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Ocergy foundation technology selected for Salamander pre-FEED

The Salamander floating offshore wind project, a joint venture between Simply Blue Group, Ørsted and Subsea7, has awarded the pre-FEED foundation design to Ocergy for its OCG-Wind foundation technology.

Last year, Salamander signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Ocergy to evaluate its foundation design for the development in north east Scotland. The project will be a contributor to ensuring the UK government's target of delivering 5GW of operational floating offshore wind by 2030.

Ocergy has developed OCG-Wind, a novel and efficient floating wind turbine foundation, to support very large wind turbines (>10MW), designed for development of large-scale wind farms. It is targeting a levelised cost of energy (LCOE) that can start to drive reductions in floating offshore wind farms to eventually be competitive with fixed offshore wind farms.

OCG-Wind is a semi-submersible platform designed to utilise the industrial performance of the hull fabrication and assembly through the maximisation of the local supply chain. The hull is made of three outside circular columns connected mechanically with trusses to a central column that supports the wind turbine.

A feasibility study considered all aspects of the design, technical performance, fabrication, assembly, operations and installation of the OCG-Wind for Salamander. It also reviewed the compatibility of the OCG-Wind platform to the site, inclusive of performance, and supply chain and local content management, as well as identified schedule risks and overall project costs. This feasibility study will now progress to pre-FEED phase.

Huw Bell, Salamander Project Director said: "From inception, the foundation manufacturing and assembly was a crucial element for us in delivering higher local content. We're focusing on the capabilities of the Scottish supply chain, which is helping us in deciding which technologies to advance. Ocergy's OCG-Wind technology meets our requirements.

"We aim to provide access to double the number of Scottish port facilities over some traditional floating concepts due to lower draft requirements. We also expect a scalable fabrication and assembly process, suitable for commercial scale deployment as well as decreasing fabricated steel mass by around a third, which will reduce the cost of energy whilst also providing potential for local fabrication."

Dominique Roddier, Ocergy's CEO said: "The Salamander project is of paramount importance for our consortium and the floating offshore wind industry. This project will demonstrate that the premise of delivering one unit per week, week after week is achievable. This is the last major industry hurdle before the deployment of large, commercial-scale, floating wind projects."

Salamander, located 35km off Peterhead, is designed to provide the Scottish supply chain with an early capacity development opportunity, enabling it to play a much greater role in subsequent large-scale floating offshore wind buildout. The project will deploy innovative and cutting-edge floating offshore wind technologies to support the cost reduction and learning journey needed for the commercial deployment of floating offshore wind.

Salamander is intended to be progressed through the innovation track of Crown Estate Scotland's Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas (INTOG) leasing round. The INTOG round will grant seabed leases through an auction process, which will be split into two pots – one for smaller scale innovation projects of less than 100 MW and one for larger projects linked to oil and gas infrastructure.

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About Salamander Floating Offshore Wind

The 100MW Salamander floating wind project, a joint venture between Simply Blue Group, Ørsted and Subsea7, will be a major contributor to ensuring the UK government's target of delivering 5GW of operational floating offshore wind by 2030 is both achievable and to the maximum benefit of public and private stakeholders.

The pioneering project, located 35km off Peterhead in the East Coast of Scotland, is designed to provide the Scottish supply chain with an early capacity development opportunity, enabling it to play a much greater role in subsequent large-scale floating offshore wind buildout. The project will deploy innovative and cutting-edge floating offshore wind technologies to support the cost reduction and learning journey needed for the commercial deployment of floating offshore wind.

About Ocergy

Ocergy is a technology company developing two sustainable offshore solutions:

OCG-Wind is a low-cost foundation supporting the new generation of very large offshore wind turbines. The innovative hull allows the platform to have a very light weight, a necessity to reduce LCOE. It is tailored towards ease of industrialization, to bring flexibility in fabrication and increase the use of a local supply chain in the project fabrication life cycle.

OCG-Data is an innovative multi-disciplinary ocean observer for complete offshore site assessment. It has enough footprint to host and power multiple instrumentation packages for resource and environmental characterization. Underwater biodiversity monitoring relies on the combination of restoration technologies and passive acoustic monitoring arrays. The buoy also hosts a bird and bat detection and identification system. OCG-Data provides high-quality data including ecological information for stakeholders' engagement.