Innovators Area gives startups, scale-ups, knowledge institutions and technical universities a platform to present new technologies, new concepts and practical solutions. During the Innovation Awards on stage, an expert jury will assess entries from around the world.

**Young Professionals Day**

On Wednesday, the second day, the spotlight is on the next generation. Young professionals can attend free of charge, and the stage hosts a dedicated programme block for them. It is an opportunity to explore career paths, meet future employers and build a network early on.

**RVO workshops, masterclasses and the NL Pavilion**

The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) has been a partner of OEEC for many years. RVO organises workshops and masterclasses, some of which are open to OEEC visitors. It also invites a large number of international guests and hosts its own NL Pavilion, making it a natural hub for anyone looking to do business with Dutch companies or meet foreign guests.