Press Release
National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium Announces Mid-Atlantic Offshore Wind Supply Chain Road Map
October 7, 2025

Today, the National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium (NOWRDC) released supply chain and workforce reports that highlight the SMART-POWER 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.

"A Regional Approach to Offshore Wind Energy Manufacturing in the Central Atlantic" is a two-part study that includes a "Supply Chain" assessment and "Workforce" assessment that uses a framework to assess the challenges and opportunities for Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia and Delaware to realize the benefits of regional collaboration in developing a domestic supply chain for the nascent U.S. offshore wind industry. The reports find that there is an opportunity for the SMART-POWER region to invest in blade, tower, and monopile manufacturing facilities, the greatest opportunity being for a new blade facility to support offshore wind deployment. The framework assessed multiple business, workforce, and community impact considerations and concluded that there are six highly competitive ports with competitive workforce readiness levels that could bring substantial benefits to port communities with strong commitments to community engagement. Regional connectivity is instrumental to unlock greater benefits from participation in the offshore wind supply chain while strengthening the region's business case.

This project was a partnership between the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the State of North Carolina with participation from the State of Delaware. 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 region to cooperatively promote, develop, and expand offshore wind energy and the accompanying industry supply chain and workforce.

Paul Pinsky, Director of the Maryland Energy Administration said, "The SMART-POWER Regional Supply Chain and Workforce assessments represent a groundbreaking approach to offshore wind development. By combining a comprehensive supply chain analysis with detailed workforce projections, this two-part study provides invaluable insights into the potential economic and social impacts of the offshore wind industry. What makes this research distinctive is its regional perspective, showing how states can collaborate to strengthen domestic supply chains, ports, and workforce readiness. This study serves as a crucial roadmap for policymakers and industry leaders, guiding the responsible and inclusive growth of offshore wind energy in the United States."

"The Central Atlantic offshore wind supply chain and workforce assessments highlight the strengths of North Carolina's manufacturing sector and its potential to support the growing

offshore wind industry in the region and beyond," said Jennifer Mundt, Assistant Secretary for Energy and Infrastructure at the North Carolina Department of Commerce. "We appreciate NOWRDC's support of these detailed, data-driven reports. Resources like these play an important role in helping states better understand regional capabilities and make informed policy and planning decisions."

This national-level assessment, supported by NOWRDC, provided insight into high impact gaps that could impact the entire offshore wind industry; in this new report, the team worked with SMART-POWER states to understand how these states can fill these gaps and realize local benefits.

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.

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 and follow them on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter for more information.