

International and Offshore Energy Division
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
29-31 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2
D02 X285

8th March 2022
By e-mail: phase2@decc.gov.ie

Dear Sir/madam,

Re: Offshore Wind Phase Two Consultation

Introduction

Principle Power is an independent technology and services provider offering solutions for floating offshore wind projects that span the entire project lifecycle, from development to decommissioning.

Principle Power welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Offshore Wind Phase Two Consultation as we believe the outcome will be fundamental in shaping the development of offshore wind in Ireland out to 2030.

Principle Power has been an enabler of Floating Offshore Wind with our WindFloat technology that is currently employed on two Floating Offshore Wind Projects in Europe in Portugal (WindFloat Atlantic) and Scotland (Kincardine). Floating Offshore Wind is therefore a proven technology and is set to become a major contributor to global offshore wind capacity over the coming decade and beyond. The recently concluded ScotWind leasing round resulted in the award of 11 floating wind projects with a cumulative capacity of 15GW. This outcome along with the unprecedented level of interest in those floating projects clearly illustrates the vast potential offered by the technology.

We firmly believe that Ireland can develop a sustainable floating offshore wind industry supporting major employment, both direct and indirect. However, that window of opportunity is limited and if Ireland fails to act now then these long-term benefits to the economy will simply not materialise. Policy support and clear visibility of a project pipeline are essential ingredients for investor confidence in a new industry. We therefore ask that you support the deployment of floating offshore wind as part of the Phase Two process.

Developing a Supply Chain and Maximising Local Content

In addition to unlocking large amounts of high-quality offshore wind resource, floating wind presents a significant industrial opportunity. The value of the floating foundations for offshore wind is estimated to be approximately one third of the total project capital value. While in the short term it is likely that the turbine components will continue to be manufactured in mainland

Europe, we believe that floating foundations can be manufactured and/or assembled in Ireland. In particular, the benefits from foundations like Principle Power's WindFloat that allows manufacturing the WindFloat in modules of different degrees of complexity that enables multiple fabricators of different tiers in Ireland to be involved in the supply chain. The different modules can be transported to a site in Ireland for assembly and further integration with the turbine at a quayside in Ireland. The WindFloat technology allows flexibility in finding the best solution to enable local content in a floating windfarm project.

Investment in the supply chain will be driven by clear policy support so there must be a pathway to bring forward floating offshore wind by 2030. Failure to encourage this supply chain in this timeframe would likely see this opportunity largely lost to another location in the UK or mainland Europe.

We also believe that the deployment of floating offshore wind in Ireland supports the principle of balanced regional development. Most of the first phase of offshore wind projects will be concentrated on the East Coast given the suitable conditions for fixed foundation technology. The western seaboard is a region which requires greater levels of investment and this can be facilitated by a new floating offshore industry and the employment opportunities that will come with it.

Supporting the Journey to Net Zero

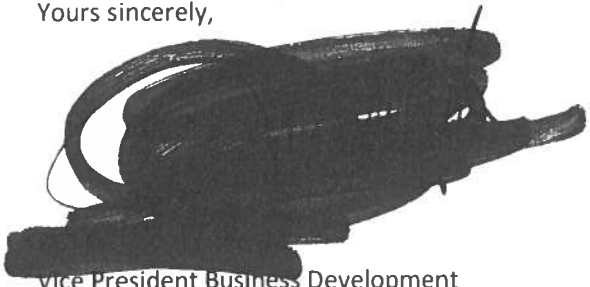
There is a clear recognition that floating offshore wind off the west coast has the capacity to supply multiples of the current Irish electricity demand and therefore the long-term development of the industry cannot be based on a typical grid-connected solution alone. Alternative routes to market will be required for floating offshore wind and the manufacture and deployment of hydrogen is seen as an exciting opportunity in this regard. Securing a net zero energy system for Ireland is closely tied to the success of the floating offshore wind sector. The ability to deliver this most economically is reliant on scaling out the industry to service both the domestic and export market. The scale of the opportunity of this industry could see Ireland reaching energy independence in the long term.

Conclusion

Floating offshore wind is key to unlocking the future potential of Irish territorial waters. It is important for both the industry and the government to prepare to capture that energy in this decade. Given international developments and the fact that floating offshore wind is now a commercially viable technology, Principle Power believes that it is crucial for provision to be made within Phase Two as the technology can clearly deliver for 2030.

The Programme for Government sets out a long-term plan to take advantage of a potential of at least 30GW of floating wind. We fully support the scale of this ambition. We also believe that it is possible to achieve but only if suitable support measures are put in place in the short term. We strongly recommend that floating wind is supported in Phase Two and that a separate pot is specifically allocated for this technology in future auctions. The potential prize is significant and worth pursuing, and we ask that you give due consideration to this request in determining your plans.

Yours sincerely,



Vice President Business Development
Principle Power