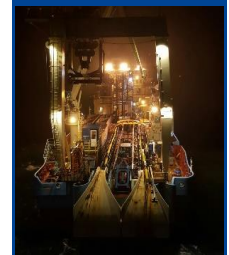
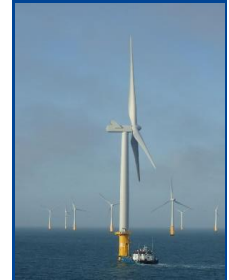
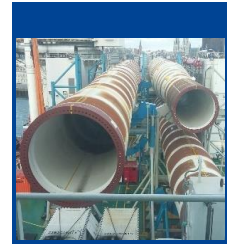




**O R I E L**  
WINDFARM LIMITED

# OREDP Mid Term Review Consultation Response





## 1 Introduction

Oriel Windfarm Limited is a primarily Irish owned sustainable energy company established in 2005 to develop offshore wind farms in Ireland. In September 2017, a strategic partner was introduced when the Belgian company Parkwind stepped into the capital of Oriel.

Oriel has been a front runner in the offshore wind development in Ireland.

Parkwind is a frontrunner in the Belgian offshore wind industry and is now a 360 degrees off-shore wind company able to invest and provide business solutions over the entire value chain of an off-shore wind project.

In the past years, Parkwind has successfully developed and constructed 3 offshore wind farms (Belwind, Northwind and Nobelwind) located in the Belgian concessions zone in the North Sea.

These 3 wind farms, that are still operated by Parkwind today, provide 552 MW of green energy to the Belgian market. Oriel aims to set up a similar Irish structure as Parkwind uses in Belgium for the operation and maintenance of the windfarms.

Project	Belwind	Northwind	Nobelwind
			
Output:	165 MW	216 MW	165 MW
Distance to shore:	47 km	37 km	47 km
Sea Depth:	18 – 31 m	16 – 29 m	25 – 38 m
Area:	17 km <sup>2</sup>	14,5 km <sup>2</sup>	18 km <sup>2</sup>
Export cable:	150 kV	220 kV	220 kV
Tot Project Cost:	EUR 660 million	EUR 875 million	EUR 620 million
Status:	Operational	Operational	Operational
AEP:	540 GWh	870 GWh	680 GWh

Figure 1: overview operational wind farms developed, constructed and operated by Parkwind

The Oriel project is located 22km off the coast of Dundalk. Oriel is currently undertaking pre-construction planning activities, while awaiting the outcome of the recent RESS consultation. Oriel expects the RESS consultation will provide the long-awaited market mechanism that will allow Oriel to be the first mover in the commercial development of Ireland’s significant offshore wind resources. Oriel is ready to introduce offshore wind energy into the Irish market

We believe Oriel can be a strong partner to the Government in reaching not only the 2030 European targets of sustainable energy, but possibly our 2020 renewable energy targets. Indeed, today Oriel is confident it can fast track the exploitation of Ireland’s renewable offshore energy resources. By doing so, we



believe we can positively impact on job creation, economic growth, public involvement and diversification of the available energy mix in the near term and the long term, while being competitive at the same time.

The location and scale available from the development of the Oriel wind farm project provides several advantages that can ensure Ireland achieves the build rate required to meet these targets. This will reduce community opposition to renewable energy roll out and reduce the requirement for multiple grid connections by using existing transmission infrastructure close to the East coast demand centres.

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## **2 Specific comments in relation to the Mid Term Review of the OREDP**

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Oriel fully supports the development of the technology development work ongoing in the Irish marine renewable energy sector. We acknowledge the significant support that this sector has received through the implementation of the OREDP action plan and fully agree that this support should continue, there is a significant opportunity for job creation in this nascent sector.

In our response to this consultation we will focus on some key points in relation to the development of commercial scale fixed offshore wind developments in Irish waters. The initial development of fixed offshore wind projects in Irish waters will not only be significant step towards meeting Ireland's 2020 and 2030 renewable energy targets, it would act as a kick start to the development of Ireland's vast marine energy resources.

The recent Renewable Energy Support Scheme consultation identified the need to incentivise the introduction of sufficient renewable generation to deliver national and EU wide renewable energy and decarbonisation targets, and the broadening and diversification of the renewable energy technology mix. The RESS consultation documents also state that the Government is very supportive of the nascent renewable technology sector including offshore wind and are considering mechanisms to enable supports for these technologies. Oriel has submitted a detailed response to the RESS consultation undertaken by DCCAE where we have suggested a fast track option to enable the early development of a first mover in the Irish offshore wind sector.

The mid-term review of the OREDP presents an opportunity for the clarification of Ireland's policy in relation to the development of fixed offshore wind. The OREDP report published in February 2014 suggests that the development opportunity for offshore wind to 2020 and beyond, is the potential to export energy to the United Kingdom in the first instance, with the possibility in the future of participation in the North West European energy market.

Oriel suggest that the OREDP be updated to include the option to develop fixed offshore wind energy projects in the near term to help Ireland achieve its 2020 and 2030 renewable energy and emissions reduction goals.

Regarding the specific questions asked in the consultation document Oriel fully support the comments made in the response submitted by NOW Ireland. We would also welcome the opportunity to provide an update of our plans for the Oriel project to the Department and wish to request a meeting at an appropriate time in the New year.