

November 18, 2020

PORT OF CROMARTY FIRTH AGREES TO PARTNERSHIP WITH GLOBAL LEADER IN FLOATING OFFSHORE WIND

Port of Cromarty Firth has signed a Letter of Intent with IDEOL, a global leader in floating foundations for offshore wind, which could create well in excess of five hundred new Scottish construction jobs.

The agreement would see the French-headquartered company and its future local construction partners use the Port's land and Firth berthing sites and cooperating towards further developing the facilities and infrastructure to establish a concrete hull serial manufacturing yard for incoming floating wind tenders. Besides business opportunities for local suppliers, the manufacturing would call upon time-tested and proven concrete construction methods and create a mix of skilled and semi-skilled work in the Highlands.

IDEOL has teamed up with Elicio, a leading offshore wind farm developer and operator in the Belgian North Sea, and BayWa r.e. a leading global renewable energy business with a strong historical presence in Scotland, to submit proposals for the ScotWind tender launched by Crown Estate Scotland under the "Floating Energy Alliance" consortium name.


The partnership is a huge vote of confidence in the Port's ability to help support a massive expansion of offshore wind off the Scottish coast – a pipeline of development predicted to be worth over £26 billion just in the first round of 10GW development sites.

Port of Cromarty Firth Chief Executive Bob Buskie stated that *"This partnership shows the vital manufacturing role the Port can play in the rapid expansion in renewable projects off Scotland's shores. We have some of the best marine resources in the world and are in close proximity to around 14 of the 15 areas identified in the Crown Estate Scotland's marine plan for offshore wind development. This agreement is a significant boost to the long-term future of the Port, Invergordon and the Highlands, as it looks to capitalise on the transformation of the energy market from oil and gas to renewables."*

PRESS RELEASE

Paul de la Guérivière, CEO of Ideol, commented: *“This agreement is testament to our vision to build our floaters as close as possible to the offshore installation sites and in close collaboration with the local communities. We have demonstrated such high local content track record in France and Japan and do not see any reason why we could not reiterate such success stories in Scotland.”*

About Ideol:

 *Ideol, based in La Ciotat (France), was created in 2010 with the aim of developing both technically and economically viable floating foundation solutions for the offshore wind industry. Recipient of numerous innovation and entrepreneurship awards, the company benefits from the support of a large and prestigious panel of public and private investors. Its industry-changing and patented “Damping Pool”[®] design is compatible with all existing offshore wind turbines. Maximizing local content and optimizing the entire process from construction to installation, maintenance and decommissioning have been the company’s key priorities since day one. Its particularly cost-competitive solution allows for the development of projects without any water depth or soil constraints on sites benefiting from the best available wind resources. Benefiting from the experience and know-how of a fully integrated team of 60 experts and engineers coming from the offshore oil & gas and renewables industries, the company has two floating wind turbines in operation (one in France, off Le Croisic, and one in Japan, off Kitakyushu). Ideol is not only an internationally acclaimed floating wind technology provider but also acts as a project co-developer and EPCI work package provider leveraging its unique return on experience. Ideol is currently involved in the development of multiple pre-commercial and commercial-scale projects across the globe, representing a multi-GW project pipeline.*

More information: <https://www.ideol-offshore.com/en>

PRESS CONTACT

Juliette Bise, Communication Officer: juliette.bise@ideol-offshore.com

Mob : +33 (0)6 88 65 83 87

Bruno Geschier, Chief Sales & Marketing Officer: bruno.geschier@ideol-offshore.com

Tel : + 33 (0)4 86 83 54 14 – Mob : + 33 (0)6 46 76 08 36

About Port of Cromarty Firth



The Port of Cromarty Firth is one of Britain’s most sheltered deepwater ports and a strategically important national asset for access to offshore renewable energy sites. With water depths up to 55 metres, the port can accommodate the world’s largest renewable energy structures and their construction and support vessels. Facilities in the Cromarty Firth have the best track record in Scotland for marshalling offshore wind projects and are perfectly located for the next round of offshore wind projects to be awarded in the ScotWind leasing round. The Cromarty Firth offers deep sheltered water, no weather or tidal restrictions and access 24/7/365. Water depths alongside are up to 13.5m and over 35 acres of laydown space is available. The locally based, internationally recognised skilled workforce offers customers a choice of capable and experienced contractors.

PRESS RELEASE

All of this combines to make the Port of Cromarty Firth a proven destination of choice for renewable energy projects.

PRESS CONTACT

Stuart MacDonald Butler, Marketing & PR Manager: s.macdonaldbutler@cfpa.co.uk

Mob: +44(0)7799 706849

Elaine Fee, Morrison Media (Agency): Elaine.Fee@morrison-media.co.uk

Mob: 07540 124245