

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS/FOREIGN TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS
TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION ON OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY**

The Department of the Interior of the Government of the United States of America and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (hereinafter "the Participants"),

Recognizing the common interests in developing offshore wind as a sustainable energy source;

Considering the strategic role of renewable energy in addressing current global, national, regional, and local challenges; energy security; and economic development needs;

Recognizing the importance of promoting development of domestic energy resources that are compatible with the need for economic growth;

Wishing to promote mutually beneficial cooperation in the development and use of offshore wind energy; and

Bearing in mind that this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is intended to provide a general framework for cooperation in the field of offshore wind energy,

Have reached the following understandings:

Section 1 – Objective

The objective of this MOU is to promote a mutually beneficial relationship between the Participants in the field of offshore wind energy, with a view to sharing knowledge, experiences, data, and best practices relevant to the development of offshore wind energy.

The Participants have designated the following agencies to implement cooperative activities under this MOU on their behalf: the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management for the Department of the Interior of the United States and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency for The Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (hereinafter, the "Implementing Agencies").

Section 2 – Priorities of Cooperation

The following topics have been identified as high priority areas for cooperation between the Participants under this MOU:

1. Promoting information sharing, best practices, policy, and regulatory approaches to support development and regulation of offshore wind energy resources;

2. Identifying and discussing challenges associated with risk management for offshore wind energy facilities;
3. Identifying opportunities for the sharing of information and scientific data related to the environmental review of offshore wind projects, as well as the mitigation and monitoring of environmental impacts;
4. Facilitating technical knowledge transfer related to engineering and technical aspects of offshore wind development and decommissioning; and
5. Knowledge sharing on other offshore wind energy or related issues, including strategies for achieving cost reductions and stakeholder outreach.

Section 3 – Cooperative Mechanisms

Cooperative mechanisms to accomplish the goals established by this MOU may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Exchange of information and documentation;
2. Intergovernmental visits and meetings; and
3. Joint organization of, and participation in, seminars, workshops, and meetings to share information and practices.

Each Implementing Agency intends to designate a Senior Official as "Coordinator" to supervise and coordinate the planning, performance, evaluation, and approval of cooperative activities that may be carried out under this MOU. The Coordinator from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is expected to be responsible for U.S. engagement related to this MOU and to coordinate with other relevant U.S. government entities and other parties as needed.

The Coordinator from the Netherlands Enterprise Agency is expected to be responsible for the contribution of Dutch knowledge and experience related to this MOU and to coordinate with regulators and officials in relevant Dutch Ministries, agencies, and authorities.

Section 4 – Costs

Each Participant intends to assume its own costs associated with the cooperative activities intended under this MOU, according to applicable national laws and available funding. Nothing in this MOU represents a commitment of funds by either of the Participants.

Section 5 – No Implied Liability

The Participants understand that cooperative activities under this MOU are considered by the Participants to be facilitated exchanges of information only, and not advice or consultancy.

Section 6 – Modification Procedure

This MOU may be modified at any time by the mutual written decision of the Participants.

Section 7 – Dispute Resolution

Any dispute about the interpretation or implementation of this MOU may be resolved through consultations between the Participants.

Section 8 – Legal Considerations and Relationship to Other Arrangements

Activities under this MOU are subject to the applicable laws, regulations, and policies of each Participant and to the availability of resources. This MOU does not create any rights or obligations under international law. This MOU represents an understanding between the Participants and is not legally binding.

Section 9 - Term

This MOU becomes operative from the date of its signature. If a Participant intends to discontinue its cooperation under this MOU, that Participant should endeavour to provide advance notice of its intent to do so to the other Participant.

Signed at the Consulate General of the Kingdom of The Netherlands in New York on April 8, 2019, in two originals in the English language.

For the Department of the Interior of the United States of America:

For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands:




