

OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

As part of Malta's forward outlook and ambition in increasing the share of renewable energy, Malta is strategically transitioning towards decarbonisation by focusing on large-scale offshore renewable energy (RES) projects. With the establishment of regulatory frameworks, the government aims to develop floating renewable potential in its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). In alignment with EU regulations, Malta has set ambitious goals for offshore renewable generation, with plans outlined in its national Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) and National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP). Recognizing the spatial limitations of its land area, Malta is leveraging its extensive EEZ to harness offshore wind and solar energy.

Interconnect Malta Ltd (ICM) was assigned the role to act as a Project Implementor to plan, prepare, issue, recommend for award a contract for Offshore Renewables.



Floating offshore wind technology is well-suited for Malta's deep waters, providing a promising solution since traditional fixed structures are not feasible in Malta's seabed conditions. Despite being relatively new, floating wind has demonstrated viability and reliability through successful pilot projects.

The next steps for the offshore floating wind farm project involve issuing a pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ). This questionnaire aims to evaluate the technical and financial capabilities of interested economic operators before proceeding to the more advanced stages of project development. PQQ short-listed candidates will be invited to participate in the Invitation to Participate in Dialogue (ITPD) stage.

The areas designated for the implementation of this pioneering renewable energy project in Malta have been identified in the National Policy for the Deployment of Offshore Renewable Energy. These areas have been selected to avoid various anthropogenic and natural constraints, thereby facilitating smoother implementation. Additionally, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was conducted as a result of the policy, aimed at determining which of the selected areas are most environmentally compatible. ICM, together with legal, technical, and commercial consultants is addressing all critical aspects of this project, encompassing both implementation and procurement processes. A crucial step involves determining the optimal size of the wind farm. Capacity must be sufficiently large to be economically viable but not so large as to cause curtailment and potential loss of renewable energy. Suitable corridors have also been identified for connecting the wind farm at 12 nautical miles from the



coast to the local grid. This preliminary information will be available at the PQQ stage, with more detailed insights, including the heads of terms for the main agreements, made available at the ITPD stage.

PROĠETT TA' ENERĠIJA RINNOVABBLI OFFSHORE

Fl-istrategija ambizzjuża tagħha sabiex tkabbar is-sehem tal-enerġija iġġenerata minn sorsi ndaf fil-mixja lejn id-dekarbonizzazzjoni, Malta, minhabba il-limitazzjonijiet u ċ-ċokon tat-territorju tagħha, qed tfares lejn proġetti ta' enerġija rinnovabbli offshore fuq skala kbira sabiex tkun tista' tisfrutta l-enerġija mir-riġ u x-xemx. Għaldaqstant, fl-isfond ta' qafas regolatorju apposta, il-gvern għandu l-għan li jiżviluppa il-potenzjal rinnovabbli fuq il-baħar fiż-Żona Ekonomika Esklussiva tiegħu (Exclusive Economic Zone - EEZ). Imsejsa fuq linji gwida stabbiliti mill-UE, Malta stabbiliet miri ambizzjużi għall-generazzjoni rinnovabbli offshore permezz tal-Istrategija Nazzjonali lejn Żvilupp b'Karbonju Baxx (Low Carbon Development Strategy - LCDS) u l-Pjan Nazzjonali tal-Enerġija u l-Klima (National Energy and Climate Plan - NECP)..

Interconnect Malta Ltd (ICM) giet delgata r-rwol biex tagixxi bħala Implimentatur tal-Proġett biex tippjana, tipprepara, toħroġ u tirrakkomanda sejniet għall-offerti għall-Enerġiji Rinnovabbli Offshore.



It-teknoloġija tal-enerġija mir-riġ floating offshore hija addattata għall-ilmijiet fondi li jinsabu madwar Malta, u tipprovi soluzzjoni promettenti peress li strutturi fissi tradizzjonali li jkunu mgħaddsa go qiegħ il-baħar mhumiex fattibbli minhabba il-fond sostanzjali tal-baħar madwar Malta. Minkejja li għada kemxejn għada, l-enerġija mir-riġ permezz ta' rdieden li jkunu ankrati fuq ta' strutturi apposta minflok midfuni direttament f'qiegħ il-baħar, uriet vijabbiltà u affidabbiltà konsiderevoli.

Il-passi li jmiss għal dawn it-tipi ta' rziezet tar-riġ jinvolve l-ħruġ ta' kwestjonarju għall-kwalifika (Pre-Qualification Questionnaire – PQQ). Dan il-kwestjonarju għandu l-għan li jevalwa l-kapaċitajiet tekniċi u finanzjarji tal-operatori ekonomiċi li juru tali interess qabel ma javvanza għal stadji aktar 'il quddiem lejn l-iżvilupp tal-proġett. Il-kandidati li jikkwalifikaw fil-PQQ se jkunu mistiedna jipparteċipaw biex jieħdu sehem fi stadju sussegwenti ta' Partecipazzjoni ta' Djalogo (Invitation to Participate in Dialogue - ITPD).

L-ibħra magħżula għall-implimentazzjoni ta' dan l-ewwel proġett ta' enerġija rinnovabbli ta' dan it-tip għall-Malta ġew identifikati fil-Politika Nazzjonali għall-Iżvilupp tal-Enerġija Rinnovabbli Offshore (National Policy for the Deployment of Offshore Renewable Energy). Dawn iż-żoni ġew magħżula biex jevitaw diversi restrizzjonijiet kemm minhabba użu li jsir fihom mill-bniedem kif ukoll minhabba daww naturali, u b'hekk l-implimentazzjoni ikollha inqas xkiel. Barra minn hekk, saret Valutazzjoni Ambjentali Strategika (Strategic Environmental Assessment - SEA) immirata sabiex tiddetermina mil-lat ambjentali liema żoni huma l-aktar ambjentalment kompatibbli sabiex jitwettqu dawn it-tip ta' proġetti.

ICM, flimkien ma' konsulenti legali, tekniċi u kummerċjali qed tindirizza l-aspetti kollha kritiċi ta' dan il-proġett, li jinkludu kemm il-proċessi ta' implimentazzjoni kif ukoll dawk ta' akkwist. Kunsiderazzjoni importanti hija sabiex jinsab id-daqs idoneju tal-qawwa li għandu jkollu dan il-proġett sabiex ikun kbir biżżejjed biex ikun ekonomikament vijabbli iżda mhux iżżejjed li l-enerġija iġġenerat minnu ma tkunx tista' tintuża f'hinijiet jew għanet partikulari tas-sena. Gew identifikati ukoll kurituri minn taħt qiegħ il-baħar biex jgħaqqdu l-irziezet tar-riħ madwar 12-il mil nawtiku mill-kosta, mal-grid lokali tal-enerġija. Din l-informazzjoni preliminari se tkun disponibbli fl-istadju tal-PQQ, b'aktar dettalji, inklużi l-termini ewlenin tal-ftehim prinċipali, li se jkunu disponibbli fl-istadju tal-ITPD