



Charting the course

The Global Offshore Wind (GOW) conference and exhibition, organised by RenewableUK, is set to take place on June 18th and 19th at Manchester Central. This premier event brings together over 5,000 attendees, more than 260 exhibitors, and over 200 speakers from more than 50 countries, making it a focal point for the offshore wind industry.



This year's theme, 'Coming of Age,' highlights the sector's maturation and its pivotal role in the global energy transition. The conference aims to foster discussions around cutting-edge technologies, strategic partnerships, and innovative solutions to the industry's most pressing challenges. Attendees can expect a rich agenda featuring high-quality content across five main streams.

Floating wind technology

Floating wind technology represents a significant advancement in offshore wind capabilities. Unlike traditional fixed-bottom turbines, floating turbines can be installed in deeper waters, thus unlocking vast new areas for wind energy generation.

This technology offers numerous benefits that significantly enhance the potential for renewable energy generation. It allows access to deeper waters, which are unsuitable for traditional fixed-bottom turbines, thereby unlocking vast areas with strong, consistent winds. Floating wind technology also has a smaller seabed footprint, reducing environmental impacts on marine ecosystems.

Additionally, stronger winds in deeper waters result in higher energy yields, while offshore placement minimises visual impact from the shore. Furthermore, floating wind technology provides greater flexibility in site selection, avoiding conflicts

with shipping lanes and fishing areas, and facilitating smoother project approvals. These advantages position floating wind technology as a key component in the future of sustainable energy.

Sessions dedicated to floating wind will explore the latest innovations, deployment strategies, and case studies from leading projects around the world.

Digitalisation in offshore wind

Digitalisation is revolutionising the offshore wind sector by significantly enhancing efficiency, safety, and productivity. This transformation involves the use of advanced data analytics to monitor and optimise wind



farm operations in real-time. Predictive maintenance, powered by big data and machine learning, helps in anticipating equipment failures before they occur, reducing downtime and maintenance costs.

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) further streamlines operations by automating processes and improving decision-making accuracy. These digital technologies collectively optimise performance, lower operational costs, and enhance the overall reliability and lifespan of offshore wind farms.

Experts will discuss how these technologies can optimise performance and reduce operational costs.

Sustainable development

At the core of the offshore wind industry lies an unwavering commitment to sustainability. Scheduled sessions will spotlight crucial topics ranging from rigorous environmental impact assessments to the implementation of sustainable supply chain practices and the development of robust community engagement strategies.

Through these dialogues, stakeholders aspire to navigate the intricate landscape of offshore wind development, ensuring that every step forward is firmly anchored in broader environmental and social sustainability objectives.

Market and policy developments

Understanding the regulatory landscape and market dynamics is crucial for stakeholders in the offshore wind industry. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the intricate policy frameworks that govern offshore wind deployment, exploring key regulations and incentives that incentivise sustainable growth. Moreover, it will illuminate the importance of international collaboration efforts, showcasing how cross-border partnerships catalyse innovation and propel the sector forward on a global scale.

Through engaging sessions led by policymakers and industry luminaries, attendees will glean firsthand knowledge of the latest developments and emerging trends in the offshore wind arena.

Innovation and technology

At the forefront of the offshore wind industry lies a relentless pursuit of innovation, driving progress and propelling the sector into new frontiers of sustainability and efficiency. Within the conference program, a dedicated stream will



shine a spotlight on the latest breakthrough technologies that are reshaping the landscape of offshore wind development.

From cutting-edge turbine designs leveraging state-of-the-art materials and engineering principles to revolutionary installation methods that streamline project timelines and reduce costs, these sessions will showcase the ingenuity and creativity driving technological advancement in the industry.

Attendees will have the opportunity to examine the intricacies of these innovations, gaining insights into their potential to revolutionise the offshore wind sector.

Moreover, these sessions will foster dialogue and collaboration among industry stakeholders, encouraging the exchange of ideas and best practices to further accelerate innovation adoption and implementation. By exploring how these breakthrough technologies can enhance the efficiency, reliability, and scalability of offshore wind projects, attendees will be empowered to drive positive change and propel the industry toward a more sustainable and prosperous future.

Networking and exhibition

GOW 2024 is not just about knowledge sharing; it's also a prime networking opportunity. With over 260 exhibitors, the exhibition floor will be a hub of activity where attendees can connect with key players in the industry. Exhibitors range from turbine manufacturers and service providers to technology developers and financial institutions. This diverse representation offers a comprehensive view of the offshore wind ecosystem.

Networking events are a staple of GOW, and this year is no different. Highlights include the GOW Networking After Party, receptions, and dinners that provide informal settings for building strategic relationships. These



events are designed to facilitate connections and foster collaborations among attendees from around the globe.

Key speakers and sessions

GOW 2024 boasts an impressive lineup of over 200 speakers, including industry experts, innovators, and policymakers. Keynote addresses and panel discussions will cover a wide range of topics, providing deep insights into the current state and future of offshore wind. Notable speakers include leaders from major energy companies, government representatives, and thought leaders in renewable energy.

International participation

With participants from more than 50 countries, this is a truly global event. This international dimension enriches the conference by bringing diverse perspectives

and expertise to the table. Attendees will have the chance to engage with a global supply chain, discuss cross-border projects, and explore international market opportunities.

Side events and workshops

In addition to the main conference and exhibition, GOW 2024 will feature a diverse array of side events and workshops designed to offer focused, in-depth discussions on specific topics pertinent to the offshore wind industry. These supplementary sessions provide attendees with the opportunity for a more nuanced exploration of key themes such as financing offshore wind projects, grid integration, and workforce development.

These auxiliary sessions are crafted to facilitate a deeper understanding of specialised subjects, allowing participants to delve into intricacies and complexities that may not be fully addressed in the broader conference format. With a focus on intimate settings and interactive engagement, attendees can expect to engage in robust dialogue and exchange insights with fellow industry professionals and subject matter experts.

Conclusion

Global Offshore Wind 2024 promises to be a landmark event for the offshore wind industry. With its rich agenda, diverse participation, and extensive networking opportunities, it offers unparalleled insights and connections for professionals in the sector. Whether you are looking to learn about the latest technological advancements, understand market dynamics, or forge new partnerships, GOW 2024 is the place to be.

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