

**Minutes of the 8th meeting of the
Offshore Renewable Energy Steering Group
Job Creation Working Group**

3 December 2018

10:30-12:00

Attendees: DCCAE Eamonn Confrey (EC), Philip Mac Fadden (PMF), IMDO Liam Lacey (LL), SEAI Darren Coppinger (DC), IDA Gavin O'Loughlin (GOL), Enterprise Ireland Tom Kelly (TK)

Apologies: Declan Meally (SEAI)

1. **Adopt Agenda** – The agenda was adopted.

2. **Minutes of Last Meeting** – The minutes were accepted.

3. **Policy Updates – DCCAE & SEAI**

a. Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS)

EC outlined 3 pieces of work that are proceeding in parallel that are required to complete the delivery of RESS which is a main priority for the DCCAE in 2019.

- i. DCCAE officials are working with DG COMP to prepare the State Aid pre-notification. Once the pre-notification is submitted, reviewed and queries answered, DCCAE will proceed to formal notification.
- ii. A Community Enabling Framework is being developed – the aim of the framework is to use currently existing architecture within communities (such as the LEO's) to enable community engagement rather than risking duplication of efforts.
- iii. Auction Design – DCCAE are working with the regulator and TSO and have engaged consultants to develop the RESS auction design.

b. Maritime Area Forshore Amendment (MAFA) Bill

The AG has recently cleared advice from his officials, this advice has also been circulated to relevant departments. An options paper is being developed by D/Taoiseach and is expected in the new year.

c. Grid

Eirgrid's Mark Foley recently presented to the Oireachtas Committee on Climate action and Environment. He noted that Eirgrid currently favour a centralised grid model.

GOL mentioned a recent meeting between the IDA and Orsted (formerly DONG) in which Orsted expressed interest in making a significant investment in offshore wind off the west coast of Ireland in the medium term. A government statement on offshore wind ambition would be welcome.

ACTION: PMF to circulate transcript of Mark Foleys remarks to Oireachtas Committee on CCAE to group.

ACTION: GOL to share slides from IDA meeting with Orsted.

LL suggested that an independent study on the socio-economic benefits offered by ORE would be a useful tool to raise community awareness/acceptance of ORE projects. Following discussion it was suggested that the JCWG consider commissioning a piece of work on this in 2019, while noting it is essential that the research be independent and objective.

ACTION: Add the development of a piece of work on the Socio-economic benefits offered by ORE to the next JCWG agenda. Suggestions on the form this work could take are requested prior to 31 January 2019.

4. Recommendations of the OREDP Interim Review – JCWG Implementation

Actions arising from the OREDP Interim Review Recommendations were discussed with a view to updating the group work program for 2019.

Action: PMF to circulate current Job Creation Group Work Program. Agencies to review relevant action points and revert with relevant suggested updates by 19 December 2018.

5. Communications Strategy

Following discussion it was decided that

ACTION: 2018 Communications strategy to be circulated to the group by PMF. Group to respond with suggested updates for 2019 by 19 December 2018.

6. AOB

- a. **Future Jobs Initiative** – The FJI is expected to be launched by DEJI in late January of 2019. The FJI identifies action points that will be monitored and pursued by the Department of the Taoiseach. There is an opportunity for the JCWG to add an action point or points to the initiative.
- b. **Disruptive Technology fund.** – This fund has recently been launched and 10 renewable projects (none of which relate directly to offshore) have been chosen to go forward to the next stage.

ACTION: PMF to circulate DCCAIE press release on the Climate Action Fund.

JC to circulate details on the Disruptive Technology fund when available.

7. Date of Next Meeting. – ACTION: PMF to circulate potential date in Spring 2019.