



Wind Energy Technologies Office

DOE Launches Prize to Accelerate Domestic Supply Chains for Floating Offshore Wind Energy

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The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today launched the **FLoating Offshore Wind ReadINess (FLOWIN) Prize**. Part of DOE's **American-Made Challenges** series, this three-phase, \$6.85 million investment is designed to pave the way for cost-effective domestic manufacturing and deployment of commercial-scale floating offshore wind energy technologies in U.S. waters.



The Floating Offshore Wind Readiness (FLOWIN) Prize is an American-Made Challenges competition designed to accelerate the market readiness of U.S. floating offshore wind energy technologies.

Image by Besiki Kazaishvili, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

By helping to develop a domestic supply chain and accelerate market readiness of U.S. floating offshore wind energy designs, FLOWIN Prize competitors will bring the United States closer to the goals of a decarbonized electricity grid by 2035 and a net zero economy by 2050.

About two-thirds of the United States' offshore wind resource is in water over 60 meters deep. Floating platforms are needed because at these depths, today's fixed-bottom platforms are impractical and costly. Although no domestic commercial-scale floating offshore wind power projects have been constructed yet, preparing mass-manufacturing capabilities and infrastructure needed for deployment will drive American leadership in the global industry and help reduce costs.

Specifically, the FLOWIN Prize will:

- Encourage collaboration among different types of companies needed to manufacture and deploy floating offshore wind energy technologies
- Help teams optimize platform designs to enable easier production within U.S. infrastructure capabilities and constraints
- Support the development of robust plans to move toward widescale floating offshore wind energy deployment
- Better prepare U.S. manufacturing, ports, and vessel infrastructure for the burgeoning floating offshore wind energy market.

Prize Details

Eligible FLOWIN Prize teams must have an existing floating offshore wind substructure design and include members with expertise in wind energy technology and others specializing in expanding supply chains and infrastructure.

In the first phase, teams will focus on confirming they have a design ready to move toward mass manufacturing and that they understand the steps and partnerships needed to achieve full-scale product commercialization. In phases two and three, teams will refine their design and develop a roadmap toward mass manufacturing and deployment, first focusing broadly and then on a specific example U.S. region.

To further the principles of inclusion and environmental justice embodied in the Biden administration's [Justice40 Initiative](#), competitors must also indicate how their manufacturing and supply chain development plans can benefit disadvantaged and underserved communities. The FLOWIN Prize will also further the administration's commitment to creating high-quality jobs, domestic

manufacturing, and worker empowerment, as competitors demonstrate the anticipated benefits to America's workforce.

Phase One is now open for submissions and will close on **Jan. 13, 2023, at 5 p.m. ET.**

The FLOWIN total prize pool is \$5.75 million, plus up to \$1.1 million in vouchers for technical support from DOE national laboratories. There will be multiple winners in each of the three phases. Phase One winners will each receive \$100,000 in cash and at least \$75,000 each in support vouchers.

The FLOWIN Prize is the first prize funded by DOE's **Wind Energy Technologies Office**. It is administered by the **National Renewable Energy Laboratory** in partnership with the **Business Network for Offshore Wind**.

[Learn more](#) about the prize and how to participate.

[Register for the informational webinar](#) on Sept. 22 at 11 a.m. ET.

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Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

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