

# DIRECTION

THE FUTURE OF WIND



X1 Wind's floating platform (X30) became the world's first fully functional TLP floating wind platform and Spain's first floating wind prototype to export electricity via a subsea cable. (Courtesy: X1 Wind)

# X1 Wind wins award for mooring system configuration technology

Floating wind technology developer X1 Wind recently secured the Innovation Award at the prestigious Premios Eolo 2023, led by the Spanish Wind Energy Association (AEE).

AEE has more than 300 member companies representing more than 90 percent of the market. The Premios Eolo Awards established in 2008 recognizes contributions to promote and share the benefits that wind energy generates in society.

Its Innovation Award forms a central part of AEE and REOLTEC's (Wind Energy Sector Technology Platform) action line, supporting innovation and development that drives international competition, market globalization, and cost optimization.

The recent ceremony was at the Congreso Eólico Español in Madrid and attended by industry leaders, dignitaries, and politicians including Teresa Ribera, the third vice-president of Spain and minister for ecological transition and demographic challenge.

X1 Wind secured the accolade for its role leading the PivotBuoy Project, whose floating platform (X30) became the world's first fully functional TLP (Tension-Leg Platform) floating wind platform and Spain's first floating wind prototype to export electricity via a subsea cable.

The project focused on demonstrating the PivotBuoy mooring system configuration that combined the advantages of a SPM (single point mooring) with a small TLP mooring system. This allows the platform to reach deeper waters minimizing the footprint and impact on the seabed. Additional features of the platform include the lightweight and stable floater, which can be wet-towed by local vessels, simplifying and accelerating the installation process.

Maria Verges, X1 Wind systems engineering manager, who received the award, said the project not only validated a new structural and mooring configuration but also demonstrated its potential to significantly reduce

costs within the floating wind industry.

"We're thrilled to receive this recognition from AEE and REOLTEC on behalf of the entire X1 Wind team and the PivotBuoy Consortium, together with our extensive supply chain," she said. "Thanks to the X1 Wind team for their commitment and dedication, which allowed the project to become a reality. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the European Commission and Spanish government for their support.

Together, we have delivered a landmark project for Spain's floating wind sector, raising the bar and demonstrating the best of Spanish innovation and engineering capabilities. The data collected during the X30 prototype's operation, including self-alignment, stability, and production, yielded excellent results. These findings have provided crucial insights and are now being incorporated into our ongoing commercial-scale projects."

**MORE INFO** [www.x1wind.com](http://www.x1wind.com)

## Global Wind Service appoints new CEO

Global Wind Service, a leading provider of wind-turbine installation and service, recently announced the appointment of new Chief Operating Officer Nina H. Jensen.

Jensen will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of Global Wind Service and driving the company's strategic growth initiatives within operation. She has a background in mechanical engineering supplemented with further education within business management.

With more than two decades of experience in the oil and gas sector, she has a deep understanding of complex operational environments and a proven track record in managing large-scale projects; 14 years of her career

has been within operations outside of Denmark in Qatar, Abu Dhabi, and most recently in Italy.

Her expertise in optimizing processes, ensuring operational efficiency, and delivering exceptional results will be instrumental in advancing GWS's commitment to providing wind-turbine installation and service solutions with the highest focus on safety, quality, and efficiency.

"I am very excited to join Global Wind Service and step into the renewables field," Jensen said. "I look very much forward to continue the development of GWS's operations and become part of their incredible team. They have an amazing team spirit and energy, which fits perfectly to me both on a professional and personal level."

"We are thrilled to welcome Nina to our executive team," said Michael Høj Olsen, CEO of Global Wind Service. "I am confident that Nina's knowledge and leadership experience from oil and gas will greatly benefit our organization as we continue to expand our presence in the renewable energy market. Of course, oil and gas and wind are two very different things, but many things, processes, and ways of thinking about operations, safety, and more most certainly resemble one another in many ways."

The appointment of Nina H. Jensen reflects Global Wind Service's commitment to attracting top talent with diverse backgrounds and industry expertise. By leveraging her experience, the company aims to drive innovation, operational excellence, and superior



Nina Jensen will be responsible driving the GWS's strategic growth initiatives within operation. (Courtesy: Global Wind Service)



Aurora Energy Services CEO Doug Duguid, left, with Chief Operations Officer Tom Smith. (Courtesy: Aurora Energy Services)

customer service across all areas of its business.

**MORE INFO** [globalwindservice.com](http://globalwindservice.com)

## Aurora Energy appoints chief operating officer

Aurora Energy Services recently appointed Tom Smith as chief operating officer as it closes in on further acquisitions that will lay the foundation for establishing a 100 million pound revenue business.

Smith, the former general manager of the Mergers & Acquisitions office at the marine energy and infrastructure specialist Acteon Group, previously worked with Aurora owners Doug Duguid and Michael Buchan at EnerMech and PSL Energy Services when they grew both businesses into global concerns. Relocating from London to Aurora's Aberdeen headquarters, Smith

will be responsible for the day-to-day operations at the start-up, which has already completed two acquisitions and is near to finalizing a U.S. addition to its services portfolio. His wide-ranging experience in energy sector operations is coupled with high-level project management, business development, and commercial roles in markets across Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Doug Duguid, Aurora chief executive officer, said Smith's appointment would ensure the smooth integration of recent and new acquisitions, a key component of the short-term business strategy, while supporting organic growth in sustainable energy sectors.

"Tom has been in the energy industry a long time and has worked his way up the ranks, which gives him an excellent insight into running a business from the ground up," he said.

"His wider experience in operations, mergers, and acquisitions and renewables will be a great asset as we merge our recent acquisitions and look to

add more services around the world. He is pragmatic, has superb people skills, and I know from working with him over the years that he has a very good cultural understanding, which is important for managing a diverse workforce and molding the different components in to a successful customer-focused operation."

Prior to working for Acteon, Smith held a senior European business development and project management role for international strategy consultancy Calash Group and was country manager for EnerMech in South Korea.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to be involved in an energetic and ambitious business, which is focused on developing a 'customer-focused' reputation in the renewables and energy transition space," Smith said. "Aurora has huge potential, and I am really looking forward to playing a key role in the company's organic growth and international expansion. I am passionate about developing a diverse workforce, and I am





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ONYX Insight team photo, with the team's "Made in the U.K., Sold to the World" award. (Courtesy: ONYX Insight)

keen to bring in fresh talent to the sector who will be excited and attracted by the training and growth opportunities we offer, and who will have a clearly defined succession route throughout their careers." The company's business plan is to create a 100 million pound turnover international energy services provider over the next five years by providing services to the oil-and-gas sector and supporting energy transition to net-zero by targeting the wind, solar, hydrogen, carbon capture and storage, pumped hydro, and waste-to-energy sectors. In renewables, Aurora provides services including inspection, repair and maintenance, engineering, and installation support, while its training and accreditation expertise supports experienced oil and gas workers in transitioning to renewables. Its design engineering, fabrication, and site installation capability is centered on the oil-and-gas sector but with an increasing focus on transitioning to renewables.

MORE INFO [www.auroraenergy.co](http://www.auroraenergy.co)

## ONYX Insight wins U.K. award for export strategy

The U.K. government's Department for International Trade recently recog-

nized Nottingham-based ONYX Insight for its export strategy.

ONYX was awarded an inaugural "Made in the U.K., Sold to the World" award in the digital category. The company demonstrated how its innovative technology is used to help the wind industry work better and smarter.

ONYX Insight's CEO Bruce Hall received the award from Thulani Simbani, International Trade Adviser for English Regions – The Midlands, Department for Business and Trade, at the company's headquarters on the University of Nottingham campus.

ONYX Insight provides expert data monitoring and engineering consultancy services to those in the wind industry across the globe, in addition to research and development into new technologies and products worldwide.

"This award is a great recognition of how ONYX Insight, an SME headquartered in Nottingham, has created a world-leading predictive maintenance solution that is used by six out of the top 10 OEMs in the wind industry around the globe," said ONYX Insight CEO Bruce Hall. "A technology solution with an engineering approach that is lowering the cost of energy, making wind energy more efficient and affordable for the world." ↵

MORE INFO [onyxinsight.com](http://onyxinsight.com)