

International Regulators Forum Offshore Renewables Energy Subcommittee

Mid-Year Virtual Meeting 2026 (MS Teams)

Summary of discussions and action points

Country representatives:

Australia	Owen Wilson (Chair)	OIR
	Melba Fisher (Secretariat)	OIR
	Kris Rodgers	OIR
Brazil	Marcelo Castilho Paiva de Catilho	ANP
	Moises Vieira Pinto	ANP
Canada	Christine Bonnell-Eisnor	CNSOER
	Robert Normore	CNSOER
	Jill Mackey	C-NLOPB
Denmark	Mohamed El Halimi (Apologies)	DWEA
Germany	Mayumi Wilms	FMHA
Netherlands	Hendrik Goos	SSM
Norway	Torleif Husebø (Apologies)	HAVTIL
	Finn Carlsen	HAVTIL
United Kingdom	June Calder	HSE
	Matthew Blackburn	HSE
	Stephen Hanson-Hall	HSE
	Paul Bradley	HSE

MINUTES

1	WELCOMING REMARKS AND REVIEW OF THE 2025 AGM ACTIONS • Owen welcomed the IRFORES members and observers to the Mid-Year meeting acknowledging that the group is entering it's third year since establishment. • Members and observers introduced themselves.
2	COUNTRY UPDATES <u>United Kingdom:</u> • primary trends remain largely unchanged since the last AGM • ongoing focus on walk-to-work systems due to incidents on the UK Continental Shelf • engagement with North Sea Offshore Authorities Forum (NOSAF) jurisdictions on walk-to-work project • no specific recent incidents noted, but likely more incidents than reported • around 32 walk-to-work vessels currently operating across renewables and oil and gas • industry concerns about inadequacies in some walk-to-work systems • close monitoring of walk-to-work operations continues, regulatory letters issued to address system shortcomings • potential underreporting of incidents identified • combination of reporting gaps and industry practices influencing data quality • work underway to strengthen reporting regulations and improve incident data collection • significant growth in wind and renewable energy developments across the UK • renewable expansion is overtaking onshore grid capacity • ongoing efforts to improve grid infrastructure and supporting technologies • amendments made to carbon capture storage and pipeline legislation • high-level review of offshore wind regulatory framework in progress • review includes assessing effectiveness and strengthening regulatory systems • vessel collision risks with wind turbines raised as a concern



- safety alerts already issued regarding vessel impacts
- mixed approach to allowing vessels, including large ones, through wind farms
- further incident data and safety information can be shared with stakeholders
- review ongoing on whether regulations adequately control vessel activity near turbines and substations
- collaboration between operations and regulatory teams to improve effectiveness
- no major incidents reported since the previous meeting
- acknowledgement that some incidents may not have been formally reported

Norway:

- one offshore wind project remains in the planning phase in the southern North Sea, with no changes
- two floating wind licences have been awarded, with no updates since last reporting
- ongoing political discussion around government financing and subsidies for floating wind
- regulatory work by Norwegian authority is complete and ready to be issued
- waiting for Resource Regulator and EU related resource management regulations to be finalised
- planned simultaneous release of regulations anticipated late 2026 or early 2027
- energy security concerns are significantly influencing Norway's energy sector priorities
- strong shift in focus towards increased oil and gas production and exploration
- reduced industry and political attention on renewable energy development
- renewables impacted in terms of financing and prioritisation within companies
- Norway plays a key role in Europe's energy supply
- supplies approximately 30% of Europe's gas and 20% of its oil
- National and European energy security considerations are shaping policy decision

The Netherlands:

- government change in the Netherlands (frequent/near-annual occurrence noted)
- new Prime Minister previously served as energy minister and is supportive of offshore wind



- revised offshore wind outlook: earlier 50 GW ambition reduced to 30–40 GW by 2040 (likely closer to 30 GW)
- interim target remains 21 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2032
- no major accidents or incidents reported
- large-scale offshore hydrogen generation projects have been paused
- carbon capture and storage (CCS) project delayed by at least one year
- new division established within State Supervision of Mines to address resilience/cybersecurity development still in early stages
- two offshore wind farm developments progressing:
 - Ecowende: described as highly ecological; turbine installation starting imminently
 - OranjeWind: expected later in the year (around Sept–Oct), located 40 miles off Amsterdam port.
- positive outlook overall despite some project delays.

Germany:

- Germany has recently published a draft joint standard for offshore rescue
- the draft was developed collaboratively by the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency and coastal occupational health and safety authorities
- it aims to improve coordination and effectiveness of offshore emergency rescue processes
- the standard is currently in the consultation phase
- a link to the draft has been shared to stakeholders to review and provide feedback
- parallel work is being carried out by a German university on offshore emergency medical services
- the academic study focuses on how to deliver effective medical response far offshore
- the academic study is initiated and funded by the transmission system operators Amprion, 50Hertz, and TenneT
- there is collaboration between regulators and researchers, with shared participation in working groups
- the final report from the university study is expected and is of strong interest to regulators

**Canada:**

- Canada offshore is divided into Nova Scotia, Newfoundland & Labrador, and areas regulated by the CER
- no offshore wind licences issued yet in Nova Scotia
- pre-qualification and call for information completed; companies must be pre-qualified to bid
- focus on streamlining processes while maintaining efficiency and national security standards
- federal changes aim to shift impact assessments to regulators or use regional assessments
- major projects office introduced to accelerate approvals and potentially deem projects approved, with conditions set within 2 years
- offshore wind development mainly intended for export rather than domestic use
- potential markets include other Canadian regions and the northeastern United States
- key uncertainty around who will buy the power and how it will be transmitted
- need for offshore to shore transmission infrastructure
- estimated 7–10 years for first wind farm installation
- impact assessment timelines targeted to reduce from 5 years to 2 years
- industry still requires time for data collection to support financing
- strong industry interest due to world class wind resources
- Nova Scotia ahead of Newfoundland & Labrador in development process
- strong political support in Nova Scotia to advance offshore wind
- Newfoundland and Labrador have not yet started similar processes
- regulators already relatively efficient but continuing to look for improvements
- ongoing discussions about jurisdiction and regulatory roles, especially for transmission projects

Brazil:

- ANP recently received legal authority to regulate low-carbon energy production, including offshore wind
- offshore wind regulation is shared across agencies
- regulatory framework for low-carbon energy is still being finalised



- no established commercial offshore wind operations yet
- ANP has created a working group focused on hydrogen regulation
- existing rules require 1% of gross revenue from oil & gas production contracts to fund innovation
- funding supports renewable energy and decarbonisation technologies
- a new law covering offshore activities, including offshore wind, was enacted last year
- policies and detailed regulations are still under development
- 59 offshore wind authorisation requests currently under environmental review
- significant project mentioned (in southern Brazil) still in early stages
- offshore wind development includes both standalone projects and integration with existing oil and gas infrastructure
- some initiatives aim to reuse petroleum infrastructure for wind energy, others explore transmitting energy to shore
- overall offshore wind sector remains in early-stage development
- ongoing focus on research, innovation, and new offshore energy technologies

Australia:

- three new offshore wind licences granted on Australia's west coast
- three licences surrendered on the east coast
- total remains at 10 active licences
- environmental impact statement released for Victorian project currently open for public consultation
- approval process expected to take approximately 12 months
- Victorian Government planning offshore wind auction in August
- Federal and Victorian governments negotiating project financing support
- new federal scheme aims to provide long-term revenue certainty
- ongoing feasibility activities across projects
- preliminary geotechnical investigations largely complete
- continued offshore data collection underway



	• developers preparing bids for upcoming auction • activity expected to continue into 2027 • grid and transmission constraints limit feasible capacity • some projects not commercially competitive • others unable to secure investment partners • one surrender linked to international company closure (BlueFloat Energy) • no current projects in first auction planning to reuse oil and gas infrastructure • some prior studies explored reuse of concrete structures and pipelines • focus on shared vessels, logistics, and decommissioning activities • aim to reduce mobilisation costs and improve efficiency
3	OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT – WALK TO WORK SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT • topic identified as a significant offshore industry safety issue • aim to explore value add opportunities and develop guidance • draft opportunity statement prepared for group review, and will be circulated after the session • industry growth increasing offshore personnel transfers • shift from CTV vessels to Walk-to-Work systems • G+ data: 46 incidents in 2024, 41 in 2023 • most incidents during construction phase • limited injuries but significant property damage • ongoing risk of serious injury or fatalities • reviewed standards and guidance (DNV, IMCA, Lloyd's Register) • IMCA guidance updated September 2025 • workshop conducted April 2024 with industry stakeholders • key causes identified: • poor risk assessment • gangway/system failures (auto-retract, warnings, capacity)



	• training and competency gaps • workshop identified need for improvement across: • research and engineering • guidance and documentation • training • human factors • communication • need for large-scale research on W2W systems • standardisation of gangway design and interfaces recommended • gap identified for a single overarching industry standard • existing guidance fragmented and incomplete • opportunity statement based on workshop recommendations • designed as an iterative document requiring refinement • proposal to establish a working group • working group to refine statement and drive actions • IRF role to highlight global concern and support industry improvements • strong opportunity for international collaboration • goal to reduce risk and prevent serious incidents • proposed establishment of a W2W working group with representatives from Norway, the Netherlands, Canada, UK and Australia.
4	DRAFT OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT – WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY IN PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CHAIN PRACTICES • emerging issue identified around procurement, QA/QC, and supply chain risks • UK HSE presented current situation and lessons from UK Continental Shelf (UKCS) • UK wind capacity: 32 GW total (onshore + offshore) • 2900 offshore turbines across 45 offshore wind farms • offshore wind providing 38% of UK energy



- further expansion planned with new licensing round (2027)
 - potential growth up to 96 GW capacity in future
 - issue raised via Crown Estate and Australian regulators (Nov–Dec 2025). Triggered by identification of asbestos in turbine service lift components
 - multiple suppliers impacted (Avanti, Halo, 3S)
 - 1,050 offshore service lifts affected in UK across 17 wind farms
 - 2,844 onshore lifts and 156 wind farms potentially impacted
 - asbestos located in sealed brake components
 - no airborne exposure detected under normal operation
 - no blanket ban – risk managed through existing controls
 - industry response coordinated via G+ (offshore) and Safety On (onshore)
 - ongoing inspection, monitoring, and phased replacement programs
 - regular progress reporting (6-weekly updates)
 - similar issues reported internationally (Australia, Netherlands)
 - demonstrates global supply chain risk, not isolated issue
 - issue highlights broader procurement and quality assurance failures
- examples include:
- asbestos contamination
 - incorrect or unsafe components
 - blade manufacturing defects
 - fake or unreliable certification
 - key concern: over-reliance on supplier certification without verification
 - need to trust but verify all supplied equipment
 - importance of addressing risk at design and procurement stage
 - proposal to expand focus beyond asbestos to full supply chain integrity
 - need for improved guidance on QA/QC, procurement, and verification processes
 - draft opportunity statement developed for further input



	• aim to develop best practice guidance with international regulators • strong need for global collaboration and consistent regulatory approach • potential alignment with IRF to increase impact and leverage • recommendation to circulate draft and gather feedback before next AGM • opportunity to establish working group depending on interest • emphasis on acting early to prevent systemic safety issues across industry
5	UPDATE ON 2026 AGM IN BRAZIL AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS • host IRF AGM in Rio (Brazil) (week commencing 28 September, 2 and a half days) • provisionally book 1–2 October for IRFORES meeting • Brazil to provide venue, meeting rooms, AV, and catering (leveraging IRF setup where possible) • confirm logistics details and availability via follow-up communication • Include G+ and IMCA in dedicated sessions (not closed sessions) • use mixed format of closed regulator sessions and open industry sessions • progress strategic engagement with international standards bodies (API, ISO) • consider using opportunity statement model for standards engagement • strengthen coordination between IRF and IRFORES on safety priorities
6	ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MID-YEAR MEETING • Distribute the W2W opportunity statement and coordinate formation of an initial meeting with NSOAF to determine current status and opportunities for integration - Secretariat • Establish a W2W working group with participation and representatives from Netherlands, Canada and Australia – W2W working group • Distribute the Procurement and Supply Chain Opportunity Statement for feedback and seek nominations from interested jurisdictions on formation of a working group - Secretariat • Issue mid year meeting communique and minutes - Secretariat • Collect attendance estimates and expressions of interest for IRFORES AGM - Secretariat • IRFORES Secretariat to coordinate with ANP (Brazil) to arrange meeting rooms and related logistics for the AGM in Rio - Secretariat



- Extend invitations to G+ and IMCA to participate in the Rio IRFORES AGM, either in person or online, and plan for them to present updates and statistics in dedicated sessions on the second day - **Secretariat**
- Coordinate with the North Sea regulators and the Netherlands chair to set up a pre-Rio meeting between the North Sea regulators and the walk to work working group and plan a joint walk to work session for the Rio AGM across IRFORES and IRF. – **W2W working group**
- Raise with the IRF the possibility of allowing IRFORES members to observe the IRF AGM session on standardisation. - **Secretariat**

Meeting Close 11.10pm