disrupting offshore wind

From prototype to commercial-scale

The PivotBuoy experience

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Our technology roadmap:

A stepped approach to de-risk and qualify the technology, ready for scaling-up and industrialization phase





Validation in lab Small scale validation & technology optimization



Technology demo Fully functional prototype with Vestas V29 exporting power in real sea conditions to PLOCAN

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Current Focus



Pre-commercial phase Focus on pre-commercial operation, industrialization & bankability to get ready for commercial phase.

Under preparation

Phase 4 From 2026



Large scale deployment Commercial roll-out of fully industrialized product for large-scale commercial deployment

PivotBuoy Project: Demonstration of the X30 platform in real sea conditions



PivotBuoy Project

- EC Grant Nº815159: 1st Apr 2019 31st Mar 2023
- 4M€ project with 9 European Partners
- PLOCAN test site (Canary Islands, Spain)
- X30 platform (1:3 scale fully operational)
- 50m water depth
- Vestas V29 + 20kV cable connection

Project Partners







This project has received funding from the European Union's H2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N°815159

Data shows excellent platform behaviour & self-alignment

Real time data monitoring with X1 FMS SCADA



¹ (Senvion 3.2 MW) https://ventus.group/case-study/lidar-based-turbine-performance-verification-2

X30 misalignment distribution during with passive yaw (30 days)



No adaptations in turbine control required during operation



Current systems (except TLPs) need to adapt "fixed" turbine controls to wind-induced pitch motions (negative damping, inducing tower fatigue).



Larger motions and excursions also induce fatigue on dynamic cable (except TLPs, but traditional TLPs imply very high mooring loads).



Source: https://doi.org/10.3390/en12101897



X1 Wind TLP + SPM mooring, does not induce negative damping (allowing use of "fixed" controller).



TLP and elastic coupling also reduce loads on dynamic cable (compared to catenary systems) and on tendons by at least 50% (compared to traditional TLP)



See X1Wind in operation in storm conditions, using the existing Vestas V29 "fixed" controller.

Scaling up the technology

NextFloat Project (Golf de Lion, 2022-2026) Under development (confidential)

PivotBuoy Project (Canary Islands, 2019-2022)



X90 6-8 MW ø 140-180m

X150 14-16 MW ø 220-240m

The NextFloat Project Focus on industrialization and scaling-up to 20MW+

Deploy and test the X90 6MW floating unit

- Design for 20+ years lifetime, fabrication, transport and installation
- Testing period within EU project
- Pre-commercial operation >8 years through SPV

Focus: scale-up, industrialization & bankability

- Scaling up to 15MW & 20MW+ designs
- Fabrication, assembly and T&I optimization towards industrialization

Project consortium:



Improved upscaling to 15-20MW+: its stiffer tripod configuration enables lower weight of the nacelle support structure

- 1. The small natural period (higher frequency) of the tripod-tower allows it stay further away from the 3P excitation range of the turbine, compared to traditional single tubular towers.
- 2. The period of the tripod-tower is not significantly affected by the upscaling of the floating substructure, hence allowing for an easier design integration between the substructure and tower

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40% weight reduction compared to traditional tower for 20 MW design

Results from joint OSES paper (Marc Cahay, TEN, 2023)

Weight Comparison		6 MW	15 MW	20 MW
RNA weight	t	370	800	1 250
Tower weight	t	320	1 215	1 880
Tripod weight	t	350	830	1 140

Table 12: Weight according to turbine power.



Improved scalability at farm level: TLP allows install more units per for the same area, specially when moving to deeper waters

X1 Wind's has demonstrated world's first fully functional TLP (TLP reduces dramatically mooring footprint compared to catenary)

NREL study¹ shows that the capacity density (MW/km²) for the same area in California doubles with TLP







Other NREL study² also significant improvement in farm yield when using downwind turbines with negative tilt angles



1. NREL, Assessment of Offshore Wind Energy Leasing Areas for Humboldt and Morro Bay Wind Energy Areas, California, https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy22osti/82341.pdf 2. Advanced Techno-Economic Analysis of Highly Flexible Wind Turbine Rotors, NREL 2022



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Thanks for your attention

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