

# **Shelmalere**Offshore Wind Farm

Project Update – December 2021



### Introduction

DP Energy and Iberdrola entered a joint venture in early 2021 to develop a 3GW pipeline of Irish offshore wind projects. Shelmalere Offshore Wind Farm is the name chosen for DP Energy and

Iberdrola's offshore wind farm off the coast of Counties Wicklow and Wexford. It forms one of a number of projects being developed by the Joint Venture.

DP Energy is an Irish-based renewable energy developer, headquartered in Buttevant, Co. Cork, which is developing wind and solar projects across Australia, North America and the UK as well as here in Ireland. It has played a leading role in the Irish Wind Industry since its earliest days. DP Energy's first wind projects in Ireland were Bessy Bell, Co. Tyrone, commissioned in 1995, and Corrie Mountain, Co. Leitrim in 1998.

Iberdrola is a global energy leader and one of the world's largest renewable energy producers, and the third biggest electricity utility globally in terms of market capitalisation. The group supplies energy to almost 100 million people in dozens of countries, has more than 600,000 shareholders, a workforce comprising more than 38,000 employees and assets worth more than €123 billion. It also has substantial experience in the construction and operation of offshore wind projects.

More information about DP Energy can be found on their website **www.dpenergy.com** 

More information about Iberdrola can be found on their website www.iberdrola.com/home

# **The Project**

The Irish Government has committed that 80% of all electricity will be generated from renewable sources by 2030; that carbon emissions will be reduced by 51% by 2030, and that the country will achieve net zero emissions by 2050. The development of offshore wind is a key enabler for Ireland to meet these targets and to ensure Ireland maintains its global leading role in renewable energy generation.

The Shelmalere Offshore Wind Farm project is expected to have a capacity of approx. 1,000 MW (1 GW) and will make a substantial contribution to helping Ireland meet these commitments. However, until the surveys and studies are complete, this figure is indicative only.

A Foreshore Licence Application was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in November 2020 (App Ref no: FS007261) to seek permission to investigate the sea bed or suitability for wind turbines and cable routes to aid both detailed design and environmental assessment.

The application has underwent the first stage of Public Consultation with a decision expected from the Department imminently (Dec' 21).



## **Indicative Project Timeline**

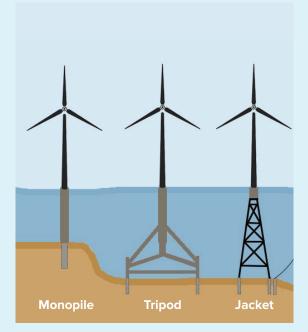
From development to construction the Shelmalere Offshore Wind Farm project is expected to follow the timeline below:



# **Technology**

Due to the relatively moderate water depths in the area (<60m), the project will utilise fixed bottom technology, which involves turbines mounted on a fixed bottom structure secured to the seabed.

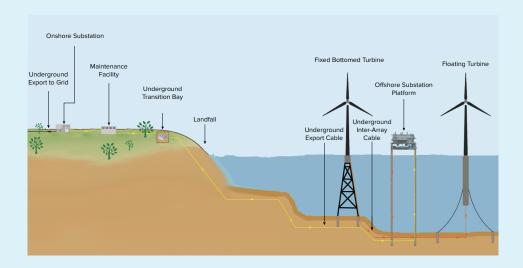
There are several fixed foundation types, including Monopile, Tripod and Jacket. The foundation type will be decided on during the wind farm design phase.



The number of turbines that will make up the wind farm will depend on the size of the turbines chosen. However, based on current technology at 15MW, a 1 GW wind farm would comprise of approximately 70 turbines.

## **Offshore Wind**

The electricity generated by each wind turbine will be collected by subsea cables and connected to an offshore substation. At this substation, the electricity from the offshore wind farm will be exported to an onshore substation and then into the electricity network where it will power homes and businesses.



# Connecting to the electricity network

A number of potential routes to bring the electricity cables ashore have been identified. These routes take into consideration shipping routes, environmental factors, maritime third-party activities, fishing, seabed characteristics and the distance to existing onshore local substations and infrastructure.

Once ashore, the subsea cables are connected to the onshore underground cables in a transition joint bay, which is essentially a buried concrete chamber adjacent to the landfall. The cables will then proceed underground to an onshore substation or other suitable connection point.

### **Landfall sites**

We are currently discussing a number of landfall options. The securing of is likely to take place over several years.

## **Ecology**

Onshore and offshore ecology surveys commenced for the project in Spring 2021.

Bird and marine mammal aerial surveys commenced in April 2021 and will continue for 24 months. The survey planes take photographs of bird and marine mammal activity in, on and above the sea to enable a detailed assessment of any possible impacts the project may have on certain wildlife.

Similarly, coastal ecology surveys for habitat, bird and other wildlife activity commenced in April 2021 and will continue for 24 months to inform an environmental assessment for the planning application. These surveys are carried out by independent, third-party, qualified ecologists.



## **Outreach**

Offshore wind farms will require a workforce with skills and expertise for construction as well as for long term operation and maintenance. We are currently investing in science and technology outreach courses to be brought to national schools to foster an interest in offshore engineering.

## **Education & Jobs**

This project will allow us to establish training schemes that will contribute to the upskilling of existing offshore / technical / maritime experience to re-direct these specialist skills and introduce newly skilled workers to the offshore wind industry.

# **Community Benefit Fund**

As the wind farm begins construction, a Shelmalere Offshore Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund will be developed to allow local communities to gain access to funds for important community improvement projects. Details of the Community Benefit Fund will be made available when it is developed.

We understand that a proposal such as the Shelmalere Offshore Wind Farm can generate concerns and raise many questions for all members of the community. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments, please contact us.

Your Community and Stakeholder Liaison Manager

Yvonne Cronin is DP Energy's Community and Stakeholder Liaison Manager. Yvonne is available to answer any questions you might have on the Shelmalere Offshore Wind Farm project or DP Energy. Please call Yvonne on the number below if you have any questions.

Phone: 087 102 8227 | Email: shelmalere@dpenergy.com

**Your Community Liaison Officer** 

**Lisa Enright** is DP Energy's Community Liaison Officer and is available to answer any questions you might have about the Shelmalere Offshore Wind Farm project.

Phone: 087 634 5691 | Email: shelmalere@dpenergy.com

Alternatively you can email or send a letter to DP Energy Ireland, 2nd Floor, 1 Horgans Quay, Waterfront Square, Cork City, T23 PPT8

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