

Full-scale demonstrators, a necessary step towards commercial-scale bankability

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Abstract

Floating Offshore Wind is undoubtedly accelerating as:

- the low hanging fruit for bottom-fixed is progressively being picked and becoming scarce while the highest capacity factors are further offshore
- some key markets have no other alternative
- the increasingly lower return on investment of bottom-fixed projects is not aligned with some key investors' expectations
- its tremendous global potential is acknowledged by all leading consultancies and offshore wind developers
- its technical viability has been demonstrated

BUT in a risk adverse environment (power and utilities industry, financial institutions, insurance companies, pension funds, etc.), technical viability has to rhyme with bankability and economic viability. One can develop new and innovative floating concepts every day but without the necessary return on experience demonstrating seakeeping and turbine performance, power curve, O&M records, capex and opex reduction roadmap, etc. one will never be able to have investors commit to hundreds of millions if not billions to build and commission such new power production units. In any capital-intensive and innovative industry, a proven track record and return on experience is not only essential, it is necessary. Full-scale demonstrators illustrate such necessity and are the *conditio sine qua non* towards job- and value-creating commercial-scale deployments.

IDEOL, the only floating technology with 2 full-scale demonstrators in operation in 2 of the most strategic markets for floating offshore wind (France and Japan), will share its lessons learned and suggested way forward to ensure floating wind achieves as soon as possible the share it deserves within the global renewable energy mix.

Keywords: *Floating Offshore Wind, Demonstrators*

Biography

Bruno Geschier is the Chief Sales & Marketing Officer of Ideol and the Chairman of WindEurope's Floating Offshore Wind Task Force. Beyond promoting Ideol's patented and internationally recognized floating wind technology, Bruno spends most of his time advocating floating offshore wind to policy makers, financial institutions, asset developers and utilities across the globe. He is a regular speaker and chairperson at offshore wind events in the US, Asia and Europe.