

Offshore tender – Criteria  
Question and answer  
5 and 26 May 2023

**1. How will the criterium of citizen's participation be evaluated? Will it be all or nothing or will it be scored in proportion to the CAPEX?**

There is a minimum of 1% of the capex to be reserved for citizen's participation. This minimum will be evaluated as all or nothing. Additional percentages will lead to a better scoring in the award criteria.

**2. The time between the award and the full commissioning of the wind park is 48 months. Do you think this is possible considering the stress in the supply market and the production process? Is there a possibility to extend? The first windmill should be up and running end of 2028. Is this a requirement or just a perspective date?**

Even 42 months is possible to come to a first realization and installation, however, the winner of the offshore tender will have 48 months to complete this phase. Of course, more time would be more convenient, but we need the renewable electricity as soon as possible.

**3. Can you confirm that there is a preparation period of 9 months and one month of submission?**

There are indeed 9 months of preparation, of which the submission is possible during the last month.

**4. Are there any award criteria included for sustainability and multi-use of space?**

No, there are no award criteria on sustainability or multi-use of space, since these requirements will be included in the environmental permit.

**5. How do I have to interpret the carve-out years?**

Awarding the offshore tender will be based on the strike price. Afterwards, the winner has 3 years to close PPA's and to make use of the carve out.

**6. There is an evaluation period foreseen of 3 months. Will the decision about the winner be decided within those 3 months?**

The decision of the winner will be taken at the end of these 3 months. This period can be extended once with another 3 months, if needed.

## **7. Is there already a decision on the offshore bidding zone? When will it come? Before or after the tender submission?**

The decision has not been taken yet and it will most likely not be taken before the submission. The choice for an offshore bidding zone will only be taken if there is a positive effect on the society. Therefore, all effects need to be taken into account and this takes time. As long as the effects are not clear, there will be no decision possible on this point.

## **8. How will the biodiversity be incorporated in the offshore tender?**

Biodiversity is not a tender criterium. It is the responsibility of the winner of the offshore tender to meet the criteria of the environmental permit. The minister of the North Sea committed to this important aspect for the development of the wind farm.

There is also the Princess Elisabeth Island which will have a nature inclusive design. It's a brand new concept, a hybrid one. It is not only a climate and energy project but also a nature conservation project which will pay attention to create breeding space for birds, oysters and other animals. In-depth conversations are ongoing to develop specific plans for biodiversity for this island.

## **9. Are the Natura2000 zones taken into account in the preliminary studies?**

This year an environmental permit will be requested. For this, an appropriate assessment needs to be made. The involved services will then assess this.

## **10. Is there a possibility to provide wind developers maps that showcase where the Natura2000-areas indicate the biodiversity sensitive areas? This can be provided by WWF.**

Thank you for the suggestion. The offer of the WWF to share this information is appreciated. This will be further discussed with the minister of the North Sea.

## **11. Regarding multi-use, a new maritime spatial plan (MSP) will be in place from 2027 onwards. Will it be ready by the launch of the tender.**

For the current MSP, the zones are already included. There are no changes needed for the offshore tendering. A future zone for extending the production of renewable energy in the North Seas is under investigation. Multi-use is defined in the MSP, therefore not included in the offshore tender.

## **12. There will be workshops organized with the results of preliminary studies. Will all details be published beforehand?**

Upon their completion and their certification, the results of each of the studies have been made publicly available since the first quarter of 2023 via the website of FPS Economy. This communication process will be continued the coming months. Workshops will indeed be organized to present the results.

## **13. Will there be a consultation on the documents in the redaction phase?**

We are still investigating if the timing allows a consultation. This depends amongst others, on the outcome of the discussion with the European Commission. A consultation has taken place also already on the basic principles that lead to this decision.

## **14. Is there an indexation of the strike price?**

Yes, there is a partial indexation foreseen. 30% of the strike price will be made subject to indexation.

## **15. On which parameter is the indexation based?**

The indexation will be based on the consumer index.

## **16. Are there extra points for more than 4% citizen's participation?**

Of course bidders are welcome to do so, but no additional points will be awarded.

## **17. Is there any retribution or lease fee for the developer who wins?**

No, but there is a financial guarantee that needs to be given to realize the project in due time.

## **18. The environmental permit, will it be three permits or one permit that will be split up in three?**

There will be three different permits. One permit per lot.

## **19. Is there a preference towards Belgian citizen participation?**

The definition of REC's are provided in the directive 2019/944. This will be the inspiration for the description in the Royal decree.

## **20. Considering the fallback mechanism, is there a long term check of the citizen participation?**

The intention is of course that the citizen participation is there to stay. A report period will probably be stated in the royal decree. This needs to be determined still.

## **21. What is the role of Belgium in leadership towards other Member States in developing offshore wind in light of the aspects of biodiversity and citizen involvement?**

There will be a meeting of the North Sea Energy Council (NSEC) on the topic of biodiversity, where the Minister wants to present the nature inclusive design of the Princess Elisabeth Island. In Belgium, we are building wind turbines in a Natura2000 area, so we had to look to reconcile these different interests and we will definitely share our experience in stakeholder management. Regarding the support mechanism and the inclusion of citizen participation, we are more than happy to share our experiences with the other Member States.

## **22. It has been communicated that there will be a cap/limit on the PPA prices, namely 3 EUR/MWh above the strike price. Is the value of Guarantees of Origin excluded from that cap?**

The details on this price cap and what it will include, will be specified in the Royal Decree on the tender criteria. The margin of 3 EUR/MWh is only on the energy part of the PPA, so not on any other services or balancing agreements.

## **23. Is the carve out evaluated during the bid process? Does it have an impact on the score if the price of the PPA is linked to the price of the CfD?**

The PPA is voluntary and will not be taken into account for the evaluation of the bid. The surplus price of 3 euro can be considered as a motivation for the candidates to actually use the carve-out.

## **24. The fallback option of the PPA's, can it be taken in portions or does it have to be complete?**

It can be taken in portions. The fallback is possible per percentage of production volume, covered by the relevant PPA.

## **25. Will there be a period to make a new PPA?**

After the winning of the offshore tender, the winner has 3 years to conclude PPA's. So all the PPA's need to be in place in the first 3 years. In case of failure of a PPA, there will be an allowance to temporarily fall back under the 2-sided CfD to provide the bidder the opportunity to find a new PPA offtaker. Only if he is unable to do so, will he fall back for this specific volume under the 2-sided CfD and this then indefinitely.

## **26. The possibility for a carve-out is 50% and an additional 25% is possible via renewable energy communities (REC). Can I conclude that the total is 75%? And is this taken into account in the points?**

The PPA is possible up to 75% indeed: 50% for PPA's with for example industry or other end users and 25% reserved for REC's (citizens and SMEs). There are no specific points foreseen for the carve-out during the evaluation.