



## Q&A Webinar 'Offshore Wind Energy in the Netherlands' by RVO and Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy July 9, 2020

([This link](https://offshorewind.rvo.nl) allows you to watch the webinar, published at <https://offshorewind.rvo.nl>)

Questions from: the participants

Answers given by: Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management

- 1) Question:** How many Wind Farm Zones will be designated? All eight search areas?  
**Answer:** No, less than eight, but enough for about 30 GW.
- 2) Question:** What would be the additional offshore wind capacity target under a 55% CO2 reduction target? Are there any preliminary assessments available - to take into account for calculations on the next tender(s)?  
**Answer:** No numbers yet. This will depend on the exact ambition increase and the amount to which offshore wind will be asked to contribute.
- 3) Question:** What are area passports?  
**Answer:** For each Wind Farm Zone, the area passport indicates where and which types of co-use are most suitable and which are therefore preferred, based on area-specific characteristics. Area passports are an instrument for balancing different forms of co-use that can mutually exclude each other.
- 4) Question:** Do you expect more bird and bat "casualties" as a result of the scaling-up of wind turbines, and potentially increasing tip speed of the blades?  
**Answer:** In general, a certain amount of GW consisting of fewer larger wind turbines cause less bird and bat casualties than the same amount of GW consisting of a larger number of smaller wind turbines, as the total rotor swept area of the latter is larger.
- 5) Question:** What is the business case for the financing of the Integrated Ground Model (IGM)? Will this de-risking of the tender process result in lower pricing, and thus will IGM investments be recovered?  
**Answer:** The aim of enhancing the IGM for the wind farm sites is twofold. On the one hand, developers will have a better starting point, which will likely reduce the time needed to come to a preliminary design of the wind farm and prepare a tender bid for the wind farm site. The second foreseen benefit is the developer will have a better quality IGM, which could save costs for final design as well as enable them to potentially receive better offers from installation contractors because uncertainties are reduced.
- 6) Question:** Are those zones additional to the ones you've mentioned (20-40 GW extra)?  
**Answer:** We will designate new Wind Farm Zones that can accommodate about 30 GW. These will come on top of the 11 GW of the 2030 Roadmap.
- 7) Question:** Can you say when are you planning to announce the winner of the HKNWFZ tender?  
**Answer:** On 29 July 2020, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy plans to announce the result of the tender Hollandse Kust (noord) Wind Farm Site V after closing of the Dutch stock exchanges.

- 8) Question:** What is the planned tender size after 2030? 1 GW? 2 GW?  
**Answer:** At this point, we do not have a certain tender size in mind. As always we will be looking for a size that suits most wind farm developers so there is a healthy competition.
- 9) Question:** Is there a (technical) difference between what you call Curtailment and Start-Stop for bats or birds?  
**Answer:** Curtailment generally entails switching off a limited part of the wind farm due to grid balancing issues. The start/stop-measure aims at reducing the number of collision victims amongst migrating birds and bats and generally covers the entire wind farm.
- 10) Question:** Will there be sufficient time between the HKW Wind Farm Site Decisions and tender?  
**Answer:** That is always what we are aim for. We are on schedule, but also dependent on whether there will be appeals or not. In any case, we will decide in consultation with the wind sector if planning setbacks might occur.
- 11) Question:** What are positive environmental impacts of offshore wind farms?  
**Answer:** In general, offshore wind farms contribute to reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> and air pollutants by substitution of coal and gas-fired electricity plants. At location, wind farms might enhance the underwater habitat by providing hiding places for fish and other small animals in and around the scour protection. In addition, the piles offer substrate for benthic species like bivalves. Furthermore, the seabed is protected due to a ban on seabed fishery within wind farms.
- 12) Question:** What will be the type of winning criteria for HKW; comparative assessment again?  
**Answer:** At this point, we have not yet decided.
- 13) Question:** Why is the subsea noise threshold at 168 dB?  
**Answer:** Research carried out for the Ecology and Cumulation Framework shows this noise limit provides sufficient protection for marine mammals.
- 14) Question:** Is the market already involved in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the 8 new areas or those 4 variants?  
**Answer:** We will report the results of the EIA this fall. The EIA will consider the 8 search areas.