



## Press release

Berlin, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021

### Launch of the FLOATECH project – The future of floating wind turbines!

Wind is one of the leading sources of renewables contributing to EU energy mix, and its exploitation is pivotal to meet many of the next environmental and energy policy goals. Europe being one of the worlds technological leaders, saw its wind energy sector evolved into an important industry providing hundreds of thousands of jobs. Due to the limitations of available installation sites onshore, offshore wind is becoming crucial to ensure the further growth of the sector. In this scenario, exploiting the vast wind resources in deeper waters using floating wind farms and developing the required technology will enhance EU's economy and will contribute to achieve its green energy goals.

With the objective of increasing the technical maturity and the cost competitiveness of floating offshore wind energy, FLOATECH aims at stimulating this transition.

Launched on January 2021 for a duration of 3 years and coordinated by TU Berlin, FLOATECH is a European H2020 project bringing together five public research institutions with relevant skills in the field of offshore floating wind energy (TUB, ECN, TUD, Unifi, Seapower), three industrial partners involved in the most recent developments of floating wind systems (SAIPEM, BW Ideol, Next Ocean) and one partner specialized in the development of EU funded projects and their communication and dissemination activities (Euronovia). To achieve its objectives, the project is built around two main actions:

- The development, implementation, and validation of a user-friendly and efficient design engineering tool (named QBlade-Ocean) performing simulations of floating offshore wind turbines with unseen aerodynamic and hydrodynamic fidelity. The more advanced modelling theories will lead to a reduction of the uncertainties in the design process and an increase of turbine efficiency.
- The development of two innovative control techniques (i.e., Active Wave-based feed-forward Control and the Active Wake Mixing) for Floating Wind Turbines and floaters, combining wave prediction and anticipation of induced platform motions. This is expected to reduce the wake effects in floating wind farms, leading to a net increase in the annual energy production of the farm.

In addition to the technological and economic impact, the project is expected to have several impacts at the societal, environmental and political levels, such as: the use of less material and space thanks to an environmentally friendly design; the promotion of the installation of FOW in transitional water depths (30-50 meters), no noise and visibility issues; less impact on biodiversity and wildlife habitat as no piles are needed to be installed into the seabed.

Christian Nayeri, FLOATECH project coordinator, said: "I expect that FLOATECH will contribute to the advancement of floating offshore wind energy technology by creating a deeper scientific knowledge base. A European network will be established with new collaborations. In the framework of the project many engineers with state-of-the-art floating wind expertise will be trained. By involving relevant stakeholders, the outcome of the project will be directly fed into the market. All in all, FLOATECH is a big chance to strengthen the leadership of European wind energy technology".

During these first months we have started to work on the different activities, and we have defined our communication and dissemination strategy:

- We have finalized different types of **communication materials** (a flyer, a factsheet, a poster, a roll-up banner and a newsletter) to raise awareness of the project,
- We have launched the project **website** and **social media**, where people are demonstrating a great interest in our activities. To receive our updates, follow us on [Twitter](#) and a join us on [LinkedIn!](#)
- We are planning to have an exhibition booth at the **WindEurope Electric City** event, the leading-edge, international conference for the offshore wind industry. Come and meet us in Copenhagen on November 23-25!

FLOATECH has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101007142.

To learn more about the project, please visit: <https://www.floatech-project.com/>

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