

Equinor and Vårgrønn apply for acreage in Utsira Nord

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(Photo: Signal2Noise)

Today Equinor and Vårgrønn applied (September 15) for the allocation of acreage for floating offshore wind in Utsira Nord on the Norwegian continental shelf. The two companies are applying for acreage to continue their early-phase development. There are no financial commitments associated with a potential acreage award, and profitability is a prerequisite for the project.

Equinor and Vårgrønn have significant experience in floating offshore wind and extensive experience collaborating with the supplier industry in Norway and internationally. Equinor has matured the Hywind concept over 20 years, and currently operates Hywind Tampen, the world's largest floating offshore wind farm in operation. Vårgrønn is a partner in the Green Volt project in the UK, a floating wind project that could become the world's first full-scale commercial floating offshore wind farm. Together, Equinor and Vårgrønn have a strong foundation to develop a profitable project in Utsira Nord.



"If we are awarded acreage, Utsira Nord will be an early-phase option. To succeed, we must collaborate closely with the supplier industry, authorities, other users of the sea, and local interests. A prerequisite for the realization of this project is that it is technically feasible and profitable. There are good conditions for offshore wind in Norway, but it is crucial that the framework conditions are continued and that there is no uncertainty in this regard," says Siri Espedal Kindem, Equinor's head of renewable energy in Norway.

"Utsira Nord represents a unique opportunity for Norwegian industry and offshore wind. As ambassadors for offshore wind, both nationally and internationally, we at Vårgrønn are convinced that this project will be an important contribution to creating new jobs, increasing power production, and establishing an important industry for the future. Our consortium is built on a well-established partnership, and together with Equinor, we have the expertise and conditions to develop a profitable floating offshore wind project in Norway," says Stephen Bull, CEO of Vårgrønn.



Equinor and Vårgrønn have been working as a consortium on Utsira Nord since 2021, and the project is based on Equinor's Hywind concept. Acreage award is expected during first half of 2026, with a potential auction for state aid in 2028/29. There are no financial commitments or fees associated with acreage award.

Facts

Equinor (Offshore Wind)

Equinor is a Norwegian energy company focusing on offshore wind as part of its renewable energy portfolio. The company has an ownership stake in approximately 1.2 GW of offshore wind capacity in operation in the UK, Germany, and Norway, with projects such as Dogger Bank, Baltyk 2&3, and Empire Wind, which is under development. Within floating offshore wind, the company has developed Hywind Demo, Hywind Scotland, and Hywind Tampen, the latter being the world's largest floating offshore wind farm in operation.

Vårgrønn

Vårgrønn is a dynamic offshore wind company based in Norway, dedicated to the development, construction, operation, and ownership of offshore wind projects. Vårgrønn is a joint venture between Plenitude, an Eni-controlled company, and the Norwegian energy investor HitecVision. The company has a growing European portfolio in both bottom-fixed and floating offshore wind. The current project portfolio includes England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, and Norway, as well as early-phase initiatives in the Baltics. Key projects in the portfolio include Dogger Bank, the world's largest offshore wind farm in development, Green Volt, a groundbreaking large-scale floating offshore wind project, and the Baltic 2 offshore wind farm, which is currently in operation.