



## Press Release

### National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium Announces Mid-Atlantic Supply Chain Project

October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

The National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium is pleased to announce a regional offshore wind workforce assessment and supply chain project. Launched today, the purpose of the **SMART-POWER Workforce and Supply Chain Analysis** is to understand the region's existing offshore wind capabilities and identify supply chain investments that could most effectively leverage these resources and provide the greatest benefits to both the member states and the offshore wind industry. The project is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the State of North Carolina with participation from the State of Delaware.

NREL's [recent work to develop a national Supply Chain Roadmap](#) provides a framework for evaluating different supply chain scenarios, including investment in new manufacturing facilities, upgrading ports, building new vessels, creating new workforce training centers, and creating assets in new port communities. That national-level assessment provided insight into high impact gaps that could impact the entire offshore wind industry; in this study, NREL will work with SMART-POWER states to understand how these states can fill these gaps and realize local benefits.

In 2020, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina signed a Memorandum of Understanding under the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional Transformative Partnership for Offshore Wind Energy Resources (SMART-POWER). This collaboration provides a framework for the three states to cooperatively promote, develop, and expand offshore wind energy and the accompanying industry supply chain and workforce. The SMART-POWER Leadership Team made up of representatives from these states work to streamline the development of regional offshore wind resources.

“The SMART POWER States are eager to address the needs of both the offshore wind supply chain and workforce,” said Paul G. Pinsky, Director of the Maryland Energy Administration on behalf of the SMART POWER States. “This will help the SMART POWER States and the United States reach their respective offshore wind deployment goals while realizing tremendous economic development and job creation benefits.”

Final results of this project and a full report will be released in early 2025.

*The National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium, established in 2018, is a not-for-profit public-private partnership focused on advancing offshore wind technology in the United States through high impact research projects and cost-effective and responsible development to maximize economic benefits. For more information, please visit [nationaloffshorewind.org](http://nationaloffshorewind.org).*

*The [Maryland Energy Administration \(MEA\)](#) advises the governor and general assembly on all energy matters, promoting affordable, reliable and cleaner energy. MEA develops and administers programs and policy to support and expand all sectors of the state’s economy while benefiting all Marylanders and implementing legislation. Please visit [Energy.Maryland.gov](http://Energy.Maryland.gov) and follow them on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) for more information.*

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