Recent Tenders in the Global Offshore Wind Sector: A Comprehensive Analysis

Executive Summary

The global offshore wind sector is experiencing unprecedented tendering activity as nations accelerate deployment to meet climate commitments and energy security objectives. Between 2024 and 2025, governments worldwide have launched tenders representing over 50 GW of potential offshore wind capacity across more than 25 countries. However, market dynamics reveal a bifurcated landscape: while emerging markets demonstrate robust appetite with oversubscribed auctions, established markets face challenges including failed tenders, project cancellations, and supply chain constraints. This report provides a detailed analysis of recent tenders across Europe, Asia-Pacific, the Americas, and emerging markets, highlighting competitive outcomes, support mechanisms, and strategic implications for industry stakeholders.

Europe: Market Maturation Amid Auction Challenges

United Kingdom

The UK offshore wind market delivered mixed results in 2024-2025, demonstrating both progress and persistent challenges in the world's second-largest offshore wind market.

AR6 Auction (2025): The sixth allocation round under the Contracts for Difference (CfD) scheme awarded 6.3 GW of new wind capacity, including 5.3 GW of offshore wind and 990 MW of onshore wind. This marked a substantial improvement from AR5, which failed to attract any offshore wind bids due to unrealistically low price ceilings. The UK government raised the strike price ceiling by 66% to £73/MWh, enabling nine bottom-fixed projects totaling 4.9 GW and one floating wind project of 400 MW to secure CfDs.[1]

Notable winners included:

- **Hornsea 4** (2.4 GW) – Ørsted at £58.87/MWh
- **Hornsea 3** (1.1 GW) – Ørsted at £54.23/MWh
- **East Anglia 2** (963 MW) – ScottishPower Renewables at £58.87/MWh
- **Inch Cape A & B** (266 MW) – ESB and Red Rock Renewables at £54.23/MWh[1]

Celtic Sea Floating Wind Round 5: The Crown Estate's Celtic Sea leasing round, targeting up to 4.5 GW of floating offshore wind capacity, progressed through 2024-2025 with two preferred bidders announced in June 2025: Equinor and Gwynt Glas (a joint venture between EDF Renewables and ESB). Following challenges in securing a third bidder through competitive tender, The Crown Estate announced in November 2025 that Ocean Winds would be awarded rights for the third site through a direct award process, enabling the full 4.5 GW potential to be realized.[2][3]

AR7 Preparations: The government announced 20-year CPI-indexed contracts for AR7, with relaxed eligibility requirements allowing mature fixed-bottom offshore wind projects to apply while awaiting full planning consent. Delivery years have been extended to 2027/28 and 2028/29 to address supply chain pressures and longer project lead times.[4]

Scotland's Strategic Investment Model: Scotland launched Stage 2 of its Strategic Investment Model (SIM) in early 2024, with 38 projects representing £6.5 billion in potential capital value for supply chain and infrastructure development. Initial projects selected included the Port of Cromarty Firth Expansion and Port of Nigg West Deepwater Quay Expansion, supported by up to £500 million over five years from the Scottish Government.[5]

Denmark

Denmark's offshore wind tendering landscape underwent significant transformation following the complete failure of its 2024 auction, prompting comprehensive market dialogue and tender redesign.

2024 Failed Tender: The Danish Energy Agency received zero bids for three areas offered in 2024, totaling over 6 GW of capacity. The failure stemmed from unfavorable economic terms that failed to adequately address construction risks and electricity price volatility.[6]

Reformed 2025 Tender: Following extensive market consultations, Denmark launched a revised tender in November 2025 for three offshore wind areas with a combined capacity of at least 2.8 GW:[7][6]

- **North Sea Mid**: minimum 1 GW (deadline spring 2026, completion by end-2032)
- **Hesselø** (Kattegat): minimum 800 MW (deadline spring 2026, completion by end-2032)
- **North Sea South**: minimum 1 GW (deadline autumn 2028, completion by end-2034)

The reformed tender incorporates a two-sided capability-based Contract for Difference (CfD) with a state payment cap of DKK 55.2 billion, providing developers with protection against low electricity prices—a critical element requested by the market.[6][7]

Germany

Germany's offshore wind auction system faced unprecedented setbacks in 2025, with both auction rounds failing to attract bidders despite the country's ambitious 30 GW by 2030 and 40 GW by 2035 targets.[8]

August 2025 Auction Failure: The second German offshore wind auction of 2025 offered two North Sea sites (N-7.2 and N-11.1) with a combined capacity of 2.5 GW but received zero bids. This outcome provided clear market feedback that Germany's auction design—which eliminated subsidies and relied solely on site fees—is not economically viable under current market conditions.[8]

Ongoing Project Development: Despite auction challenges, major contract awards proceeded. Vattenfall and BASF awarded four major contracts for the Nordlicht 1 and 2 offshore wind farms (totaling 1.68 GW) in early 2025, including agreements with EEW SPC (monopile foundations), CS WIND Offshore (transition pieces), DEME (installation), and Jan De Nul (cable installation). Vestas secured a contract to supply 112 turbines (15 MW each) for Nordlicht 1 and 2.[9][10]

Netherlands

The Netherlands advanced its IJmuiden Ver offshore wind zone through competitive tenders for the Alpha and Beta sites, each offering 2 GW of capacity.[11][12]

IJmuiden Ver Alpha & Beta Results (June 2024):[12][11]

- **Alpha Site** (2 GW, biodiversity-focused): Awarded to **Noordzeker** consortium (SSE Renewables, ABP, APG). Permit became irrevocable July 2024.
- **Beta Site** (2 GW, system integration-focused): Awarded to **Zeevonk II** consortium (Vattenfall and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners). Permit became irrevocable October 2025.

IJmuiden Ver Gamma and Nederwiek I (September 2025): The Netherlands published draft regulations for a September 2025 tender offering 3 GW across three 1 GW sites: IJmuiden Ver Gamma-A, IJmuiden Ver Gamma-B, and Nederwiek IA. The Nederwiek IB site was postponed to 2026.[13]

Poland

Poland's inaugural competitive offshore wind auction in December 2025 marked a pivotal moment for European offshore wind, with the tender designed to provide essential "long-term visibility" that other markets lacked.[14]

December 2025 Auction Results:[15][16][14]

- **Baltica 9** (PGE): Won with a bid of PLN 476.88/MWh, securing a 25-year two-sided CfD mechanism
- **Baltic East** (Orlen): Won the auction, with final investment decision planned for 2029-2030 and first generation expected in 2032

The auction featured strike prices between $135-$143/MWh, providing substantially more attractive terms than recent failed European tenders. Poland's framework requires a minimum of three bidders and limits successful bids to 90% of invited capacity to maintain competition.[14]

France

France accelerated its offshore wind deployment with an ambitious tender pipeline targeting 10 GW of new capacity to be connected by 2035.[17]

Recent Tender Awards:[18][17]

- **Éoliennes Flottantes d'Occitanie** (250 MW floating, Mediterranean): Ocean Winds and Éolien en mer Beteiligungen
- **Golfe de Fos** (250 MW floating, Mediterranean): Éoliennes Méditerranée Grand Large
- **Pennavel** (270 MW floating, Brittany): Elicio and BayWa r.e. (awarded May 2024)
- **AO5** (230-270 MW floating, Southern Brittany): Elicio and BayWa r.e.

AO9 Tender: Launched in August 2024 with RWE among 12 pre-qualified candidates for four project extensions in Brittany, South Atlantic coast, and Mediterranean Sea. Winner announcements expected end-2025.[19]

AO10 Tender: France kicked off consultation in March 2025 for its largest tender, targeting 8.4-9.2 GW of capacity to be awarded by end-2026 and operational by 2035. The tender includes:[20][18]

- Two projects of approximately 2 GW each on the eastern English Channel coastline
- Floating wind projects of 1.2-2 GW on the North Atlantic-Western Channel, South Atlantic coast, and Mediterranean coast

Belgium

Belgium launched tenders for the Princess Elisabeth Zone, targeting 3.15-3.5 GW of new offshore wind capacity through three lots between 2024-2028.[21][22]

Princess Elisabeth Zone Lot 1 (November 2024):[22][21]

- **Capacity**: 700 MW
- **Deadline**: Filing between July-August 2025, results announced December 2025
- **Target commissioning**: End-2028
- **Support**: €682 million state aid scheme approved by European Commission in September 2024

Two additional lots of 1,225-1,400 MW each are scheduled for tender between 2026-2028, with commissioning targeted for 2030. The tender features minimum qualification criteria including prior offshore wind project experience of at least 300 MW and citizen participation requirements.[23]

Ireland

Ireland approved terms and conditions for its second Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS) auction in November 2024, with the qualification phase expected to open in Q1 2025 and bidding in Q2 2025.[13]

ORESS 2 Details:[13]

- **Site**: Tonn Nua (New Wave), off County Waterford coast
- **Area**: 306 square kilometers
- **Capacity**: 900 MW
- **Significance**: First auction held within Ireland's South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan (SC DMAP), approved October 2024

Estonia

Following a failed initial auction in 2024, Estonia relaunched its tender for the Saare 1 offshore wind area in January 2025.[13]

Saare 1 Relaunch:

- **Auction dates**: January 21-23, 2025
- **Starting price**: EUR 1.32 million
- **Minimum bid increment**: EUR 50,000

Spain

Spain prepared to launch its first offshore wind auction by end-2025, targeting 3 GW of capacity by 2030.[24][25]

The Offshore Wind Energy and Marine Energy Roadmap sets forth selection criteria prioritizing lowest environmental impact and greatest local socio-economic benefits. Industry stakeholders have urged the government to proceed with an initial auction in the Canary Islands, given favorable wind resources and industrial capacity, followed by development in Galicia and Catalonia.[25][26]

Italy

Italy introduced its FER 2 decree in August 2024, establishing a CfD scheme for offshore wind projects through competitive public procedures from 2024-2028.[27][28]

FER 2 Framework:[28][27]

- **Total capacity available**: 3.8 GW over 2024-2028 period
- **Base tariff (2024)**: €185/MWh for 25 years (reduced annually by 3%)
- **Minimum bid discount**: 2% on base tariff
- **Eligibility**: Projects must hold construction permits or positive environmental impact assessment, with grid connection quote

As of June 2024, grid operator Terna received 84 GW of connection requests from offshore wind projects, with Apulia (27 GW), Sicily (24 GW), and Sardinia (14 GW) leading. Key projects include Renantis-BlueFloat partnerships for six projects requiring EUR 18 billion investment, including the EUR 4 billion, 1.3 GW Odra Energia project.[29][28]

Greece

Greece advanced its offshore wind regulatory framework, targeting 2 GW (NECP target) to 2.7 GW by 2030, with the Draft National Programme identifying 25 areas covering 2,712 km^2 and estimated minimum capacity of 12.4 GW.[30][31]

The framework establishes exploration licenses valid for three years as prerequisites for tender participation. First auctions are expected to begin around 2026, with awards in 2027 and final permits and financial close by 2028. The auction will be based on lowest offer (€/MWh) among candidates who have received exploration licenses.[30]

Sweden

Sweden's offshore wind sector underwent policy reassessment in 2024, with a government commission recommending transition to an auction-based system while concluding that offshore wind development is not economically viable without support mechanisms.[32]

The commission found that "there don't appear to be any areas around Sweden's coasts where anticipated income is higher than expected costs" and noted that 99.5% of offshore wind installations in northern Europe over the past decade required government assistance. The government has indicated it will "consider" recommendations but made no commitment to new subsidies. In November 2024, Sweden rejected 13 of 14 offshore wind applications, citing military security concerns in the Baltic Sea.[32]

Asia-Pacific: Robust Competition and Market Expansion

Taiwan

Taiwan's Round 3.2 offshore wind auction in August 2024 awarded 2.7 GW across five projects, demonstrating intense competition and strong local content requirements.[33][34]

Round 3.2 Winners:[34][33]

- **Youde** (700 MW): Shinfox
- **Formosa 6** (800 MW): Synera Renewable Energy
- **Fengmiao 2** (600 MW): Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners
- **Formosa 3/Haiding 1** (360 MW): Corio Generation and TotalEnergies
- **Deshuai** (240 MW): Enervest

Notably, Ørsted's 570 MW Greater Changhua Northeast project was excluded, primarily due to lower local content commitments compared to competitors. Taiwan has increasingly prioritized domestic supply chain development, with winners pledging higher locally-produced components.[33]

Project Cancellations: In May 2025, Taiwan cancelled two projects from Round 3.2 after operators failed contract review, following the April 2025 revocation of the 300 MW Haixia 1 project from Round 3.1—resulting in 900 MW of total capacity revoked across two tenders.[35]

Round 3.3 Expectations: The remaining capacity from Round 3.2 (originally planned at 3.6 GW) may be offered in Round 3.3, potentially the last round for fixed-bottom offshore wind in Taiwanese territorial waters.[34]

South Korea

South Korea emerged as a global leader in floating offshore wind through its 2024-2025 auctions, demonstrating government commitment to commercial-scale floating technology.[36][37][38]

October 2024 Auction Results:[37][38][36]

- **Total capacity awarded**: 1,886 MW (exceeding 1.5 GW target)
- **Bottom-fixed projects**: Four projects totaling ~1,136 MW
- **Floating wind**: **Firefly project** (750 MW) – the largest floating project to receive an offtake contract to date
- **Ceiling price**: KRW 176,565/MWh for both fixed and floating projects

The Firefly project award represents a watershed moment for commercial-scale floating offshore wind globally, positioning South Korea alongside the UK as the most promising markets for floating wind developers.[38]

September 2025 Auction: South Korea awarded 689 MW across four projects from six bidders in its September 2025 auction.[39]

Future Pipeline: The government announced an auction roadmap with the next offtake auction for Q2 2025, potentially offering 0.5-1 GW floating and 2-2.5 GW fixed-bottom capacity, with volumes subject to adjustment based on 2024 results. From H2 2024 to H1 2026, a total of 7-8 GW is available through three auctions.[36][37]

Japan

Japan announced results of its third offshore wind auction in December 2024, awarding two fixed-bottom sites with a combined 1,065 MW capacity.[40][41]

Round 3 Results (December 2024):[41][40]

- **Aomori Prefecture** (615 MW): JERA, Green Power Investment, and Tohoku Electric consortium, using Siemens Gamesa 15 MW turbines
- **Yuza Town, Yamagata Prefecture** (450 MW): Marubeni Corporation, Kansai Electric Power, British Petroleum, Tokyo Gas, and Marutaka Corporation consortium, using Siemens Gamesa 15 MW turbines

Both projects submitted bids at 3 yen/kWh (the price granting maximum points) against an FIP ceiling of 18 yen/kWh, with commissioning targeted for June 2030.[41]

Round 4: Proposed changes to auction guidelines were announced in December 2024, with Round 4 likely to be initiated in July 2025, though areas have not been clearly identified.[42]

India

India's offshore wind tendering program experienced significant setbacks in 2024-2025, with both major tenders cancelled due to lack of bids.[43][44][45]

Tamil Nadu Open Access Tender (February 2024):[43]

- **Capacity**: 4 GW across four 1 GW blocks
- **Location**: Off Tamil Nadu coast
- **Structure**: Open access basis (no Viability Gap Funding)
- **Outcome**: **Cancelled August 2025** due to zero bids received[45]

Gujarat VGF-Supported Tender (September 2024):[44][46]

- **Capacity**: 500 MW
- **Location**: Gulf of Khambhat, Gujarat
- **Support**: ₹8.128 crore/MW Viability Gap Funding
- **EMD requirement**: ₹37 lakh/MW (total ₹185 crore)
- **Deadline**: December 12, 2024
- **Outcome**: **Cancelled August 2025**[45]

The Indian media reported that the government plans to re-examine its approach and potentially relaunch tenders with revised terms, though no timeline has been provided. The failures suggest India is unlikely to meet its offshore wind targets ahead of 2030.[45]

Australia

Australia's offshore wind sector progressed through feasibility licensing rounds in 2024-2025, with the first competitive revenue support auction anticipated for 2025-2026.[47][48][49]

Gippsland Declaration (May 2024): Ocean Winds secured a feasibility license for 1.28 GW (150 km^2) off Gippsland, Victoria, during Australia's first offshore wind tender.[47]

Victoria Revenue Support Auction:[48][49]

- **Registration of Interest**: Closed May 2025
- **Request for Proposal**: Q3 2025
- **Contract award**: Targeted Q3 2026
- **Capacity**: 2 GW
- **Support mechanism**: Contract for Difference (CfD) with availability payment
- **Competition intensity**: Up to 13 projects bidding for 2 GW

Western Australia: Bunbury Offshore Wind Farm Pty Ltd received a preliminary decision for a feasibility license in the Bunbury declared area. Two additional projects (Westward Wind Pty Ltd and another Bunbury Offshore Wind Farm project) were shortlisted for the southern part, though overlap procedures must be followed.[48]

New South Wales: Novocastrian Wind Pty Ltd (joint venture between Oceanex and Equinor) was offered a feasibility license for a 2 GW project in the Hunter declared area but was granted an additional 90 days to finalize commercial arrangements.[48]

Vietnam

Vietnam published Decree No. 58/2025 in December 2024, establishing the country's offshore wind regulatory framework and targeting 6 GW by 2030.[50][51]

Key Incentive Provisions:[50]

- Maritime area use fees: Exemption for first three construction years, then 50% reduction for next 12 years
- Offtake guarantee: Government commitment to purchase at least 80% of eligible project output for 15 years
- Application period: Projects approved before January 2031 qualify for incentives

The Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) published a comprehensive investor selection study in November 2024, recommending a two-stage competitive model: Stage 1 awards exclusive survey rights, and Stage 2 awards 20-year PPAs with inflation and foreign exchange indexation.[51]

Philippines

The Philippines Department of Energy announced that the fifth Green Energy Auction (GEA-5), dedicated to offshore wind, would commence in Q3 2025, providing developers with secure market access and long-term demand visibility.[13]

Americas: Policy Turbulence and Emerging Markets

United States

The U.S. offshore wind market experienced severe disruption in 2024-2025, with policy shifts, project cancellations, and a presidential moratorium creating unprecedented uncertainty.[52][53][54]

December 2024 Federal Suspension: The Trump administration suspended leases for five large East Coast offshore wind projects under construction, citing national security concerns:[54]

- Ørsted: Revolution Wind and Sunrise Wind
- Avangrid/CIP: Vineyard Wind 1
- Dominion Energy: Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (2.6 GW)
- Equinor: Empire Wind 1 (810 MW)

January 2025 Moratorium: A presidential memorandum imposed a moratorium on new or renewed federal actions related to offshore wind projects, halting federal leases, approvals, and land rights pending a federal review.[53]

Pipeline Contraction: The U.S. offshore wind pipeline halved from 55.9 GW (Q3 2024) to 25.4 GW (Q3 2025), driven by policy changes, rising domestic content requirements (27.5% in 2025, increasing to 35% for post-January 2026 projects), and trade measures imposing 10-15% duties on EU/UK goods and up to 50% on some steel and aluminum components.[52]

New York State Solicitations: Despite federal uncertainty, New York State continued procurement efforts. The fourth solicitation (NY4) received rebids from Equinor (Empire Wind 1, 816 MW), Ørsted (Sunrise Wind, 924 MW), and RWE/National Grid (Community Offshore Wind, 1.3 GW) in January 2024. Contract execution for NY4 and the fifth solicitation (NY5, launched July 2024 with 25 proposals representing 6,870 MW) remained pending in Q1 2025.[55][56]

State-Level Initiatives: Despite federal headwinds, New York allocated USD 300 million for offshore wind port preparation, and California incorporated offshore wind ports into a five-year infrastructure plan with USD 475 million in bond funding.[57][52]

Brazil

Brazil's offshore wind sector advanced in early 2025 with Petrobras launching survey tenders for a pilot project, while 103 projects totaling over 189 GW await licensing approval.[58][59]

Petrobras Pilot Project (June 2025):[60][58]

- **Location**: Off Rio de Janeiro state coast (São João da Barra)
- **Tenders**: Two separate tenders for geophysical data acquisition (electrical tomography, bathymetry, topography) and geotechnical data acquisition
- **Scope**: Ultra-shallow waters (~10m depth) across 1.5 km^2

Market Context: As of December 2024, Brazil's Institute for Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) had 103 offshore wind projects awaiting licensing approval. Major developers include Ocean Winds (EDP Renewables/ENGIE joint venture), Shell (17.08 GW), Chinese company Shizen (17.475 GW), and Petrobras/Equinor (14.5 GW across seven projects).[59][58]

Brazil authorized offshore wind farm development in January 2025, with first operational projects targeted for 2027. A DNV study identified 1.2 TW potential (480 GW fixed-bottom, 748 GW floating) with potential to generate 516,000 full-time equivalent jobs and contribute USD 168 billion in national gross value added.[58]

Colombia

Colombia completed Latin America's first offshore wind competitive process in December 2024-2025, marking a historic milestone for the region.[61][62][63]

First Offshore Wind Tender:[62][63][61]

- **Pre-qualification**: Completed December 2024 with all nine applicants qualified
- **Capacity target**: 1-3 GW
- **Location**: Shallow and deep waters off Atlántico, Bolívar, southern Magdalena, and northern Sucre departments
- **Permit type**: Temporary Occupation Permits (valid 8 years for feasibility studies)

Qualified Bidders: Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, BlueFloat Energy, China Three Gorges Corporation, Powerchina, Dyna Energy, Ecopetrol, Celsia, DEME, and Jan De Nul.[62]

Final Outcome (December 2025): Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners' 425 MW bid (submitted through CI GMF II Cooperatief UA, covering 139.6 km^2 off Barranquilla) was confirmed as the only eligible bid, with no objections raised during public comment. Formal lease award is expected in the second half of February 2026.[61]

Colombia's Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap (May 2022) projects nearly 50 GW potential, with approximately 27 GW suitable for bottom-fixed foundations and 21 GW for floating.[64]

Chile

Chile emerged as a potential Latin American offshore wind hub, with multiple international developers submitting applications while the government outlined energy auction plans for 2025-2028.[65][66]

Development Activity (2024):[65]

- **Deep Wind Offshore** (Norway): Submitted applications for Golfo De Arauco Sustentable (900 MW fixed-bottom) and BioBio Sustentable (1,500 MW floating)
- **17 Energy/SC Power consortium**: Announced plans for a USD 4.3 billion floating offshore wind farm off Biobío Region, targeting 2032 operations

Energy Auction Framework (2025-2028):[66]
Chile's National Energy Commission published plans to contract approximately 22,500 GWh through auctions with supply blocks starting between 2029-2034. Offshore wind projects will compete with other renewable sources, though specific offshore wind allocations were not detailed.

Canada

Canada initiated its first offshore wind pre-qualification process in October 2025, targeting 5 GW of capacity by 2030 in Nova Scotia waters.[67][68][69]

Nova Scotia Pre-Qualification (NS25-1R):[68][69][67]

- **Launch**: October 16, 2025
- **Deadline**: January 13, 2026
- **Sites**: Four areas—French Bank, Middle Bank, Sable Island Bank, Sydney Bight
- **Target capacity**: 5 GW by 2030 (part of 66 GW "Wind West" vision)
- **Regulatory oversight**: Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator (CNSOER)

The pre-qualification process requires companies to demonstrate legal, technical, and financial capabilities. Only pre-qualified companies will be permitted to bid in the subsequent Call for Bids. The first three sites are located south of Nova Scotia's eastern mainland, with the fourth east of Cape Breton Island.[68]

Development Projects: Nova East Wind (DP Energy/SBM Offshore joint venture) is developing a 300-400 MW floating project off Goldboro in the French Bank zone, targeting 2030 operations.[68]

Supply Chain Challenges: A Net Zero Atlantic report indicated Canada would require at least 10 large ports on its east coast to support offshore wind rollout, necessitating significant investment that port operators will only make with a stable project pipeline.[68]

Emerging Markets: First Movers and New Entrants

Malta

Malta launched its first offshore wind tender in December 2024, seeking to pre-qualify developers for a 280-320 MW floating wind farm. The project represents Malta's entry into offshore wind and will undergo subsequent tender stage(s) following pre-qualification.[13]

Finland

Finland enacted the Act on Offshore Wind Power in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) on January 1, 2025, enabling the country to organize its first offshore wind tender in autumn 2025. The legislation clarifies regulation of EEZ projects following the May 2024 rejection of 16 offshore wind applications pending new legislation.[13]

Lithuania

Lithuania's National Energy Regulatory Council (VERT) relaunched its tender for a 700 MW Baltic Sea offshore wind farm in June 2025, following an unsuccessful January 2024 tender that failed due to insufficient participation.[70][71]

Relaunch Details (November 2024):[71][70]

- **Capacity**: 700 MW (with allowable production up to this level)
- **Tender period**: June 9 to October 7, 2025
- **Support mechanism**: Two-way CfD with price range EUR 75.45-125.74/MWh (partially indexed)

- **Winner announcement**: Expected end-2025
- **Target commissioning**: No later than February 1, 2033

Ignitis Group (Lithuanian state-owned) submitted a bid through subsidiary Ignitis Renewables Projektai 5.[70]

Morocco

Morocco advanced feasibility studies for its first offshore wind project, a 1,000 MW fixed-bottom development off Essaouira.[72][73][74]

Project Status:[73][72]

- **Capacity**: 1,000 MW
- **Location**: Off Essaouira coast (Atlantic)
- **Developer**: Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy (MASEN)
- **Financing**: Mediterranean Blue Partnership providing initial support for feasibility studies and technical assistance
- **Construction target**: Commencement in 2029

The European Investment Bank re-issued a tender in September 2024 (originally issued July 2024) for a 24-month technical assistance contract (estimated value EUR 2.0 million) to support MASEN's feasibility study, complementary studies, and environmental and social impact assessment.[72]

Morocco possesses significant offshore wind resources, with wind speeds reaching up to 10 m/s along the Strait of Gibraltar and Atlantic coast. BlueFloat Energy has secured service contracts for four sites with estimated 7.5 GW capacity.[74]

Cross-Cutting Themes and Market Dynamics

Support Mechanism Evolution

The global offshore wind tendering landscape demonstrates clear bifurcation between markets offering robust revenue support and those attempting subsidy-free models:

Successful Support Models:

- **Two-way CfDs with inflation indexation**: Denmark (DKK 55.2 billion cap), Poland (25-year terms at $135-143/MWh), Lithuania (EUR 75.45-125.74/MWh partially indexed)[71][6][14]

- **Extended contract durations**: UK moving to 20-year CPI-indexed contracts from AR7[4]
- **Viability Gap Funding**: India offering ₹8.128 crore/MW for Gujarat project (though tender ultimately failed)[44]

Failed Subsidy-Free Models:

- Germany's zero-subsidy auction receiving no bids for 2.5 GW[8]
- Denmark's 2024 auction with unfavorable risk allocation receiving no bids for 6+ GW[6]
- India's open-access tender without VGF cancelled due to zero bids for 4 GW[45]

Supply Chain and Local Content Requirements

Local content mandates increasingly influence tender outcomes:

Taiwan: Local content commitments proved decisive in Round 3.2, with Ørsted's project excluded despite competitive pricing due to lower domestic sourcing compared to winners.[33]

South Korea: Successful bidders demonstrated high levels of local manufacturing and supply chain integration.[38]

United States: Domestic content requirements escalated from 20% (Inflation Reduction Act) to 27.5% (OBBBA), increasing to 35% for post-January 2026 projects.[52]

Belgium: Princess Elisabeth Zone tenders include specific requirements for sustainability and social responsibility to ensure all bidders meet uniform standards.[75]

Floating Offshore Wind Emergence

Floating technology gained significant commercial traction:

South Korea's Firefly Project (750 MW): Largest floating project globally to receive offtake contract, demonstrating government commitment to commercial-scale floating wind.[38]

UK Green Volt (400 MW): Europe's first commercial-scale floating project secured AR6 CfD in September 2024.[76]

France: Multiple floating tenders awarded totaling 500+ MW (Éoliennes Flottantes d'Occitanie, Golfe de Fos, Pennavel), with AO10 targeting additional gigawatt-scale floating capacity.[17][18]

Celtic Sea Round 5: Entire 4.5 GW capacity dedicated to floating technology.[3][2]

Auction Failure Patterns

Failed tenders revealed systemic market challenges:

Price Ceiling Misalignment: UK's AR5 failure (2023) with £44/MWh ceiling corrected in AR6 with £73/MWh ceiling, yielding 5.3 GW of awards.[1]

Risk Allocation: Denmark's 2024 failure prompted fundamental redesign incorporating two-sided CfDs to address price volatility concerns.[6]

Economic Viability: Germany's elimination of subsidies proved non-viable under current market conditions despite mature supply chains.[8]

Market Readiness: India's tender failures highlight disconnect between policy ambition and market readiness, with developers unable to participate profitably under offered terms.[45]

Geopolitical Disruption: United States Case Study

The U.S. market demonstrated how political transitions can fundamentally disrupt offshore wind deployment:

- **Pipeline contraction**: 55.9 GW to 25.4 GW (-54%) in one year[52]
- **Federal leasing halt**: Moratorium on new leases and approvals[53]
- **Project suspensions**: Five major projects under construction suspended[54]
- **Supply chain exodus**: Multiple companies reorienting strategies to other markets

The U.S. disruption created potential opportunities for competing markets (Canada, Latin America, Europe) to capture displaced investment and talent, while simultaneously constraining global supply chain capacity growth.

Regulatory Acceleration vs. Market Reality

Several markets demonstrated gaps between regulatory progress and commercial reality:

Italy: Despite FER 2 decree creating framework for 3.8 GW (2024-2028) and 84 GW of grid connection requests, lack of streamlined permitting and mature supply chains constrain near-term deployment.[27][28]

Greece: Comprehensive regulatory framework established with 25 areas identified (12.4 GW potential), but first auctions delayed to 2026-2027, with exploration licenses as prerequisites creating extended development timelines.[31][30]

Spain: Roadmap targeting 3 GW by 2030 established, but delayed ministerial order for first auction prompted industry warnings about missed economic opportunities and developer interest shifting to other markets.[26][24][25]

Strategic Implications for Industry Stakeholders

For Developers

Market Prioritization: Focus deployment on markets offering:

1. Robust, bankable revenue support (two-way CfDs with inflation protection)
2. Realistic strike prices reflecting current cost structures
3. Streamlined permitting with defined timelines
4. Supply chain readiness and port infrastructure

Technology Selection:

- **Floating wind**: South Korea, UK (Celtic Sea), France, and emerging Atlantic markets offer most attractive near-term opportunities
- **Fixed-bottom**: Established European markets (UK, Netherlands, Poland) and Asia-Pacific (Taiwan, Japan) provide greatest volume potential

Risk Mitigation:

- Diversify geographic exposure to hedge political risk (demonstrated by U.S. market disruption)
- Engage early in market dialogue processes (Denmark, Italy) to influence tender design
- Establish local partnerships and supply chain commitments before auction participation

For Supply Chain and EPC Contractors

Capacity Planning: Global tender pipeline of 50+ GW (2024-2026) requires strategic capacity allocation:

- **High-priority markets**: UK (6.3 GW awarded), South Korea (2+ GW/year), Taiwan (continuing rounds), France (10+ GW pipeline)
- **Emerging opportunities**: Poland, Belgium, Colombia, Canada (Nova Scotia 5 GW by 2030)

Manufacturing Localization:

- Establish or expand manufacturing in regions with strong local content requirements (Taiwan, South Korea, U.S. states)
- Partner with local firms to meet qualification criteria

Floating Wind Capabilities:
Invest in floating-specific capabilities (dynamic cables, floating foundations, specialized installation vessels) given commercial-scale deployment across multiple markets.

For Financial Institutions and Investors

Bankability Assessment Framework:

- **Revenue certainty**: Prioritize projects with government-backed CfDs over merchant exposure
- **Political risk**: Assign higher risk premiums to markets with demonstrated policy instability
- **Offtaker creditworthiness**: Assess government fiscal capacity to honor long-term support commitments

Portfolio Construction:

- **Geographic diversification**: Balance mature markets (UK, Netherlands, Taiwan) with emerging markets (South Korea floating, Poland, Colombia)
- **Technology allocation**: Floating wind offers higher returns but requires specialized risk assessment

Market Intelligence:
Failed tenders (Germany, Denmark 2024, India) provide valuable price discovery, indicating minimum viable economics that can inform bidding strategies and investment theses.

For Governments and Policymakers

Tender Design Best Practices:

1. **Market dialogue**: Denmark's reformed tender demonstrates value of extensive pre-tender consultation[6]
2. **Support adequacy**: Subsidy-free models (Germany) fail to attract investment under current market conditions[8]
3. **Price realism**: UK's AR6 success following AR5 failure shows importance of adequate strike prices[1]

4. **Long-term visibility**: South Korea and Poland provide auction roadmaps enabling supply chain investment[14][36]

Supply Chain Development:

- Coordinate port infrastructure investment with tender timelines (Scotland's SIM, New York's USD 300 million port program)
- Balance local content requirements with cost competitiveness to avoid market failure (India's experience)

Regulatory Streamlining:

- Reduce permitting timelines through spatial planning (Ireland's SC DMAP)
- Provide regulatory certainty for 5-10 year planning horizons
- Coordinate transmission development with generation tenders to avoid bottlenecks

Conclusion

The global offshore wind tendering landscape in 2024-2025 reveals a sector at a critical inflection point. While aggregate tender volumes exceed 50 GW globally, the bifurcation between successful and failed auctions provides clear market signals: subsidy-free models remain non-viable under current economics, robust revenue support with realistic strike prices is essential for bankability, and local content requirements increasingly determine competitive outcomes.

Asia-Pacific markets—particularly South Korea, Taiwan, and Japan—demonstrate most consistent execution, with competitive auctions and ambitious floating wind deployment. European markets show divergent trajectories, with the UK recovering from AR5 failure, Poland successfully launching competitive tenders, but Germany and Denmark experiencing unprecedented auction failures requiring fundamental redesign. The Americas face maximum uncertainty, with U.S. federal policy creating severe disruption while emerging markets (Brazil, Colombia, Canada) advance foundational regulatory frameworks.

For the offshore wind sector to achieve deployment trajectories aligned with climate commitments, policymakers must internalize lessons from failed tenders: revenue support adequacy, realistic price ceilings, comprehensive risk allocation, and streamlined permitting are prerequisites for market success. The sector's maturation requires evolution from race-to-zero pricing toward sustainable economics enabling supply chain investment, technological innovation, and long-term investor confidence.

Sources: This analysis synthesizes information from [1-97] comprehensive industry sources, government announcements, regulatory filings, and market intelligence spanning 2024-2025.

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