Offshore Wind Supply Chain Efforts

Need for a Domestic Offshore Wind Supply Chain

Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) requires the State to source 50 percent of all electricity sales from renewable energy by 2030. Maryland has approved 2022.5 MW of offshore wind projects to help reach this goal. The Maryland offshore wind supply chain can develop, construct, and operate these projects with proper preparation and investment.

50% by 2030 Renewable Portfolio Standard goal

2022.5 MW Offshore Wind projects approved

Industry Educational Resources

Through a grant administered by the Maryland Energy Administration, the Business Network for Offshore Wind provides industry education and other resources to Maryland businesses, workforce organizations, and individuals. These resources include:

- Offshore Wind 101 Webinars (free)
- Foundation 2 Blade (F2B) Course Offerings (significantly reduced cost)
- Maryland Offshore Wind Website (in development)
- SupplyChainConnect Maryland Portal
- Maryland Expert in Residence Program (in development)

Business and Workforce Opportunities

The Maryland Energy Administration offers grant funding on a competitive basis for emerging businesses and workforce training centers seeking involvement in the offshore wind industry. These funding opportunities are designed to target the gaps and needs of the current supply chain in Maryland and benefit a regional supply chain as more projects are established on the East Coast. The Grant Incentives include:

- Maryland Offshore Wind Capital Expenditure Program
- Maryland Offshore Wind Workforce Training Program
- Open Energy Grant Program

These State financial incentives may be bundled or stacked with other incentives provided by the Maryland Department of Commerce, Maryland Department of Labor, or any federal incentive.
In State Expenditures

To bring the greatest net positive economic benefits to the State, developers of approved offshore wind projects have committed to capital investments totaling $1.5 billion in state expenditures. These capital investments will support expanding and/or upgrading port infrastructure in Baltimore and Ocean City, Maryland, manufacturing businesses, especially small, minority, and woman owned businesses, and the maritime industry who will be providing the vessels and operations and maintenance of the offshore wind projects.

Port Infrastructure

Large investments into expanding port infrastructure are needed to accommodate turbine components and the vessels needed to construct, operate, and maintain the offshore wind projects. Both project developers have committed large capital investments into port infrastructure at Tradepoint Atlantic, a global logistics center in Baltimore County, Maryland. Orsted has already invested $13.2 million in port infrastructure upgrades while US Wind has announced $26.4 million in port infrastructure upgrades.

Manufacturing

Investments into manufacturing in the State are needed to support the high demand for components needed for the construction of the offshore wind projects. Both project developers have committed to investing in steel, hellenic cable, monopile foundation and turbine tower manufacturing. US Wind has announced their investments into the construction of the monopole factory, Sparrows Point Steel, located at TradePoint Atlantic in Baltimore, Maryland and Orsted has announced plans to invest in a sub-sea, hellenic cable manufacturing facility and upgrade Crystal Steel for turbine foundation component manufacturing. Both US Wind and Orsted have announced plans to invest in steel manufacturing with US Wind committed to investing $51 million, and Orsted committed to investing $25 million.
Vessels and O&M

To continue to bring a positive economic net benefit to the State of Maryland and the Eastern shore, both developers have committed to using port facilities located in Ocean City, Maryland to serve as the operations and maintenance port. They have made additional commitments to ensure the O&M facility is a zero-emission facility. Orsted has also made commitments to establish a platform supply vessel operator in the state of Maryland to invest in Maryland businesses and promote the offshore wind industry during the development and construction phases of their projects.

Research Efforts

MEA partners with research entities that explore Maryland’s offshore wind supply chain demands and the environmental and ecological impacts of offshore wind. This research helps MEA maximize the benefits of offshore wind to the State and modify grant programs to meet the needs of stakeholders. MEA’s research partnerships include:

- The National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium (NOWRDC)
- The Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA)
- The Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC) for Offshore Wind

For more information about Offshore Wind in Maryland visit Energy.Maryland.gov or contact:

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