



## New alliance in Brussels: Offshore wind foundations integral part of Green Deal

Offshore wind foundations, the support structures for offshore wind turbines, are basic elements to achieve the ambitious climate goals included in the European Green Deal for the offshore renewable energy strategy. Five European companies have formed the Offshore Wind Foundations Alliance (OWFA), aiming to inform about the importance and relevance of offshore wind foundations and ensure the sustainability of the offshore wind supply chain.

**Brussels, 5 July 2021** While offshore wind already contributes to the EU's carbon neutrality objectives and is an obvious front-runner to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, the sustainability and competitiveness of a crucial construction element – the foundations on which the offshore wind turbines are placed – have so far not been highlighted in the public discourse.

For this reason, five European companies with first-class engineering expertise producing offshore wind foundations have decided to join forces and create the Offshore Wind Foundations Alliance (OWFA). The five founding companies are [Bladt Industries A/S](#) (Denmark), [EEW Special Pipe Constructions GmbH](#) (Germany), [SIF Netherlands BV](#) (the Netherlands), [Smulders Projects Belgium](#) (Belgium), and [Steelwind Nordenham GmbH](#) (Germany).

OWFA wants to raise awareness about the key role offshore wind foundations play in the sustainable development of offshore windfarms in Europe, and the value in investing in getting the foundations done right from the beginning.

The main foundation type is the monopile (single steel cylinders) together with transition pieces, used when the water is not too deep (up to 55 m depth currently, though this is constantly evolving). For deeper waters, jackets (a chair-like tower structure) are used. For really deep waters, floating foundation structures are being developed. Offshore wind foundations play a decisive role as they anchor the entire wind turbine structure in the seabed.

OWFA **advocates for a level playing field** in the offshore wind foundations market with first-class industry-led EU **quality and environmental standards**. OWFA also believes that foundations should be supplied from the shortest possible distance, to limit the transport-related carbon footprint of these very heavy structures.

The Alliance is already active in Brussels and has started to share its expertise with EU policymakers as part of the European strategy for offshore renewable energy and other related policy areas. For more information about the Offshore Wind Foundations Alliance and its work, please visit [www.offshorewindfoundations.eu](http://www.offshorewindfoundations.eu)

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**Media contact**  
Bertrand Wyns  
[owfa@hkstrategies.com](mailto:owfa@hkstrategies.com)

+32 484 076 564  
[www.offshorewindfoundations.eu](http://www.offshorewindfoundations.eu)