

International Regulators Forum Offshore Renewable Energy Subcommittee

Mid-year virtual meeting

June 06, 2024

The International Regulators' Forum Offshore Renewable Energy Subcommittee (IRFORES) held its first mid-year meeting virtually on April 23, 2024.

Hosted by Australia, the mid-year meeting drew representatives from Canada, Denmark, The Netherlands, Norway, The United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Participants provided an update on the latest developments within their respective jurisdictions including a brief overview of the history, current state and future plans for offshore renewables development in their jurisdiction including proposed targets and aspirations.

Participants shared insights into the maturity of respective legislative and regulatory frameworks, regulatory approaches and the scope of their regulatory responsibilities.

Participants also noted critical and emerging industry health and safety risks and regulatory challenges and outlined proposals for future initiatives or reforms that are being considered to respond to changes in industry risk profile, such as the emergence of floating technology.

Common themes emerged among jurisdictions with a series of topics identified as mutual areas of interest that would benefit from further discussion including:

- Approaches to safety management systems development and implementation.
- Approaches to certification/verification and asset assurance requirements across jurisdictions and identification of any potential gaps or opportunities.
- The role of standardisation across the industry for turbine platforms and development of design and operational standards while enabling innovation in technologies.
- Design and integrity of floating turbine foundations and associated mooring systems and interactions with vessels and maintaining class.
- Influence of extreme weather conditions on safety and infrastructure integrity. Challenges such as hurricanes and cyclones were highlighted as operational risks, emphasising the importance for industry-wide adoption of appropriate safety practices.
- Approaches to safety zones during construction, installation, steady state operations and maintenance.
- The role of regulators in building understanding of emerging technologies and addressing stakeholder concerns.

The IRFORES AGM is scheduled for 29 October 2024 in Dublin, Ireland.