The largest offshore energy industry conference in the region

219 PARTICIPANTS
140 NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES AND INSTITUTION

2 DAYS OF PRESENTATIONS
7 THEMATIC SESSIONS INCLUDING: 6 EXPERT DEBATES
1 OXFORD DEBATES

59 SPEAKERS
8h OF NETWORKING
GALA DINNER WITH OVER 100 GUESTS

Participants of BEIF 2019

- President and Members of the Management Boards: 17%
- Directors: 32%
- Managers: 24%
- Experts: 27%

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Baltic Offshore Grid Forum

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Conclusions from the international introductory session

The potential of offshore wind energy (OWE) in the Baltic Sea is estimated at 93.5 GW. This technology will thrive on the next decades.

Offshore wind energy is in line with the implementation of the major climate protection plans and strategies, energy security, integration of the energy market, economic development of Baltic Sea region countries.

International cooperation between the Baltic Sea countries will be of great importance for the implementation of ambitious goals by individual countries in terms of moving away from fossil fuels, the energy and gas markets integration, using renewable energy and reduction of emissions. This cooperation should be undertaken at political, business and executive levels.

Polish offshore areas provide with a great opportunity to become the largest Baltic offshore wind energy market. Favourable wind and geological conditions, huge industrial and logistics potential make Poland a potential leader in the region, both in relation to the size of the market and the possibility of exporting Polish products and services involved in construction, maintenance and service of offshore energy in the Baltic Sea.

An important element of the construction of the Baltic offshore energy market should be the offshore grid, which would increase the safety and effectiveness of investments in offshore wind energy sector and would be also an important element of the integration of electricity markets in the region. However, to build such a grid, urgent political decisions and cooperation between transmission system operators and OWE investors are necessary.
Conclusions from the political session

The main political parties in Poland unanimously support the development of offshore wind energy as an important element of the future energy mix, an effective tool to reduce CO₂ emissions, build energy security. They perceive it as an impulse for the development of the Polish economy.

The main political parties underline the will to cooperate in creating regulatory conditions for the development of offshore energy in Poland. They declare the need to enter into force in 2019 a dedicated act regulating the principles of investment implementation in offshore wind energy market. Urgent transfer of works on the bill to Parliament will allow for its broad, cross-parties reconciliation. In the event of failure to adopt the Act by the end of the current term, works on the bill will be resumed after the autumn elections and completed by the end of 2019.

Representatives of political parties have submitted a number of ideas related to the management and development of offshore wind energy and the maritime industry:

“Providing a promotion of Polish industry by appropriate provisions of the offshore act within domestic supply chain projects, so-called local content plan and encouraging wind turbine manufacturers to build a factory for Baltic market in Poland.”

Zbigniew Gryglas – Zjednoczona Prawica (United Right)

“Poland cannot afford to waste the potential that lies in the Polish Baltic Sea. There is a need for cross-party activities – above divisions, and legal acts that will be an instrument for investors. The “one window” principle should apply in the implementation of offshore projects, in which the time of obtaining the required permits will be reduced.”

Zdzisław Gawlik – Platforma Obywatelska (Civic Platform)

“Establishment of the Baltic center for Polish maritime industry promotion - an agency responsible for the development of the potential of Polish industry, its promotion on foreign markets, initiating cooperation between companies, investment in logistics facilities, personnel training.”

Kazimierz Kleina – Platforma Obywatelska (Civic Platform)

“Establishment of a maritime fund financed by fees from location decisions in the exclusive economic zone, including an increase in the fee from 1% to 3% of the value of the undertaking. The collected funds (up to PLN 40 billion) will be directed to: promotion of the Polish maritime energy industry, investments in innovative technologies, new line production, investments in tourist infrastructure of cities neighbouring to the OWF, compensation for fishermen.”

Beata Maciejewska – Wiosna Roberta Biedronia (Spring)

“Establishment of an innovative technology incubator for the offshore energy industry in Szczecin - an institution ensuring cooperation between R & D of Polish industry and Polish universities in order to grow technological leadership of Polish producers.”

Grzegorz Napieralski – Senator niezależny (an Independent Senator)
Conclusions from the discussion
-the main barriers and proposals for solutions

The adoption of the 10.3 GW target in Polish energy policy, as well as bringing into service the first Polish OWF in 2025 seem to be very important elements of the offshore market development. However, these goals will be very difficult to achieve. The key barriers are as follows:

1. **Lack of regulations** regarding the financing of OWF projects;

2. **Very long** (up to 10 years) **and complicated process of preparing the OWF project** (8 acts, 15 regulations, 75 different types of agreements, opinions, decisions and permits);

3. **Lack of a specialized institution**, insufficiently prepared staff in the competent authorities who is responsible for the process of decisions and permits for offshore investments;

4. **Blocking the allocation for new projects** until the maritime spatial plan comes into effect along with the risk of indication in the plan too small areas available for new projects;

5. **Dependence on the possibility** of power evacuation from the OWF is a very ambitious and costly investment plan in the transmission system;

6. **Unfavorable spatial conditions** for routing out export cables onshore and to the connection points;

7. **Poor condition and competitiveness of the Polish maritime industry**, lack of promotion of Polish products on foreign markets, lack of priority treatment when it comes to production and services for offshore energy by owners and managers of the Polish offshore industry;

8. **Inadequacy of logistics facilities** for maintenance of offshore wind farms.

To the key mechanisms and solutions that must be introduced to the legal order within the Offshore Act belong:

1. **Mechanism of differential contracts** for offshore wind farms as a tool ensuring **stability of investment conditions** and project banking;

2. **Mechanism for determining the amount of a differential contract based on market realities**: case-by-case basis for pilot projects and auction or tenders for the second round of projects. A differential contract should be awarded for all projects that will obtain at least a valid decision on environmental determinants and a contract for transmission grid in National Power System;

3. **Lengthy forecasting** of subsequent stages of market development, is related to the award of differential contracts for subsequent project groups, access to location and grid conditions for new projects;

4. **Simplification of procedures** for obtaining decisions and permits, elimination of unnecessary opinions and permits, establishing of one institution in charge of the permit process for offshore wind farms and offshore cables (so-called one window), limitation of requirements for project documentation, introduction of the "quiet consent" principle in reviewing and agreeing, elimination of the need to conduct procedures outside the Administrative Procedure Code, granting the immediate enforcement clause to individual decisions;

5. **Elimination of the possibility of blocking** offshore areas by unrealized projects;

6. **Introduction of transparent and open principles** for issuing location decisions in areas designated for implementation of offshore wind energy.
Offshore wind farms in Polish maritime areas should be built with the largest share of Polish supplies, services and products. To make this possible, it is necessary to implement the following activities:

1. **System promotion of Polish industry on foreign markets prior** to construction of Polish projects, supporting the sale of Polish products for foreign markets, so that it would be possible to develop the national industry potential, gain experience, staff training, investments in technological lines and logistics facilities, increase competitiveness;

2. **Launching a training and education program, as soon as possible and as broad as possible**, for the personnel of the offshore energy industry, including appropriately prepared programs of higher education and vocational schools;

3. **Development of logistics background for Polish ports**, meeting the parameters necessary for maritime energy servicing both at the construction stage (large construction ports) and operation (small service and maintenance ports);

4. **Investments in production lines and logistics facilities** enabling deliveries for projects with the use of latest technologies (10-12 + MW turbines);

5. **Extending the domestic supply chain** with cells related to the supply of semi-finished products, raw materials (eg. copper) and fuels (eg. steam coal) for the construction of offshore wind farm components, including other regions than coastal, for example Silesia.