

## International Regulators Forum Offshore Renewables Energy Subcommittee

### Annual General Meeting 2025

#### Summary of discussions and action points

#### Country representatives:

Australia	Owen Wilson (Chair)	OIR
	Melba Fisher (Secretariat)	OIR
Canada	Keith Landra	CER
	Christine Bonnell-Eisnor	CNSOER
	Robert Normore	CNSOER
Denmark	Mohamed El Halimi	DWEA
	Benedicte Crapez	DWEA
Netherlands	Anton van Kuijk	SSM
	Hendrik Goos	SSM
Norway	Torleif Husebo	HAVTIL
	Roar Hoydal	HAVTIL
United Kingdom	Samantha Peace	HSE
	Stephen Hanson-Hall	HSE
United States	Apologies	BSEE

#### Industry Speakers

G+	Beate Hildenbrand
IMCA	Rhys Jones
	Dustin Darnell



## MINUTES

1	<p><b>WELCOMING REMARKS AND REVIEW OF THE 2025 AGM ACTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Owen Wilson, Chair of the IRFORES, welcomed all IRFORES Members to the second annual general meeting (AGM).</li><li>• The forum will primarily focus on work health and safety, as well infrastructure integrity in offshore renewables, with an emphasis on offshore wind, while remaining open to other technologies as they develop.</li><li>• Currently, there are seven permanent members with all members other than the USA attending the AGM.</li></ul>
2	<p><b>COUNTRY UPDATES</b></p> <p>Q&amp;A on written jurisdictional updates.</p> <p><b><u>Australia:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Formally commenced regulation of the sector</li><li>• Temporary relief on upfront costs requested. Cost recovery paused for period of two years.</li><li>• Focus on education and training requirements for future workforce</li><li>• Proposed reforms to existing settings for financial securities are under consideration by Government. Focus on aligning financial security obligations with project risk profiles for commercial scale projects.</li><li>• Continuing uncertainty on route to market and supply chain factors are affecting industry sentiment and investment decisions in Australia.</li><li>• This is combined with current cost pressures across the global industry which are affecting development timeframes.</li></ul> <p><b><u>Canada:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No offshore wind installed.</li><li>• Legislation amended to establish the C-NLOER and the CNSOER in addition to the existing CER.</li><li>• Large offshore wind energy with proven resources.</li><li>• Discussion on the introduction to a bill regarding nation-building projects; if project is listed, it is approved.</li><li>• Wind West Atlantic Energy relates to transmission, seeking funding and approval from federal Government.</li><li>• Hydrogen was a motivator to get offshore boards mandates expanded. Floating offshore included a governments' designated wind energy area</li></ul> <p><b><u>Denmark:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tender for offshore wind - no bids due to economical challenges but are working on better conditions and hope to receive some tenders for offshore wind.</li><li>• Questions arose related to viability.</li><li>• Health and safety of offshore wind – an incident was discussed involving a walk to work vessel resulting in an amputated foot.</li><li>• Denmark stands out as a leading example in offshore wind energy development, with approximately 50% of its total wind power capacity derived from offshore sources.</li></ul>



- Target to be fossil fuel free and hope to use renewable energy but the process is moving slowly. A decline in interest due to economic challenges was reported.

#### **Norway:**

- Land based and offshore wind in Norway was described as not popular.
- Removing petroleum, 90% of energy is renewable in Norway.
- Norway's energy grid can easily regulate as it is built on hydro power.
- Discussion on wind not being regulated occurred and that the cost goes to consumers.
- Norway reported cheap energy prices with increases being due to the cost of the grid.
- Exported power to UK, Denmark, and Germany.
- The difference in price in Norway from Southern to Northern regions is causing a negative reaction.
- There were two bids reported for two areas for deep water floating wind, with technology development and cost being key. Follow through, sustainability, and ethics were also noted factors.
- Safety and work evaluations are currently taking place on this floating wind project, and bids will be based on the possibility to develop, followed by the construction.
- Some regulatory aspects were described as challenging; however, a meeting with the energy regulator is scheduled for November with the aim of finalising the framework, which is planned to be delivered as a complete package for 2026 implementation.
- A discussion on management rules based on phases that impact the outcome also took place.

#### **The Netherlands:**

- Due to elections at end of this month, the Minister of Climate and Green Growth has announced the target will be missed and is now projected for 2033. 30-40GW for 2040.
- It was reported that contracts are currently being pursued to initiate new building projects, substations in the North Sea are already under construction.
- It was noted that wind farm owners most often choose the highest power rating, and no major incidents were reported.
- Hydrogen was noted as a less popular choice than in previous years.
- A fire was reported on an offshore solar farm, with investigations ongoing. The site, described as the first offshore floating solar farm, is not performing as expected. Contributing factors noted include organisational growth, restructuring, multiple management layers, new responsibilities, resilience to directives, and cybersecurity concerns. The probable cause of the fire is suspected to be faulty connectors, though this has yet to be confirmed.

#### **United Kingdom:**

- Many commonalities were noted, and a growth in wind energy was reported.
- Construction and plans for more growth were discussed.
- Walk to work platforms was a topic of discussion, with 37 operational vessels and a focus on gangway systems.
- Incidents were discussed.
- The topic of challenging equipment coming into the Country and that they are currently not up to design standards.
- Hyperlink in the written update, providing more information.
- Basic safety issues in wind energy were noted as something to be addressed and that having proper systems in place was needed for the offshore industry.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Severe weather risks to substations were a topic, described as not being built to withstand, with rules to consider surrounding human activity on the facilities and emergency response preparedness.</li><li>• Assessment work was completed for substations and areas of main concerns.</li><li>• Acceptance of foreign made equipment and issues with it coming into the UK, and questions on current restrictions on various countries was also discussed, with examples of incidents noted. Companies responsible for equipment resulting in issues were described as responsible and responsive, with no particular equipment prohibited at this time.</li></ul>
3	<p><b>TOPIC SESSION 1 – REGULATORY PRACTICE</b></p> <p><b>Presentation - The Australian legislative journey and lessons learnt in development (Australia)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion focused on the regulatory framework and supporting guidelines, the changes implemented to comply with specific requirements, and inconsistencies reported across state boundaries. This prompted input from the UK regarding equipment and OHS standards, noting that revisions to the code of practice were considered more likely than changes to legislation.</li><li>• Australian framework has a focus on accountability to the licence holder for project level oversight with other duty holders also having obligations.</li><li>• Management plan approach to regulation was discussed including enforceability of this document.</li><li>• A large amount of diving involved with wind energy was noted.</li><li>• It was noted that the mandate plan had strong support, and that wind is classified as a high hazard in the UK.</li></ul> <p><b>Presentation - Risk based inspection models and remote inspection technologies (Netherlands)</b></p> <p>Topics covered included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inspections in the Netherlands – The role of SSM and approach to prioritisation of risks and activities</li><li>• Traditional vs non-traditional risks and how these are considered.</li><li>• Inspector led approach to risk identification and prioritisation for inspection</li><li>• GWO (standard for wind industry) training, medical required, elaborating on that to explain that inspectors have GWO training along with oil and gas training.</li><li>• Top three risk described were: transfer from vessels to ship, high voltage, and lifting and dropped objects.</li><li>• Opportunity statements should be explored and will be further discussed.</li><li>• Other notable items included: Drones being used for remote inspections in conjunction with the coast guard.</li><li>• Assets utilised during inspections were discussed, along with the restriction on fishing within windfarm areas, a rule that also applies to oil and gas.</li></ul>
4	<p><b>TOPIC SESSION 2 – RESPONDING TO EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATION</b></p> <p><b>Presentation - Goal-oriented regulations and participation in standardization work (Norway)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work of Havtil in influencing standards development through collaboration with industry.</li><li>• Approach to regulation of wind infrastructure through petroleum legislation with the Hywind Tampen project.</li><li>• Interplay between goal-oriented regulations and relevant standards.</li><li>• Discussion on split process approach.</li></ul>



	<p><b>Presentation</b> - Safety by design and design principles for emerging renewables technologies (floating wind, ammonia, hydrogen). (UK)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion on hydrogen production systems and work done to proactively identify risks</li><li>• Risks associated with electrolysers in ballast treatment systems have already resulted in significant incidents.</li><li>• Legislation will need to be closely examined to determine if fit for purpose for risk profile of hydrogen and other products.</li><li>• Discussion: why ammonia and not methanol. Considering need to move more toward a safety case model and how this interacts with existing legislation.</li><li>• Presentations to be shared.</li></ul>
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## DAY 2

	<p><b>RECAP OF DAY 1 AND INTRODUCTION OF DAY 2 AGENDA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Owen Wilson, Chair of the IRFORES, welcomed all members and observers to the second day of the inaugural annual general meeting (AGM).</li><li>• Brief introduction around table.</li><li>• Good discussion noted from previous day on application of safety principles, assurance mechanisms, emergency response, search &amp; rescue.</li></ul>
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1	<p><b>TOPIC SESSION 3 – Industry sessions from G+ and IMCA</b></p> <p><b>Presentation – G+</b></p> <p><i>A session was held the following day to further discuss the partnership with the Energy Institute</i></p> <p>Overview and latest highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Breakdown provided of partnership with Energy Institute.</li><li>• Overview of publications released over the last 12 months.</li><li>• Discussion on input from regulators on guidance publications.</li><li>• Internal and invite only working group, along with company consultation including regulators that engage with G+ on a regular basis.</li><li>• Downloadable publication available which does not require membership to access.</li><li>• Transparency of G+ website observed.</li></ul> <p>Topics presented included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• G+ Data and 2024 stats</li><li>• Data collected – injuries</li><li>• Million hours worked by site type 2020-2024.</li><li>• Annual TRIR &amp; LTIF 2020-2024</li><li>• 2024 injuries by actual consequence</li><li>• Nature of lost time injuries (2022-2024)</li><li>• High Potential Incidents</li><li>• G+ Data and workstreams – examples</li><li>• How else do we learn &amp; share.</li><li>• Proposed Global 2026 Workstreams</li></ul>
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Discussion on regulating:

- When the regulating stops while in transit.
- Medical assessments and achieving consensus across multiple medical professionals.
- A regulator's place conversations surrounding restrictions.
- Considering additional tests for physical capacity.
- Medical professionals and their awareness of the environments involved.
- Standard of designs – much better engagement from manufacturer than previously.

**Presentation** – Marine Safety presentation by IMCA

Marine Contractors Topics:

- Value Proposition – Safety, managing risk, responsibility, global reach, collaboration.
- Safety is Central to IMCA's Work – over 25 years of safety and data alerts – constantly seeking ways to improve.
- 2024 Safety Statistics – combined to include all marine activities.
- Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR)
- Main causes of LTIs in 2024
- Fatal Accident Rate (offshore)
- Total Recordable Injury Rate
- Comparison with Other Associations
- IMCA Safety Promotional Materials – increasing accessibility in coming years.
- IMCA events in 2025

Discussion:

- 2026 Focus – motion compensated gangways, emergency response coordination planning, safety training & medical requirements.
- Improvement needed in coordination between operators for ERP plans.
- 2026 Divisional Focus: Emergency drills, simultaneous operations, expanded applications, FLiDAR operations.
- Case Study W2W Safety Improvement Program - Technology, plan to move forward. Phased approach with phase 1 recently drawn a close. New documentation available, second and third phases were explained.
- Software updates - described as next generation systems.
- Appropriate speed limits on walk to work gangways.
- How to address Issues with IP.
- W2W systems for phase 2, stakeholders for phase 2 disclosed.
- Annual summit 26-27 November 2025 – invitation to members.

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## **DISCUSSION ON THE ROLE OF IRFORES IN PROMOTING SAFETY PERFORMANCE**

Objectives and initiatives were discussed, including the most effective use of the group in between AGM's.

**Action Items/Take Aways:**

- Walk to Work (W2W) agreed as a good focus area of the group with a working group on this topic to be explored.
- The UK Energy Division, a subdivision of HSE has been contributing to the W2W work being led by IMCA.



- **Action** - UK HSE will gather information on the current relationship to the W2W initiative and provide further information to IRFORES through the Chair on how the existing relationship operates including any provision of regulatory or other advice.
- Discussed the option for IRFORES to contribute to IMCA W2W phase 2 initiative as the conduit into the IMCA group.
- Discussion on vessel-based transfer including push on CTV based transfer methods. Nova Scotia expressed interest in learning more about personnel transfer via CTV, as it is currently not permitted in their jurisdiction, and is seeking guidance from other jurisdictions on this topic.
- Working group to be considered including looking at development of an Opportunity Statement
- **Action** – Chair to explore approach to development of opportunity statements and provide any supporting documentation to the group.
- Discussed potential broader benefit to the IRF as W2W is used across both the O&G and OW sectors.
- Discussed sharing of opportunity statements with industry bodies and how this is actioned by industry out of IRF.
- Discussed looking at what the best mechanism is for IRFORES to contribute to improvements in W2W systems safety.
- **Action** - Denmark to provide information on NSOAF Scope of Work with respect to W2W and any potential overlaps.
- Canada raised a suggestion to consider reporting of safety statistics by IRFORES - establish tracking comparison of stats in future years – to plan and discuss for next AGM in line with reporting by IRF.
- Interest in how DNV/ISO benchmark minimum design standards across different jurisdictions. UK to ask around.
- Discussion on a letter to G+ from IRFORES regarding source problems driving incident statistics.
- **Action** - UK to consider what this letter might contain.
- Chair to be reconsidered every 3 years.
- Safety of drones in offshore wind – raised by Netherlands as a topic to discuss.
- 1.5-2-day IRFORES meeting at next year's AGM. Proposed to be hosted by Brazil.
- Chair to distribute charter.
- Opportunity for Colombia to become involved in the future. Discussion topic. Jurisdiction outreach. Belgium. Finland, Ireland. Germany. Chair to reach out.

#### **MEETING REFLECTIONS FEEDBACK AND CLOSING REMARKS**

- Thanks to secretariat for the work done. Reiterate seeking jurisdictions to chair next IRFORES at next AGM. Watching brief on decommissioning discussions across the other groups.