

Become a partner of the Offshore Wind Innovation Challenge 2021

Every Innovation starts with a challenge and this is where we need your help!

Your organization most probably has technical challenges in offshore wind. Challenges during the Development, Installation, Operations and Maintenance or the Decommissioning phase. If so, we challenge you to share this challenge and let our network of 140+ SME's and Start-ups come with innovative solutions ready to use within a year!

Therefore, we would like to invite you to become a **Business Partner** for the Offshore Wind Innovation Challenge 2021 and identify and submit in collaboration with us your technical challenge(s). Each year we see that SME's and start-up companies which are beyond your scope and network, can lead towards great solutions for your challenges!

The goal of the Challenge is to make offshore wind more affordable, reliable and sustainable, and giving offshore wind the best position in the energy system for the Netherlands but also internationally.

The offshore wind industry faces a unique challenge. To construct one of the largest infrastructural developments in Dutch history. To make offshore wind even more affordable, reliable, and sustainable, game changing innovations are necessary. These innovations will give offshore wind the best position in the energy system, both in the Netherlands and internationally. Billions of euro's will be invested in Offshore Wind. This creates huge business opportunities for companies pioneering the Offshore Wind Industry.

Although the Netherlands are known for their strong innovation skills and knowledge and experience in the wind and offshore industry, we are lacking our own innovation challenge. That's why Offshore Wind Innovators has taken the initiative to launch the Offshore Wind Innovation Challenge.

OWIC facilitates opportunities, new partnerships, expert assistance, and increases publicity for all involved stakeholders. By supporting mutual networking and offering access to those networks, lots of publicity opportunities arise to innovative ideas and companies. The result is that the challenges are widely known in the offshore wind industry.

It is a perfect platform to bring companies and ideas together and create a positive effect on the growing Dutch offshore wind sector. If you are in search of accelerating innovation in your company and fast-forward solutions to current challenges, the Offshore Wind Innovation Challenge is the way to bring results.

Apply before the 6st of April to become a partner for this year's Offshore Wind Innovation Challenge.

What's in it for your organization?

- Save time and money on a time-consuming process of problem solving and innovation;
- Access to a broad network of innovative SME's, start-ups and research centres active in the offshore sector to help you to provide innovative solutions;
- Get to insights in new technologies and possibilities for your business
- Receive innovations that are commercially viable and technically feasible;
- Positive exposure for new business, clients and collaborations with start-ups outside your current scope;

What do we ask?

- Your technical challenge(s) in Offshore Wind (two Challenge as maximum per edition);
- Invest some time to decide on the challenge and presence during 3 events;
- Be open to collaborate with the innovators;
- A small fee to participate as a Business Partner of 6000,- euro. (TKI Wind op Zee sponsors around 75% of the total cost of the Challenge)

Some examples of previous editions are:

- Winner of 2018: Ridderflex made an innovative design to realize "The Perfect Fender" for SeaZip.
- Winner of 2019: The Big Bubble Curtain. A solution to reduce noise emissions during pile driving, and the success story of innovator Marine Performance Systems. Currently it is a research project officially taken into business with the partner from that challenge: Van Oord.
- The second winner of 2019 created new reefs for North Sea offshore windfarms, which have been fully installed in the North Sea in 2020. Both partner The Rich North Sea, and innovator ARC Marine are very excited about this innovation to really improve biodiversity in the North Sea.
- The Rich North Sea also joined the Offshore Wind Innovation Challenges as a partner during the fourth edition in 2020. Winner Reefy will get to install their Biodegradable Reefstructure during a testpilot in The North Sea in 2021.

These success stories have been achieved by focusing on solutions and innovations that are commercially viable and technically feasible. The ongoing success stories of the Offshore Wind Innovation Challenge brings us to launch the fifth edition this year.

OWIC 2021 - Challenge Set-Up and timeline

➤ Preparation – March

Offshore Wind Innovators Business Partners will be contacted and asked to present a challenge in need for an innovative solution. These challenges will be part of an invitation letter to innovative entrepreneurs of our Community.

➤ Kick Off – 25th of May

The Challenges from leading Business Partners will be published and we will start the search of solutions providers like start-ups and SME's, companies in-and outside the offshore wind industry.

➤ Submission for Applications – before August

Entrepreneurs can apply their proposals in a fixed format, including the rules of the game. The next step is a fit for purpose scan in order to continue as a participant.

➤ Phase 1: Pitch and Ask – 25th of August

Each participant gets the possibility to present his vision on a preferred topic to the Business Partner. Out of these presentations, the Business Partner who addressed the specific topic will select a maximum of 3 participants per topic to go to the Bootcamp.

➤ Phase 2: Bootcamp – 14th of October

During the Bootcamp the selected participants will be supported by the business partners and offshore energy experts. They will facilitate a training program and workshops in innovation and out-of-the-box solutions, and how to present them on stage. After having pitched their idea to a jury including their Business partner, a maximum of 3 participants per topic will be selected.

➤ Technical Check - October

Each participant needs to make its technical information available to the Business Partner for a technical and commercial Due Diligence. If the proposed solution passes this check, the participant will be invited to the final event.

➤ Phase 3: Finals – 25th of November

All business partners and the top of the offshore wind Industry will be invited to join the well-attended Innovation Event. In addition to a poster presentation, the finalists will pitch their innovations for their Business partner, jury and a public audience. For the OWIC 2020 Finals there were over 80 attendees for the Offshore Wind sector.

Offshore Wind Innovators Network

Offshore Wind Innovators is a community for companies pioneering the Offshore Wind Industry. It's our goal to give insight into the business- and innovation ecosystem of the industry and it offers practical solutions to the business challenges that pioneering companies face. What we do

We help to introduce SMEs to a strong innovation network and develop products to help fund and market new products and ideas.

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