

Japan and Norway stepping up offshore wind collaboration

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Today the offshore wind organizations Norwegian Offshore Wind in Norway and JWPA in Japan signed an MOU in Tokyo.

The Memorandum of Understanding aims to get business going between offshore wind companies. Both Norwegian supply chain and developers are interested in the emerging Japanese market. Especially within floating projects, the potential for contracts is large.

-From our experience with bottom fixed we know that those who are early in the market will end up being leading. Therefore, it is important for Norway and Japan to collaborate at an early stage on the development of floating offshore wind, says Arvid Nesse, manager of Norwegian Offshore Wind.

Per now, this Norwegian organization represents close to 370 companies, whereas Japan Wind Power Association (JWPA) has 559 companies and corporations.

-Both of our organizations have the broadest offshore wind industry representation in our two countries. We have always had very good relations to Japan, and with this MOU we are committing to an even closer and more targeted collaboration, comments Nesse.

Japan has 190MW of offshore wind power now and has set a target to develop 10 GW by 2030 and 30-45 GW by 2040. 344MW of 4 projects (including 1 floating project) is under construction. 1.7GW of Round 1 auction winner is decided, 1.8GW of Round 2 is under bidding, and more 16 projects are in the pipeline now.

In Norway, the first offshore wind parks will be announced already by the end of March with an application deadline during the summer.

Several Norwegian companies are in Japan this week for the Wind Expo in Tokyo. In May, a delegation from Japan visits the international flagship event for the floating wind industry, Floating Wind Days in Haugesund, opened by the Norwegian prime minister.