



U.S. Department of Energy
Energy Efficiency
and Renewable Energy

Bringing you a prosperous future where energy
is clean, abundant, reliable, and affordable.

Offshore Wind Technology Overview

A photograph of several offshore wind turbines in the ocean. The turbines are tall, slender structures with three blades each, extending from the water's surface. The water is a deep blue-grey color with white-capped waves. The sky is a pale, overcast blue. The turbines are arranged in a line, receding into the distance.

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National Renewable Energy Laboratory



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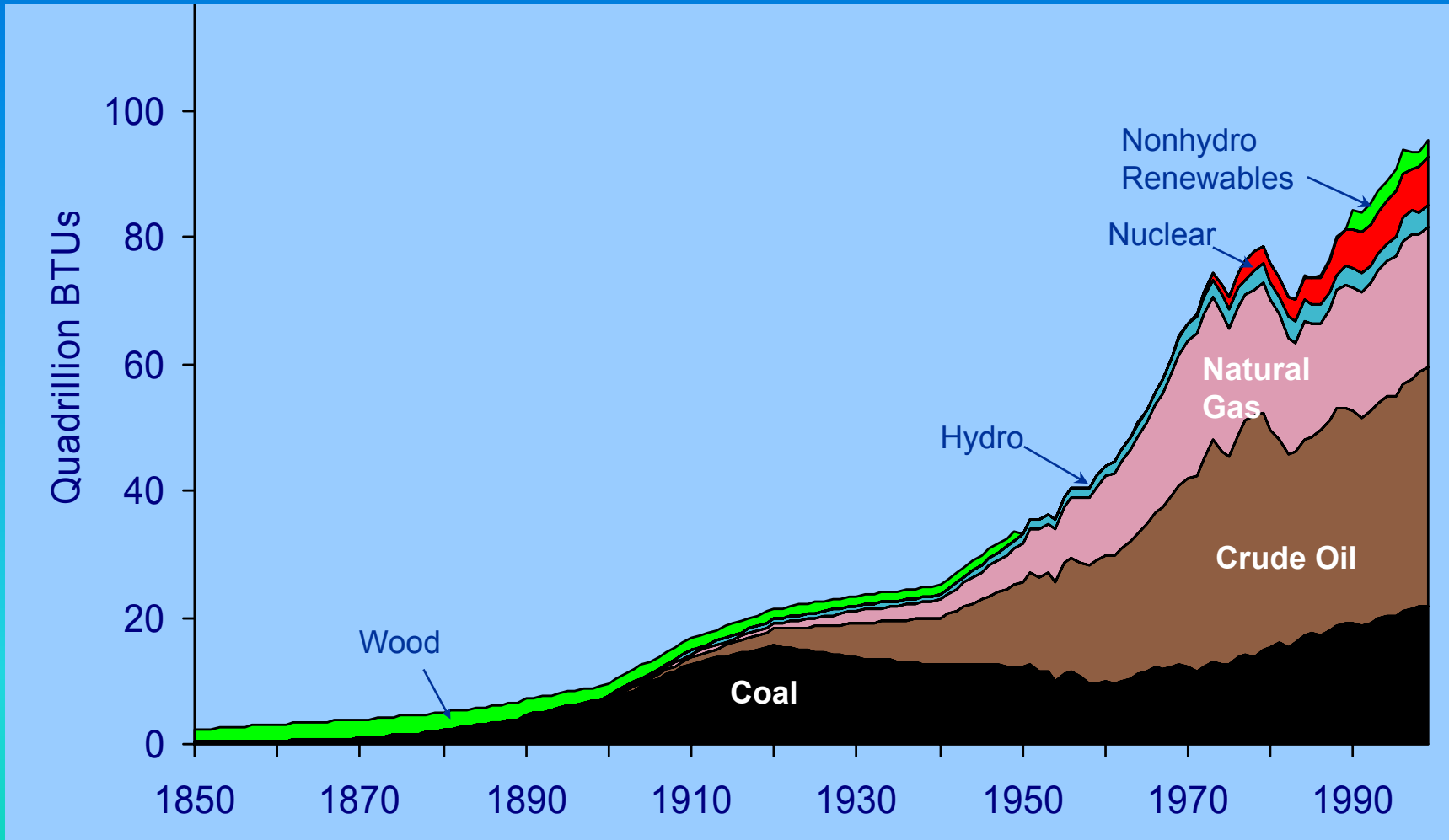
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The U.S. Energy Picture by Source - 1850-1999

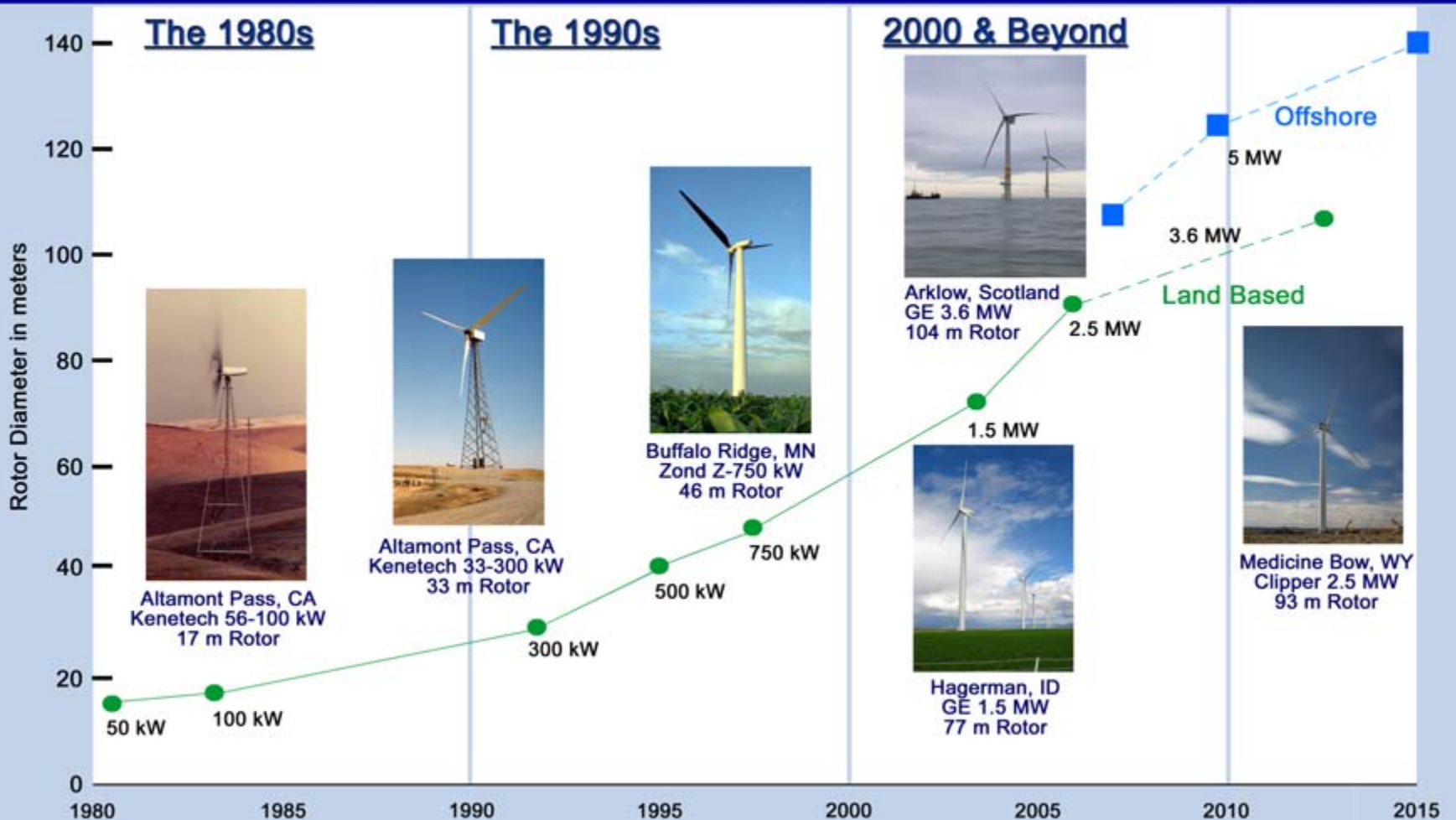


Source: 1850-1949, Energy Perspectives: A Presentation of Major Energy and Energy-Related Data, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1975; 1950-1996, Annual Energy Review 1996, Table 1.3. Note: Between 1950 and 1990, there was no reporting of non-utility use of renewables. 1997-1999, Annual Energy Review 1999, Table F1b.



Evolution of U.S. Commercial Wind Technology

Evolution of U.S. Commercial Wind Technology





Offshore GE Wind Energy

3.6 MW Prototype

- **Offshore GE 3.6 MW**
104 meter rotor diameter
- **Offshore design requirements considered from the outset:**
 - **Crane system for all components**
 - **Simplified installation**
 - **Helicopter platform**

Boeing 747-400





Cost of Energy Trends

1981: 40 cents/kWh

- **Increased Turbine Size**
- **R&D Advances**
- **Manufacturing Improvements**



2006: 9.5 cents/kWh

- **Multimegawatt Turbines**
- **High Reliability Systems**
- **Infrastructure Improvements**

Land-based

2006: 3 - 6 cents/kWh

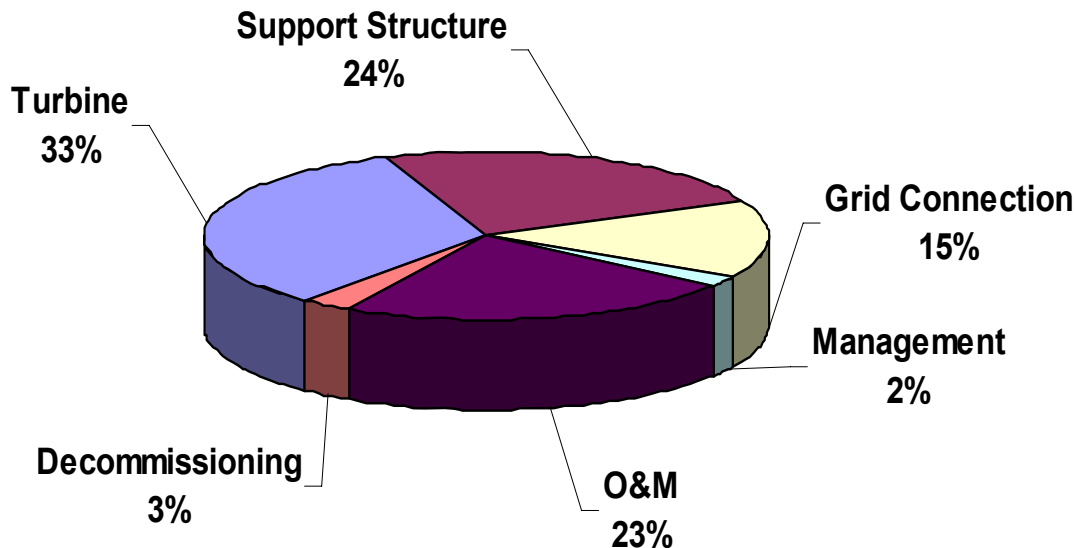
Offshore

2014: 5 cents/kWh



Offshore Turbine Size Drivers

- Offshore Turbines are about 1/3 of total project cost.
- Thus, as turbines grow larger:
 - Foundation costs decrease
 - Electrical infrastructure costs decrease
 - Operational expenses decrease
 - More energy is generated per area.
- Offshore infrastructure is also suited for larger machines.



Offshore Wind - Life Cycle Cost of Energy





Offshore Wind – U.S. Rationale

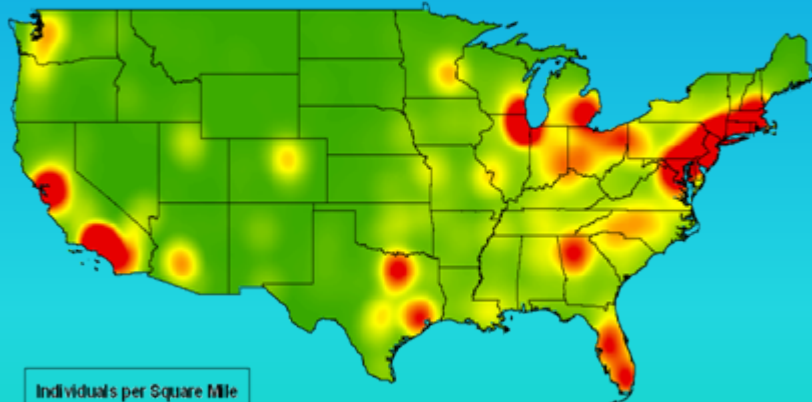
Why Go Offshore?

Windy onshore sites are not close to coastal load centers

The electric utility grid cannot be easily set up for interstate electric transmission

Load centers are close to the offshore wind sites

US Population Concentration



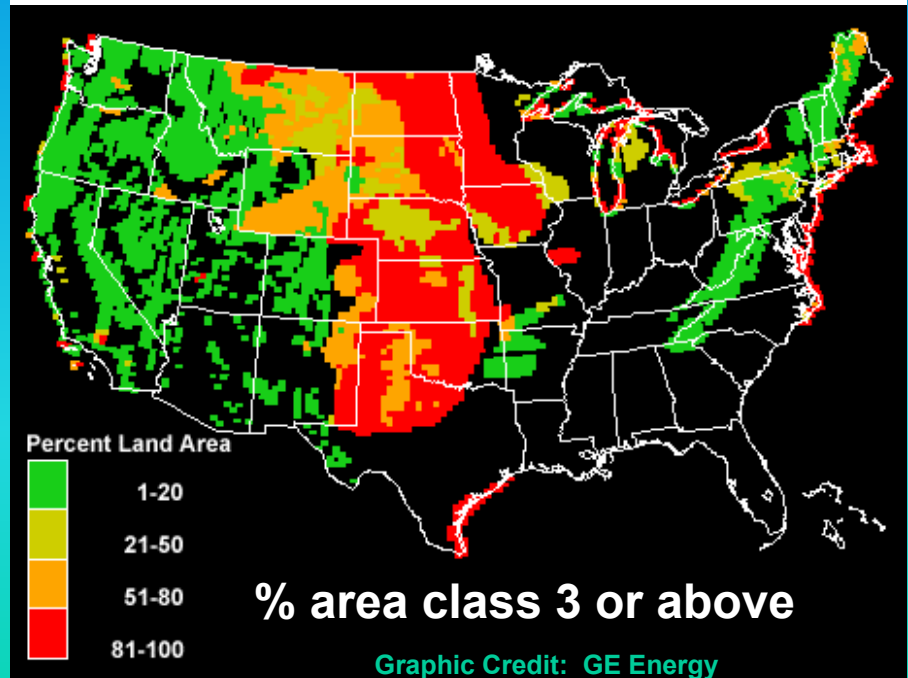
Individuals per Square Mile

greater than 1,000

less than 1

Graphic Credit: Bruce Bailey AWS Truewind

US Wind Resource

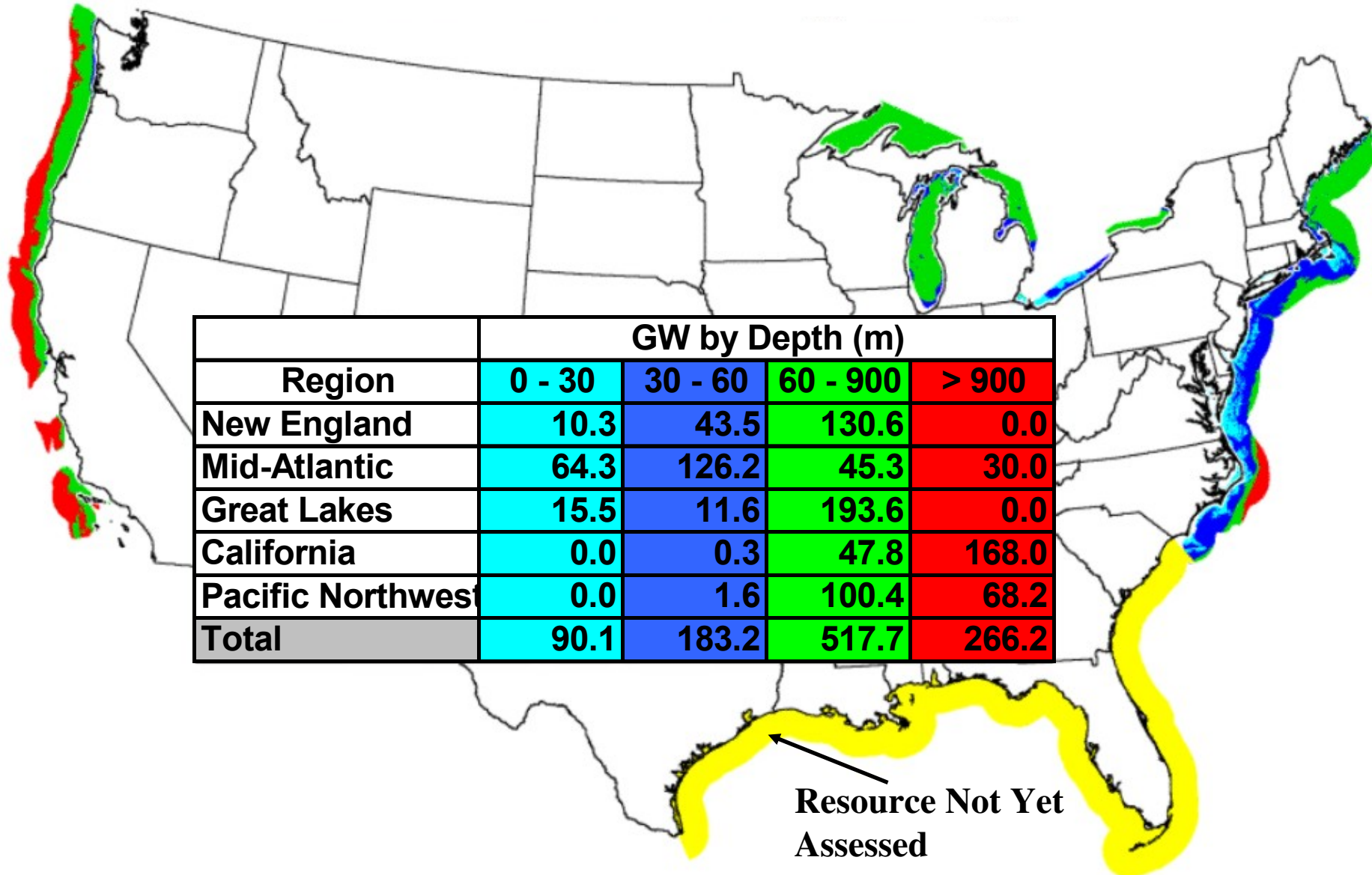


% area class 3 or above

Graphic Credit: GE Energy



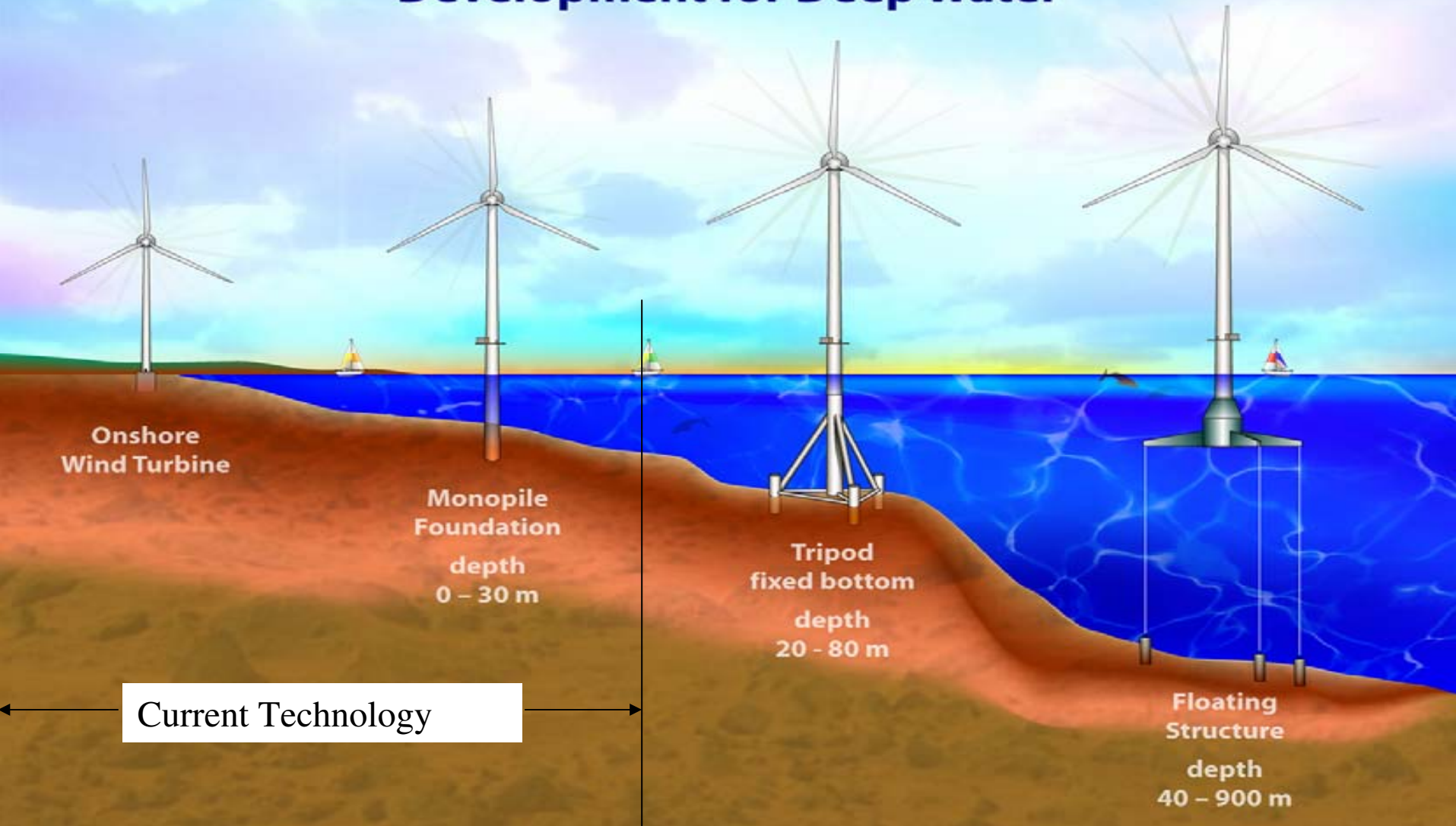
U.S. Offshore Wind Energy Resource





Offshore Wind Turbine Development

Offshore Wind Turbine Development for Deep Water

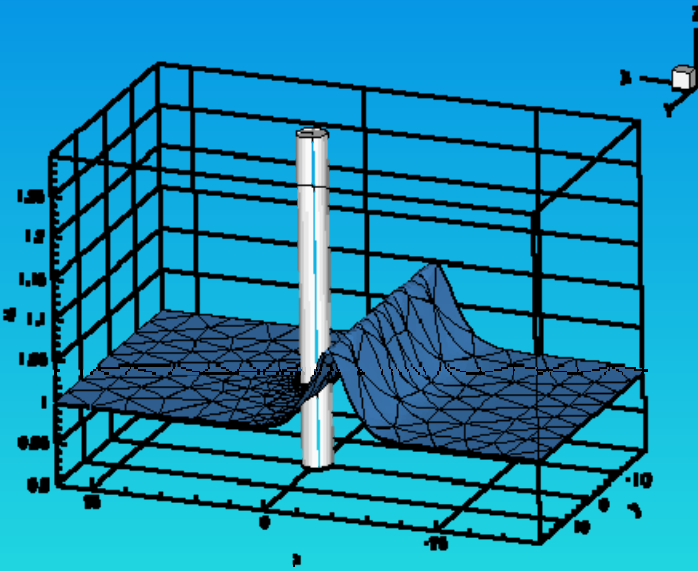




Arklow Banks Windfarm

The Irish Sea

Cable Laying Vessel





Fixed Bottom Substructure Technology

Proven Designs



Monopile Foundation

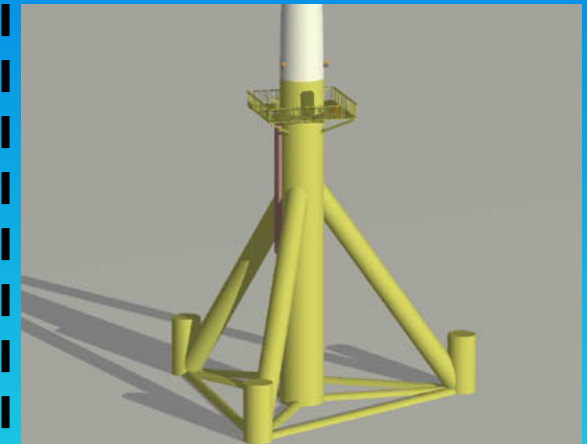
- Most Common Type
- Minimal Footprint
- Depth Limit 25 m
- Low stiffness



Gravity Foundation

- Larger Footprint
- Depth Limit?
- Stiffer but heavy

Future



Tripod/Truss Foundation

- No wind experience
- Oil and gas to 450 m
- Larger footprint



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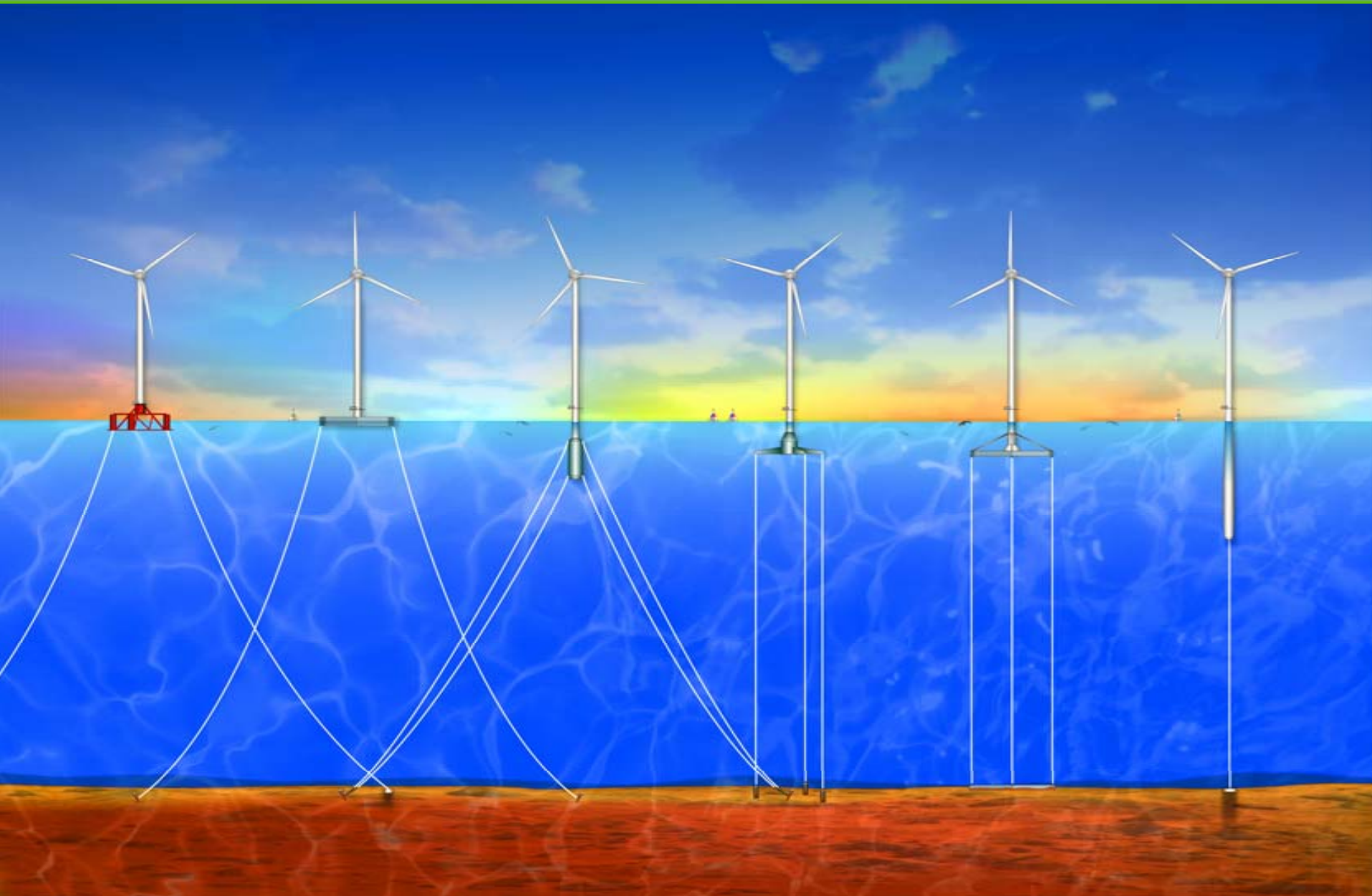
Transitional Depth Foundations 30-m to 90-m Depths??





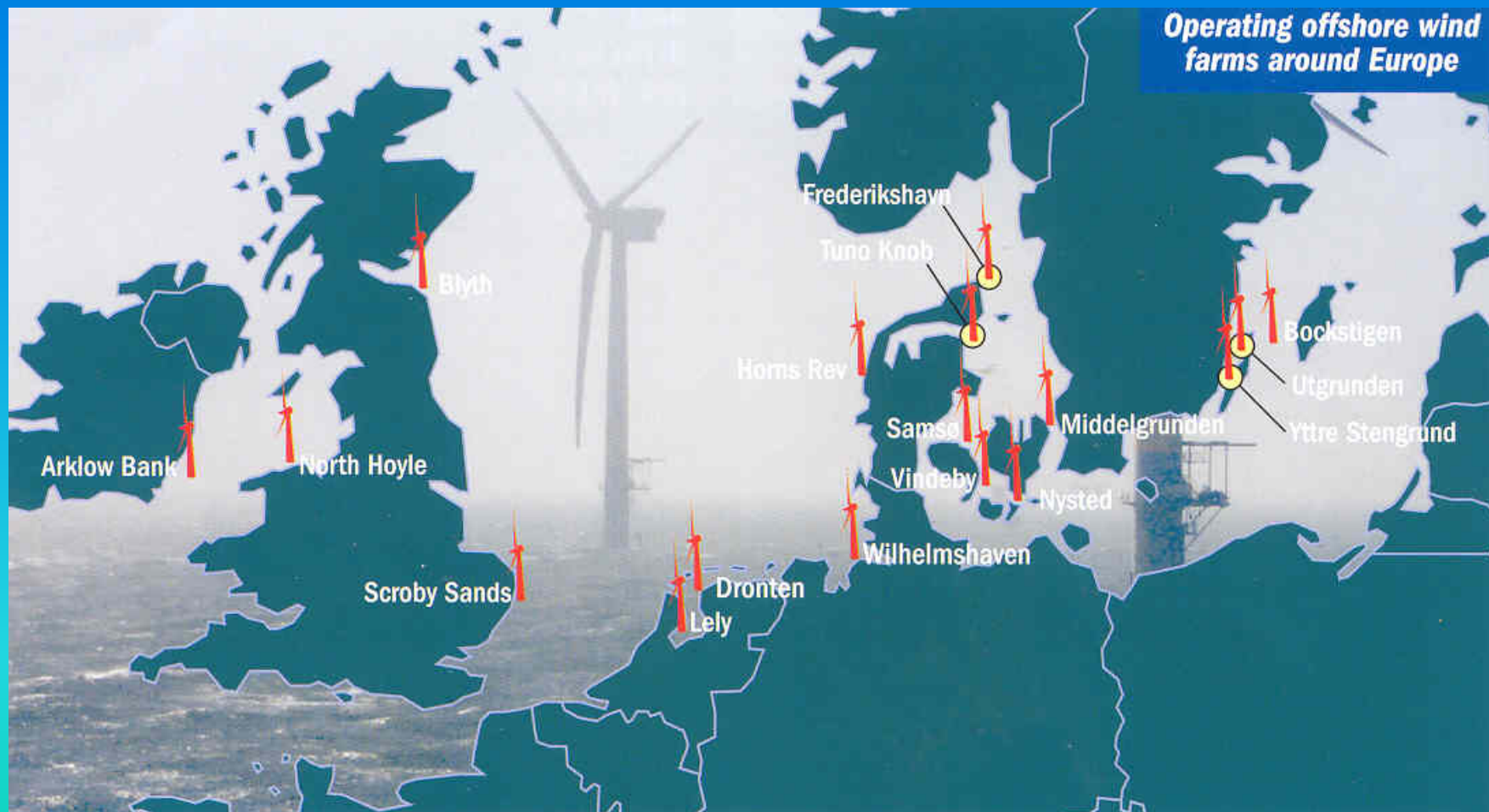
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Floating Foundations >60-m Depths





Location of Existing Offshore Installations Worldwide





Enercon 4.5-MW Offshore Prototype



Enercon 4.5MW 112 meter rotor



440 metric tonnes



RePower 5-MW – World's Largest Turbine

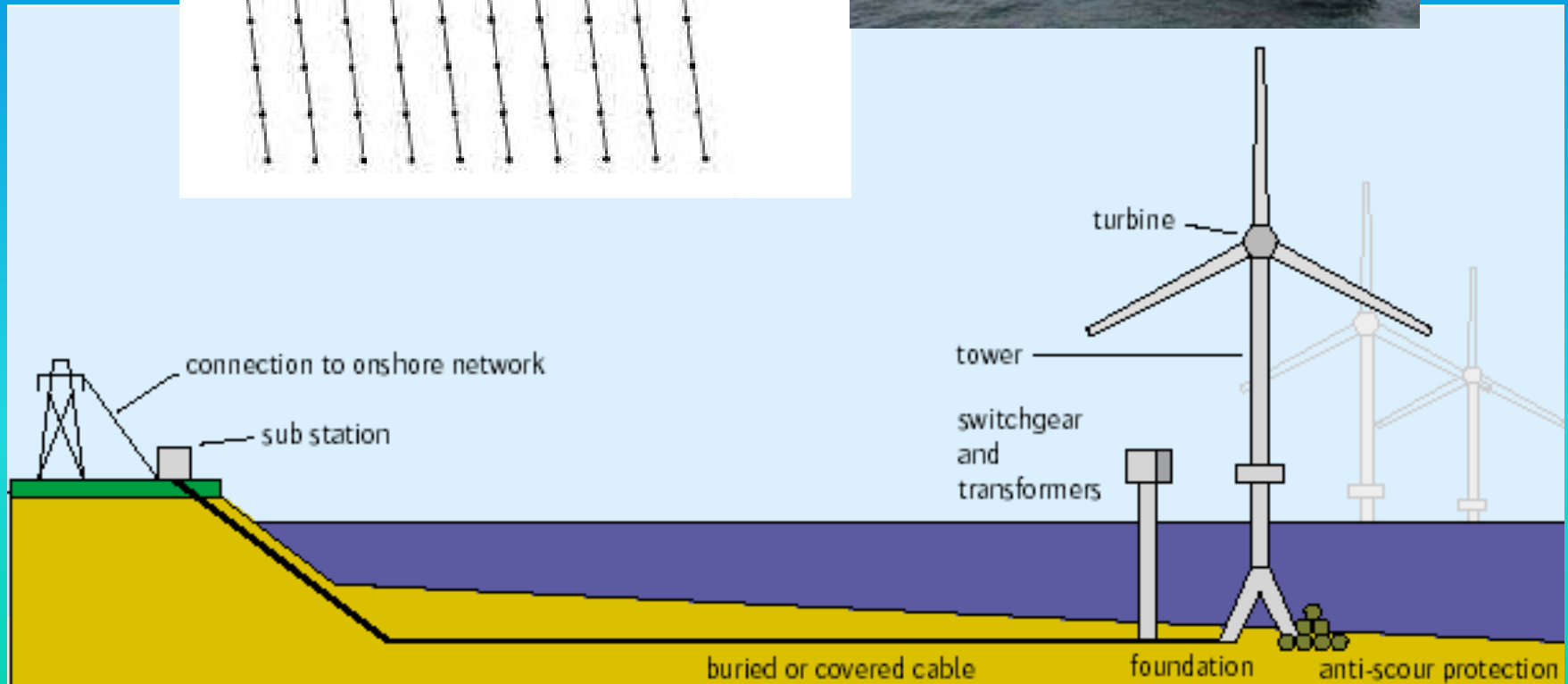
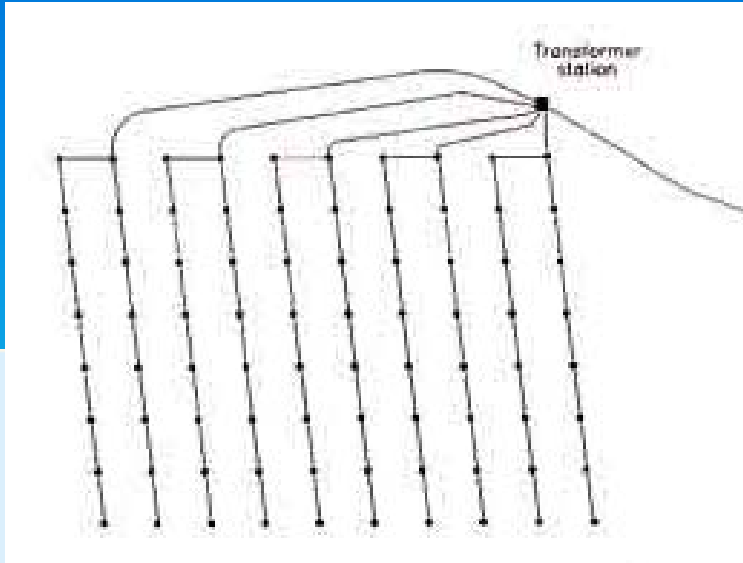


- 5-MW Rating
- 61.5-m blade length (LM Glasfibres)
- Offshore Demonstration project by Talisman Energy in Beatrice Fields
 - 45-m Water Depths
 - Two machines





Typical Offshore Wind Farm Layout



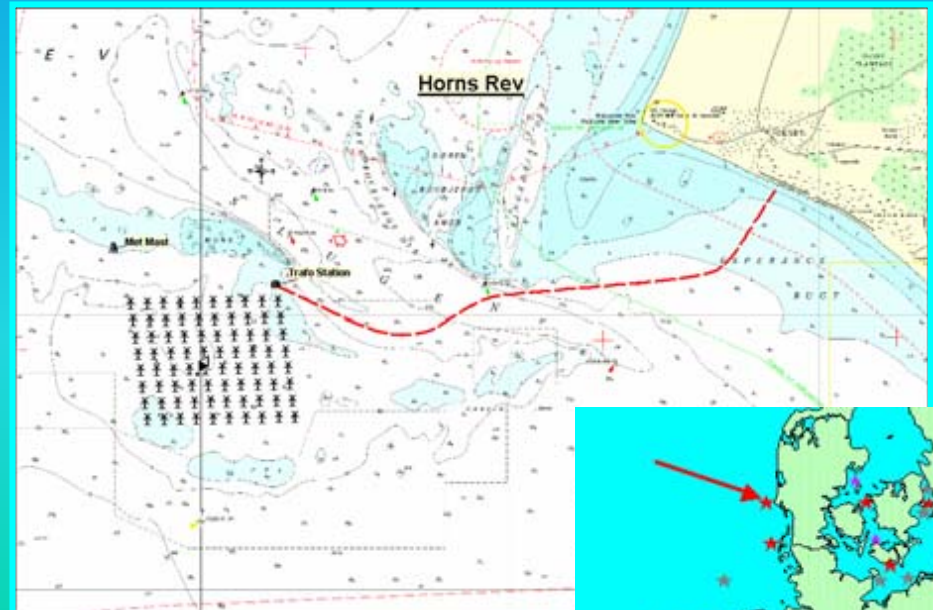


Horns Rev Wind Farm - Denmark



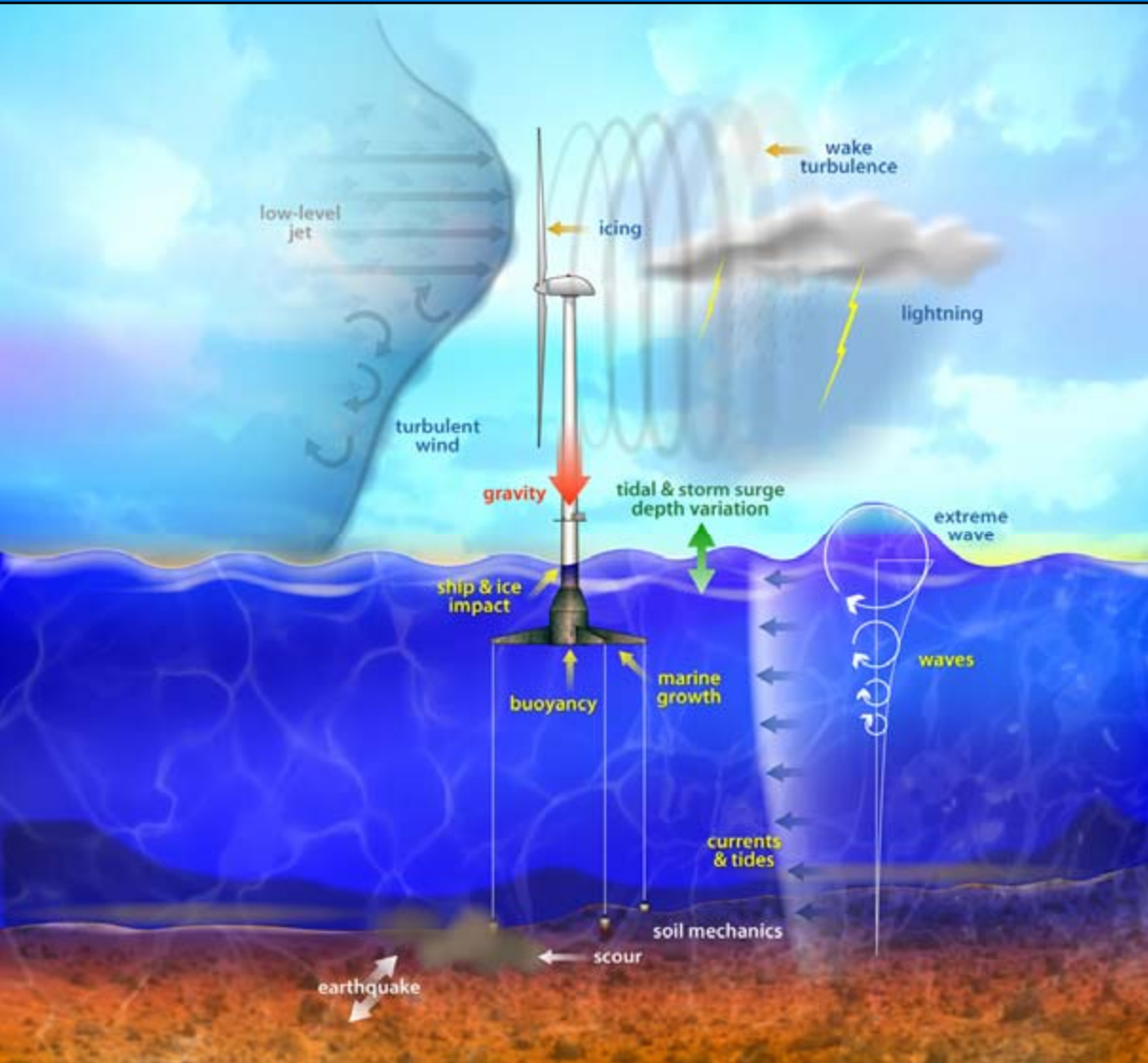
Horns Rev

Country: Denmark
Location: West Coast
Total Capacity: 160 MW
Number of Turbines: 80
Distance to Shore: 14-20 km
Depth: 6-12 m
Capital Costs: 270 million Euro
Manufacturer: Vestas
Total Capacity: 2 MW
Turbine-type: V80 – 80-m diameter
Hub-height: 70 m
Mean Windspeed: 9.7 m/s
Annual Energy output: 600 GWh

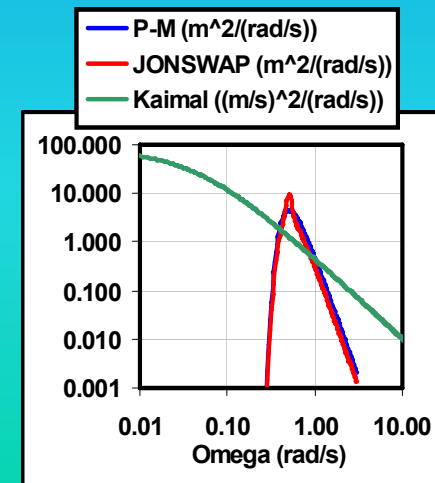




Offshore Technical Challenges



- Turbulent winds
- Irregular waves
- Gravity / inertia
- Aerodynamics:
- induction
- skewed wake
- dynamic stall
- Hydrodynamics:
- scattering
- radiation
- hydrostatics
- Elasticity
- Mooring dynamics
- Control system
- Fully coupled ex



Wind and Wave Spectra



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Offshore Turbine Access

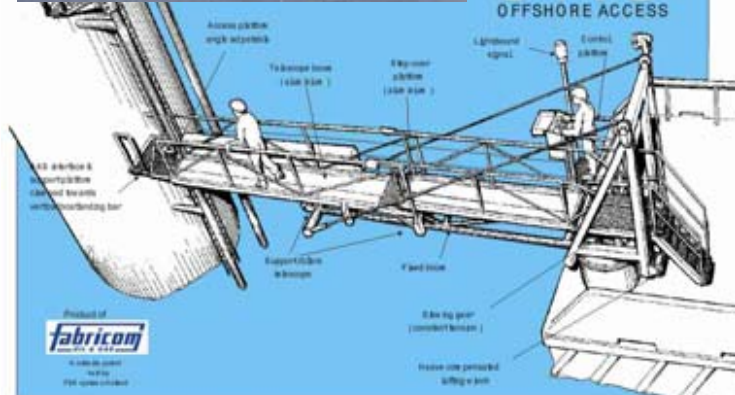
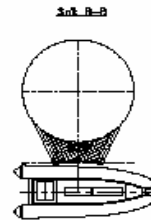
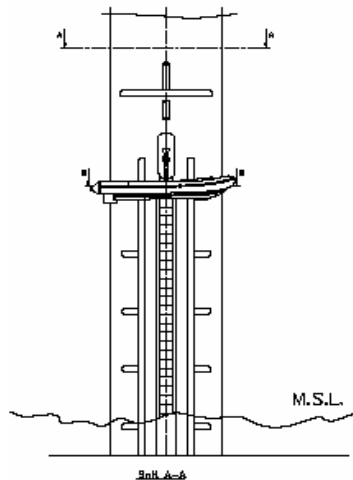
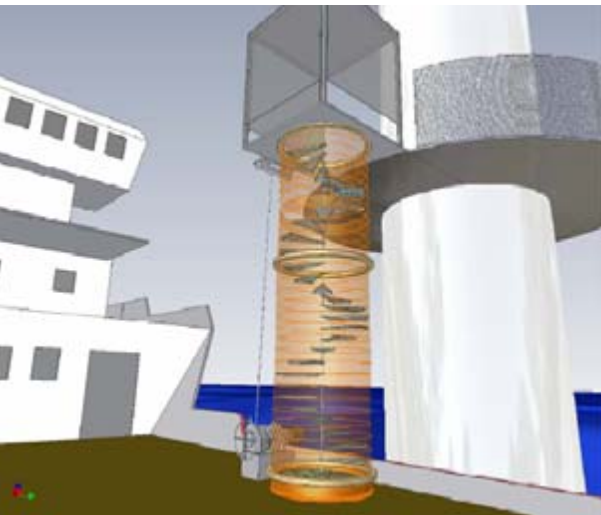


GE Energy

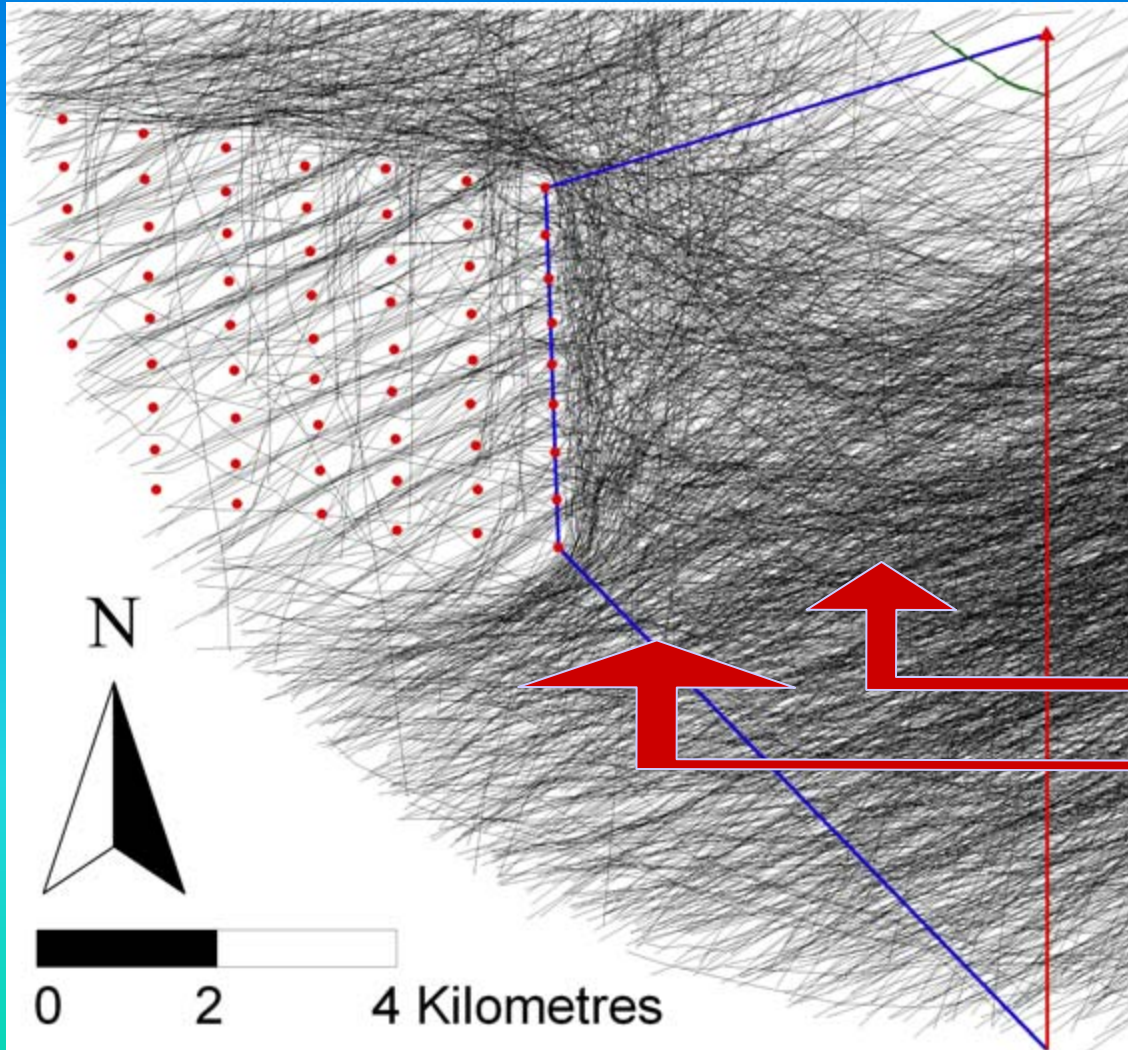


GE Energy

GE Energy



OAS OFFSHORE ACCESS



Operation (2003):

Birds perceive the presence of wind turbines even in bad visibility

Response distance:

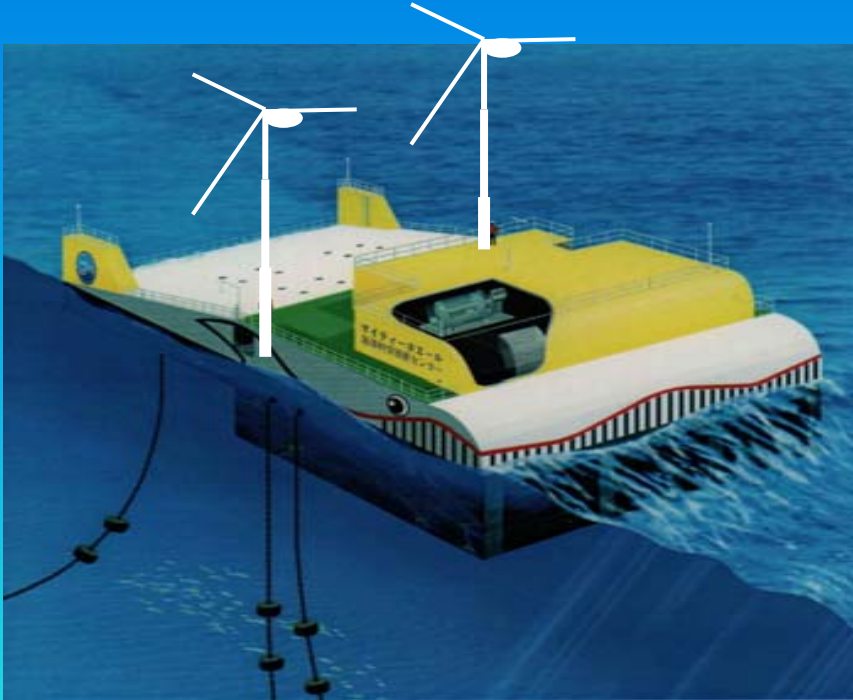
day = c. 3000 m

night = c. 1000 m



Offshore Wind / Wave Synergy

Small Wind-OWC Wave Platform



- **Common Engineering & Design Considerations**
- **Maximize Grid Interconnect Potential Through Dual Technologies**
- **Improve Intermittency & Total Energy Output**
- **Increase System Reliability & Reduce Maintenance**

EPRI Building a Coalition of Developers, Universities and Other Stakeholders to Explore the Wind / Wave Development Potential





A Future Vision for Wind Energy Markets

Tomorrow

**Today
2005**



Bulk Power Generator
4-6¢ at 15 mph

- Land Based
- Bulk Electricity
- Wind Farms

Potential 20% of Electricity Market

Land Based Electricity Path



Land Based LWST Large-Scale
2-5 MW

Transmission Barriers



LWST Turbines:

- 3¢/kWh at 13 mph
- Electricity Market

2012

Offshore Electricity Path



Offshore Turbines
5 MW and Larger

Cost & Regulatory Barriers



Offshore LWST Turbine:

- 5 Cents/kWh
- Shallow/*Deep* Water
- Electricity Market
- Higher Wind Sites

2012 and Beyond

Advanced Applications Path



Land or Sea Based:

- Hydrogen
- Clean Water

Cost & Infrastructure Barriers



Custom Turbines:

- Electricity
- H2 Production
- Desalinate Water
- Storage
- Multi-Market

2030 and Beyond