OFFSHORE WIND A Global Perspective





Since 2010, offshore wind has grown tenfold to more than 30 GW by the end of 2020.

The United Kingdom and Germany were the first countries with significant offshore wind capacity and Europe was the dominant market, representing 75% of the total global offshore wind capacity until 2019. Now China is emerging as a key market, accounting for the majority of the new global capacity installed in 2020.

Looking forward, offshore wind is expected to continue rapid global deployment, with projections for 2030 cumulative capacity in the 200GW range.



Source: GWEC, Global Offshore Wind Report 2020 (August 2020). U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, 2018 Offshore Wind Market Report. (August 2019)

As deployment of offshore wind has increased, the cost of electricity has quickly decreased from more than \$200/MWh in the 2010s to as low as \$50/MWh for plants planned for the mid 2020s. Coupling with battery storage will become more common in the near term and some planned demonstration projects will produce "green" hydrogen.





HOW TO CONNECT OFFSHORE WIND PLANTS

Radial Connection

Backbone Connections

Major cost reduction opportunities include:

- Construction logistics, mass production, purposed ports, high/heavy lift vessels
- BOP electrical, foundations
- O&M production efficiency, condition-based and proactive maintenance

The components of an offshore wind farm must include corrosion resistant materials and coatings, in addition to better ambient environment control inside the nacelle and substations. Fixed foundations extending to the seabed also mean taller overall heights than onshore wind. Combined with storms, waves, and currents, this can mean much greater forces on the foundation.

There are several key options for interconnection configurations, ranging from a radial connection, where a single wind farm is connected to a single point of interconnection (POI), to several wind farms on an offshore transmission backbone with multiple POIs onshore.

Radial Hub

While the majority of offshore wind is radially connected, a more optimized combination of radial and meshed connections could reduce landing points and total costs while improving reliability.

floating offshore wind

For some coastlines with near shore water much deeper than 50m, floating offshore wind may become viable in the next decade and the technologies are still rapidly advancing. Currently, there are only 72 MW of pilot floating offshore wind projects. Major offshore wind market players and oil and gas (0&G) companies are investing into this fast-emerging segment. Europe, Asia, and North America, respectively, are all expected to deploy floating wind turbines by the 2030s or earlier. According to GWEC, 6GW of floating wind could be grid-connected by 2030, with the potential to disrupt the market into the 2030s.





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