



**U.S. Department of Energy**  
**Energy Efficiency**  
**and Renewable Energy**

Bringing you a prosperous future where energy  
is clean, abundant, reliable, and affordable.

# Offshore Wind Technology Overview

A photograph of several offshore wind turbines in the ocean. The turbines are tall, slender structures with three blades each, extending from the water's surface. The water is choppy with small waves. The sky is bright and clear.

**Mike Robinson**  
**Walt Musial**  
**National Wind Technology Center**  
**National Renewable Energy Laboratory**



U.S. Department of Energy

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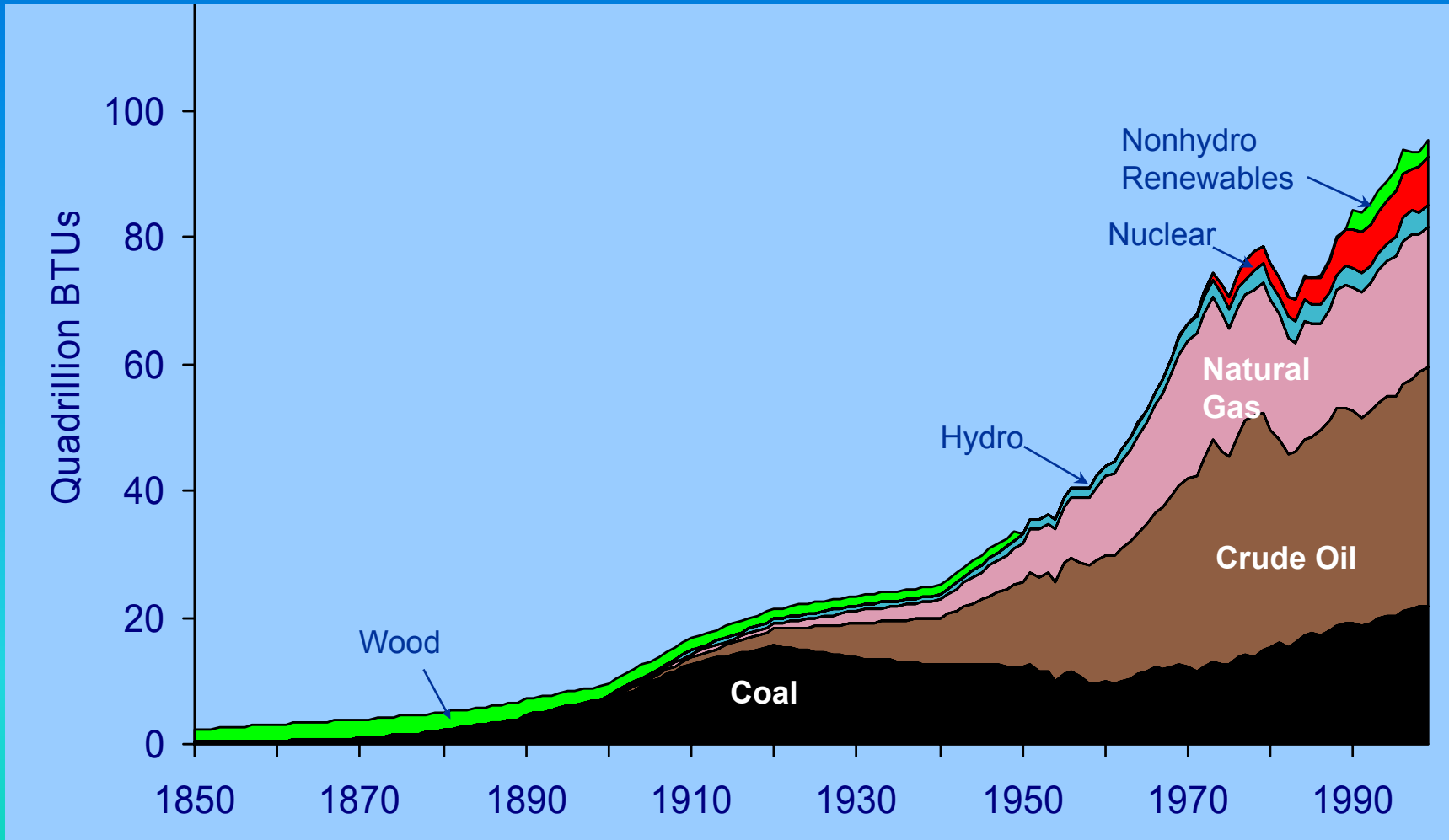
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# The U.S. Energy Picture by Source - 1850-1999

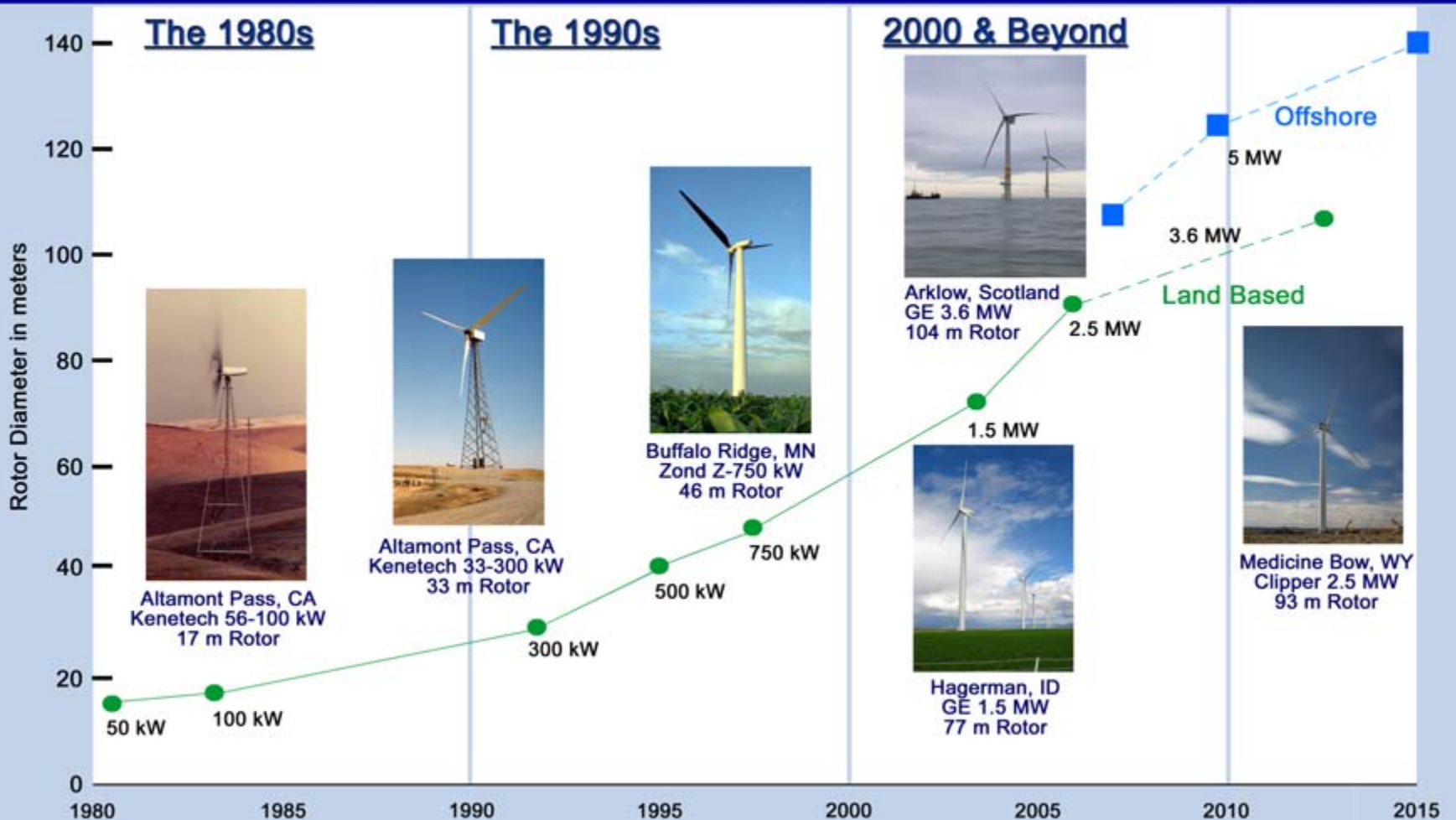


Source: 1850-1949, Energy Perspectives: A Presentation of Major Energy and Energy-Related Data, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1975; 1950-1996, Annual Energy Review 1996, Table 1.3. Note: Between 1950 and 1990, there was no reporting of non-utility use of renewables. 1997-1999, Annual Energy Review 1999, Table F1b.



# Evolution of U.S. Commercial Wind Technology

## Evolution of U.S. Commercial Wind Technology





# Offshore GE Wind Energy

## 3.6 MW Prototype

- **Offshore GE 3.6 MW**  
**104 meter rotor diameter**
- **Offshore design requirements considered from the outset:**
  - **Crane system for all components**
  - **Simplified installation**
  - **Helicopter platform**

**Boeing 747-400**





# Cost of Energy Trends

**1981: 40 cents/kWh**

- **Increased Turbine Size**
- **R&D Advances**
- **Manufacturing Improvements**



**2006: 9.5 cents/kWh**

- **Multimegawatt Turbines**
- **High Reliability Systems**
- **Infrastructure Improvements**

**Land-based**

**2006: 3 - 6 cents/kWh**

**Offshore**

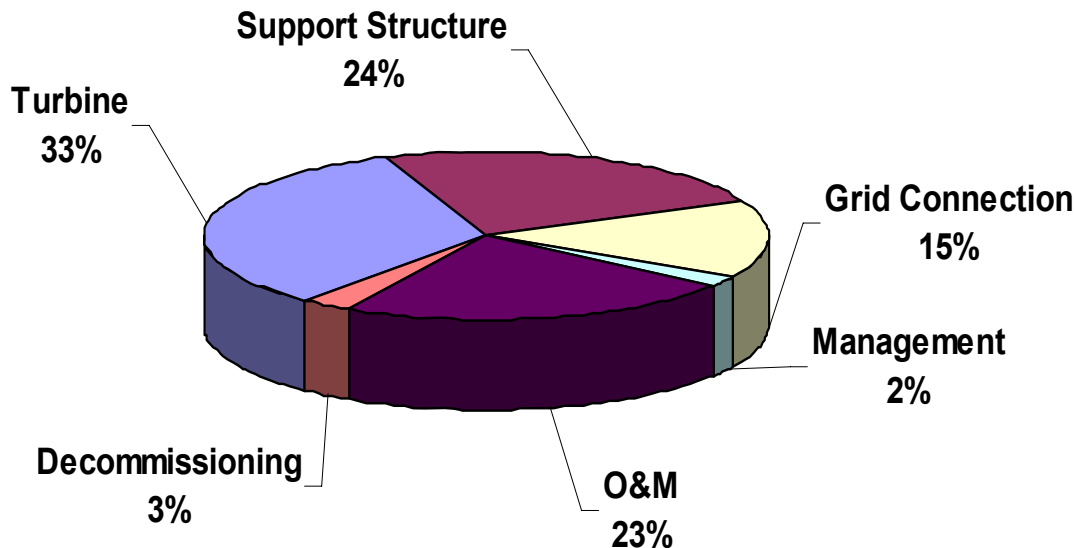
**2014: 5 cents/kWh**





# Offshore Turbine Size Drivers

- Offshore Turbines are about 1/3 of total project cost.
- Thus, as turbines grow larger:
  - Foundation costs decrease
  - Electrical infrastructure costs decrease
  - Operational expenses decrease
  - More energy is generated per area.
- Offshore infrastructure is also suited for larger machines.



**Offshore Wind - Life Cycle Cost of Energy**





# Offshore Wind – U.S. Rationale

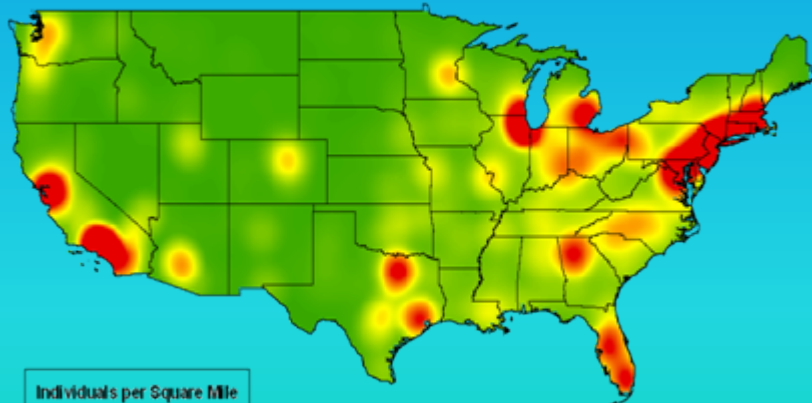
## Why Go Offshore?

*Windy onshore sites are not close to coastal load centers*

*The electric utility grid cannot be easily set up for interstate electric transmission*

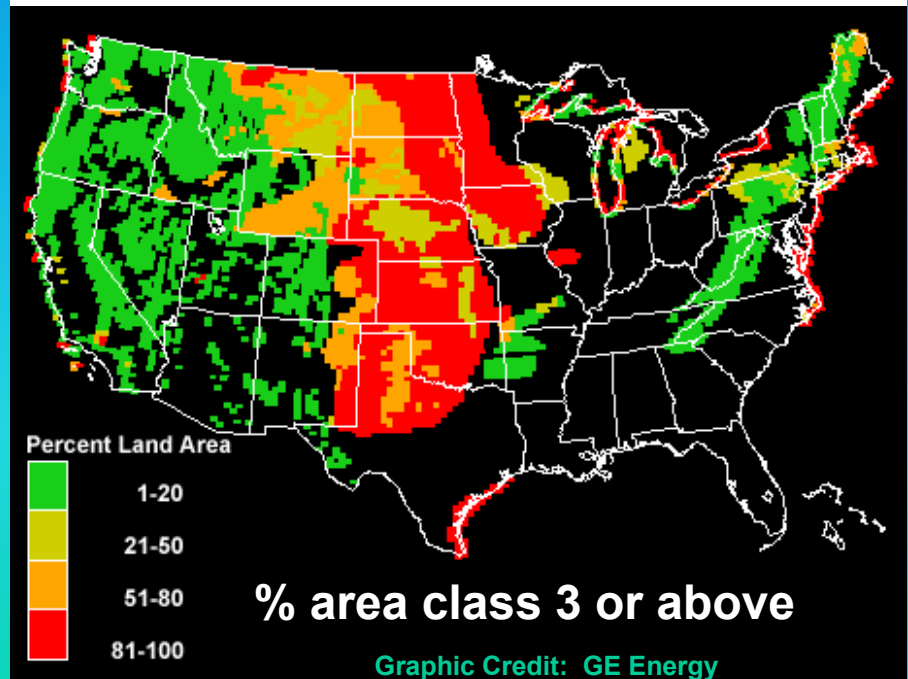
*Load centers are close to the offshore wind sites*

### US Population Concentration



Graphic Credit: Bruce Bailey AWS Truewind

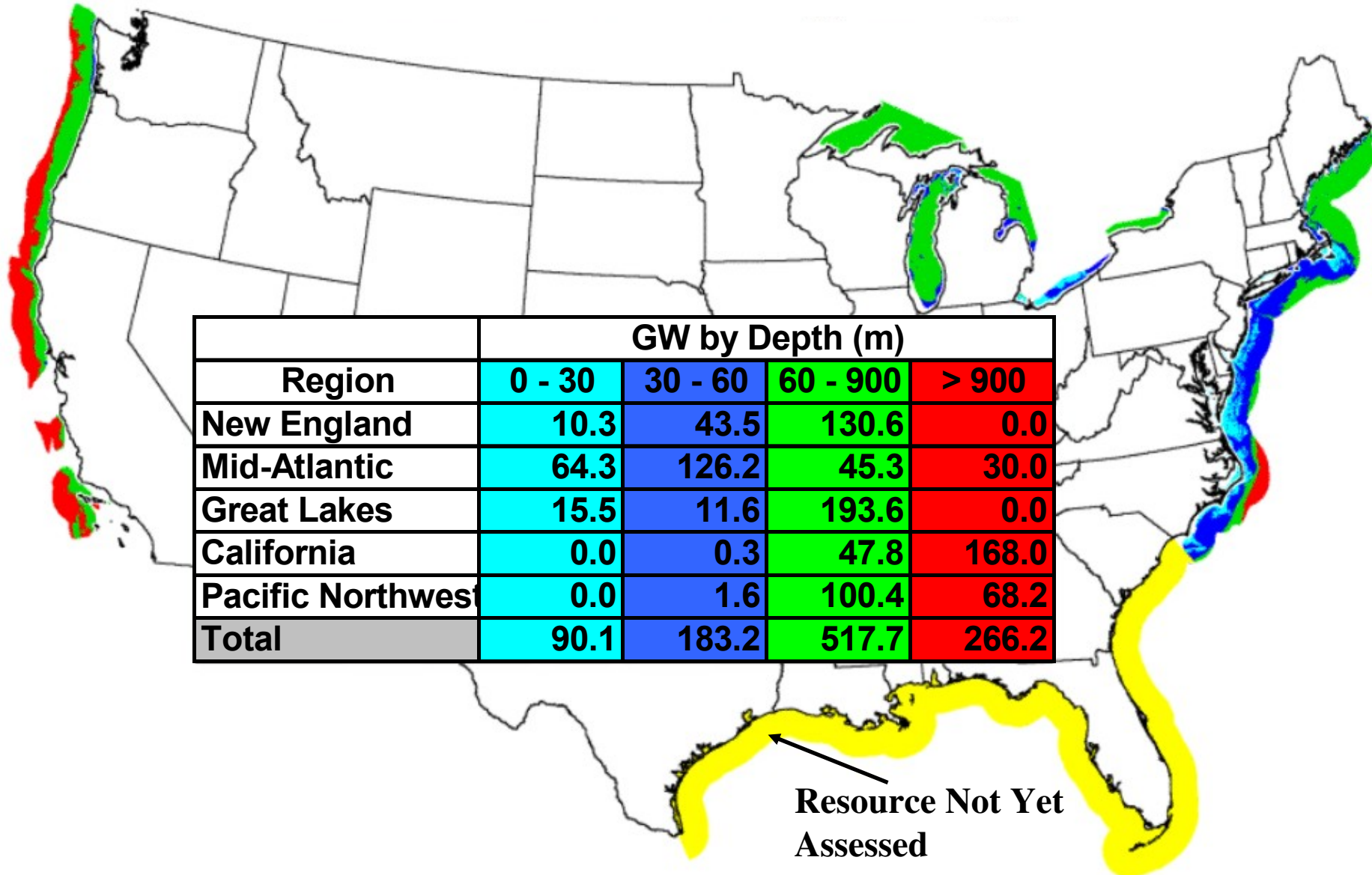
### US Wind Resource







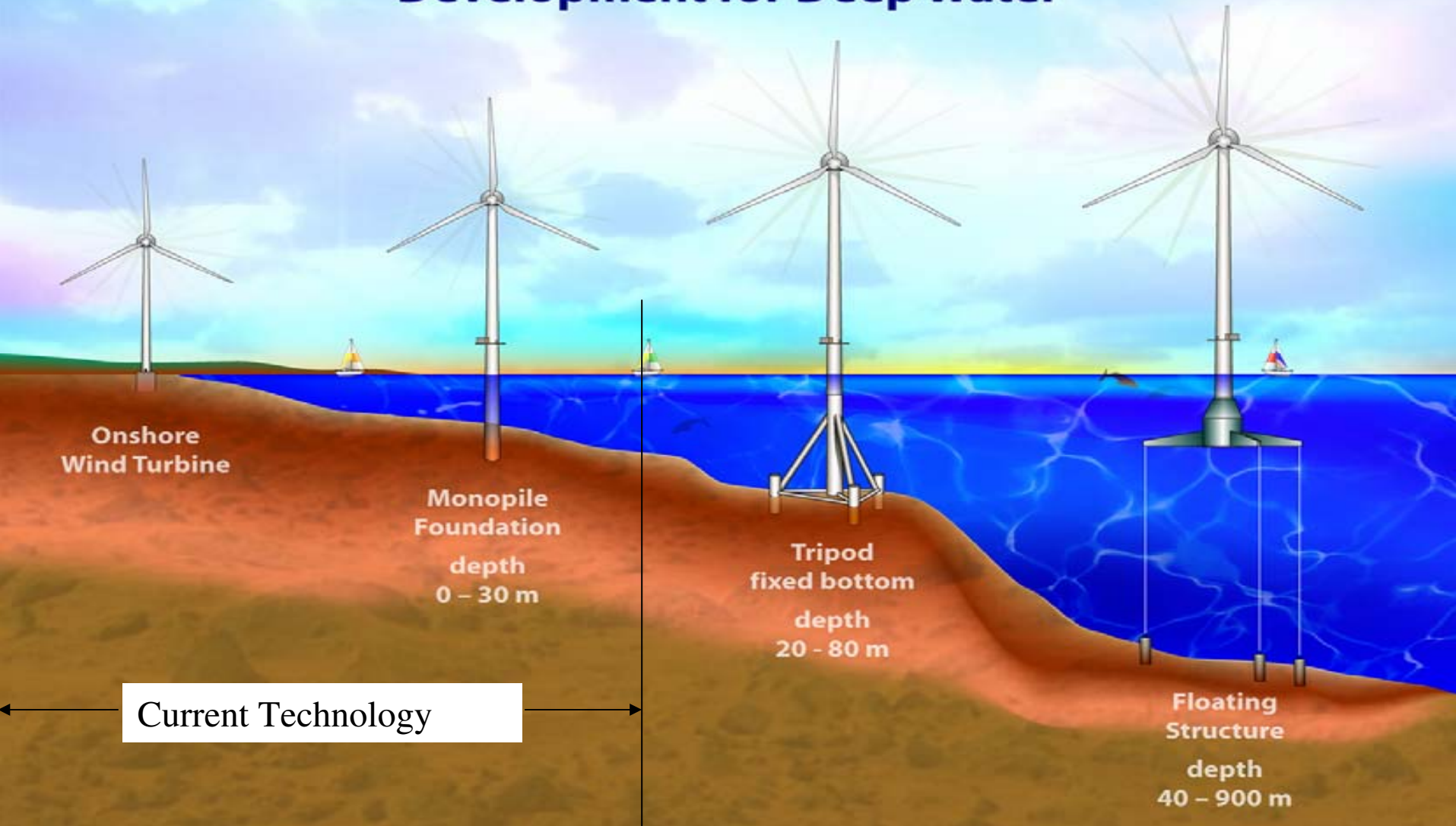
# U.S. Offshore Wind Energy Resource





# Offshore Wind Turbine Development

## Offshore Wind Turbine Development for Deep Water

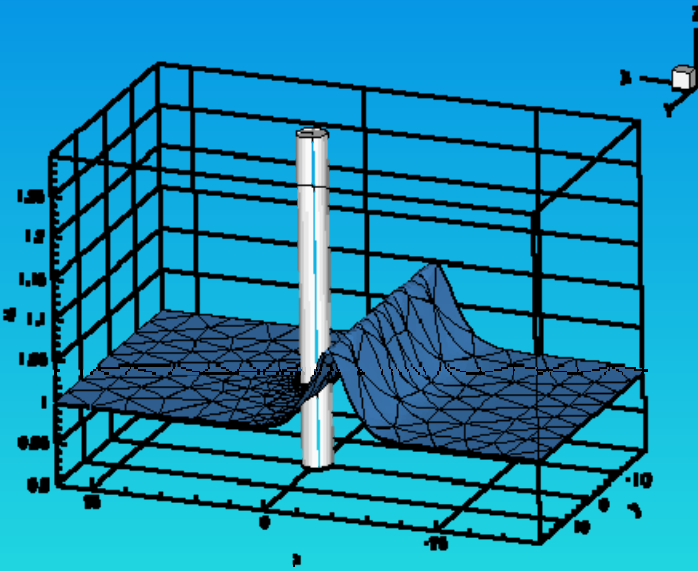




# Arklow Banks Windfarm

## The Irish Sea

**Cable Laying Vessel**





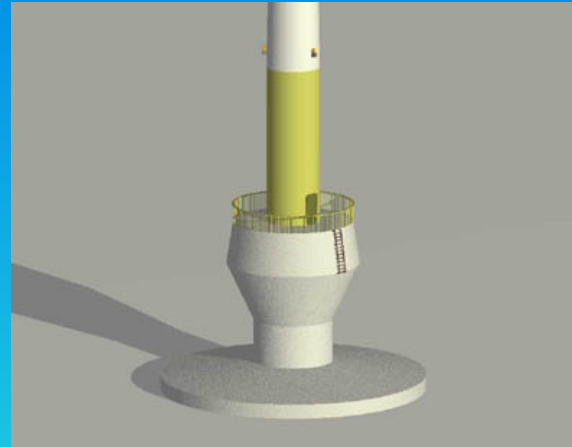
# Fixed Bottom Substructure Technology

## Proven Designs



**Monopile Foundation**

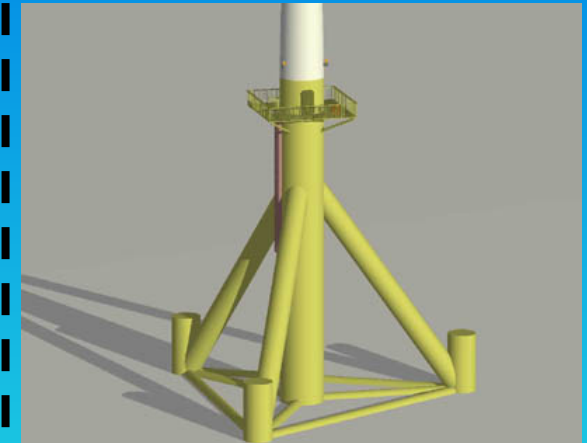
- **Most Common Type**
- **Minimal Footprint**
- **Depth Limit 25 m**
- **Low stiffness**



**Gravity Foundation**

- **Larger Footprint**
- **Depth Limit?**
- **Stiffer but heavy**

## Future



**Tripod/Truss Foundation**

- **No wind experience**
- **Oil and gas to 450 m**
- **Larger footprint**





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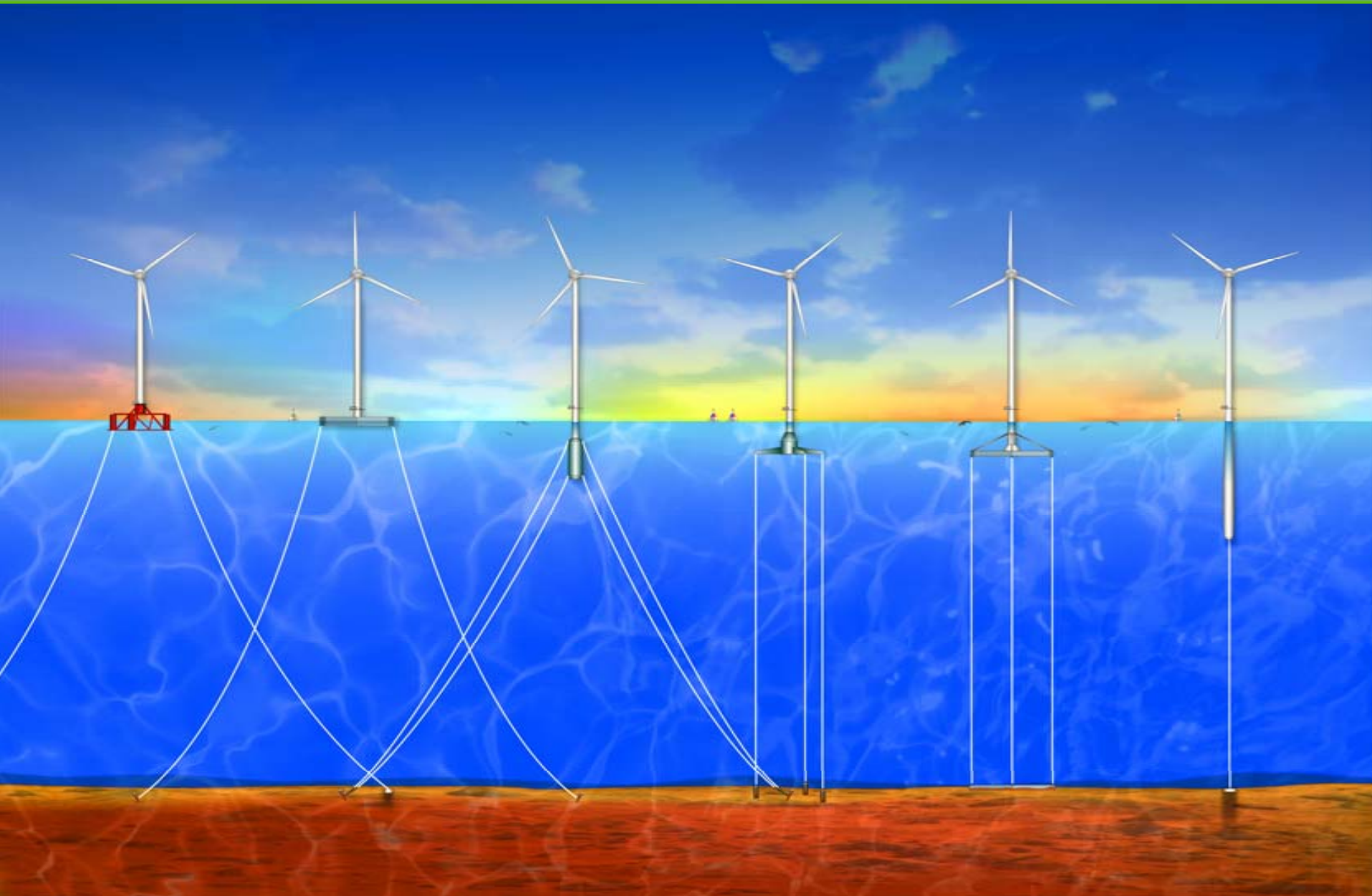
# Transitional Depth Foundations 30-m to 90-m Depths??





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# Floating Foundations >60-m Depths







# Location of Existing Offshore Installations Worldwide





# Enercon 4.5-MW Offshore Prototype



**Enercon 4.5MW 112 meter rotor**



**440 metric tonnes**



# RePower 5-MW – World's Largest Turbine

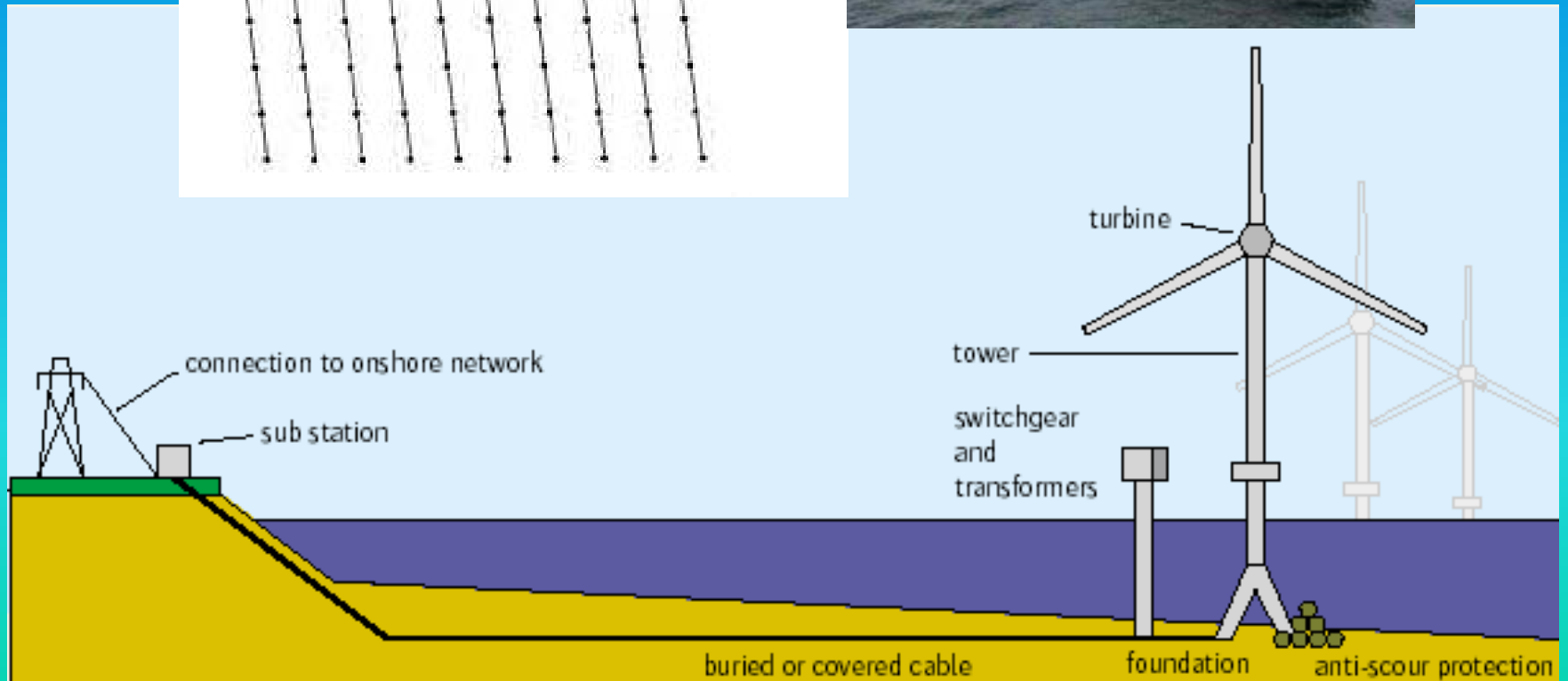
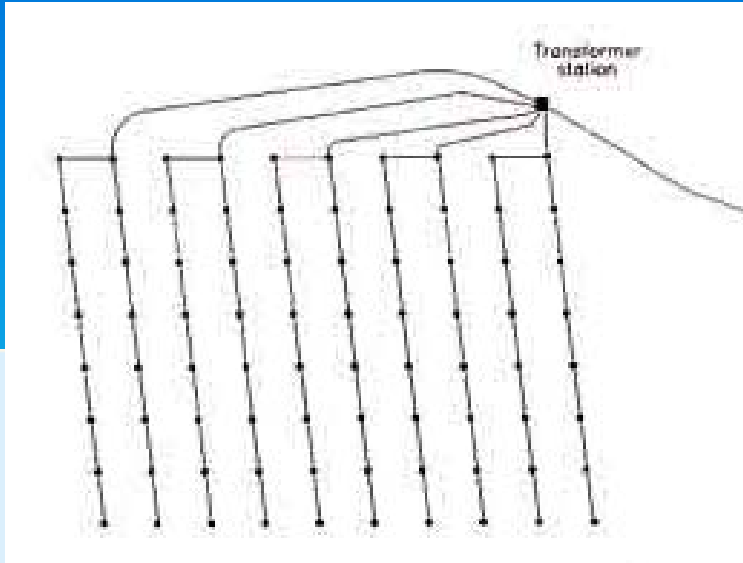


- 5-MW Rating
- 61.5-m blade length (LM Glasfibres)
- Offshore Demonstration project by Talisman Energy in Beatrice Fields
  - 45-m Water Depths
  - Two machines





# Typical Offshore Wind Farm Layout





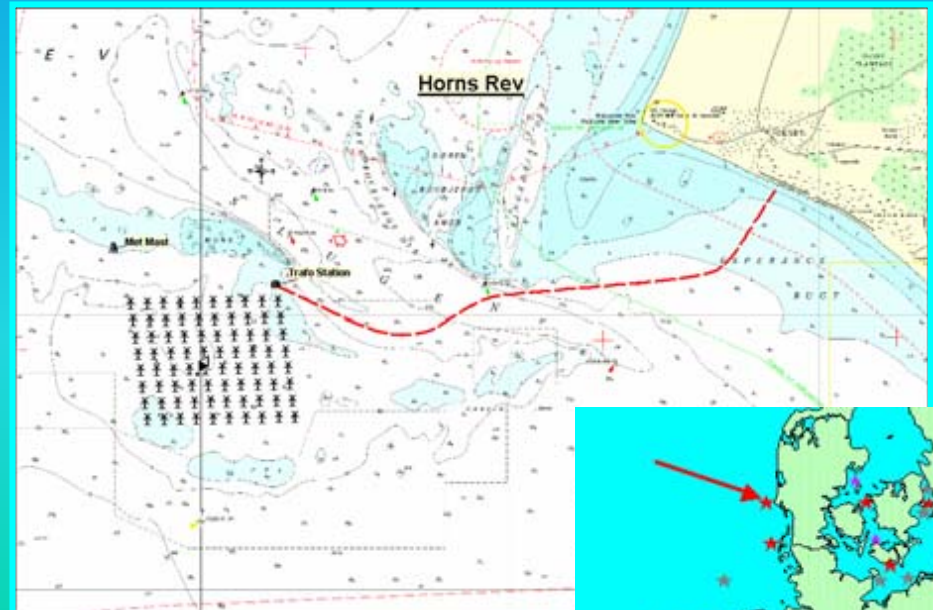


# Horns Rev Wind Farm - Denmark



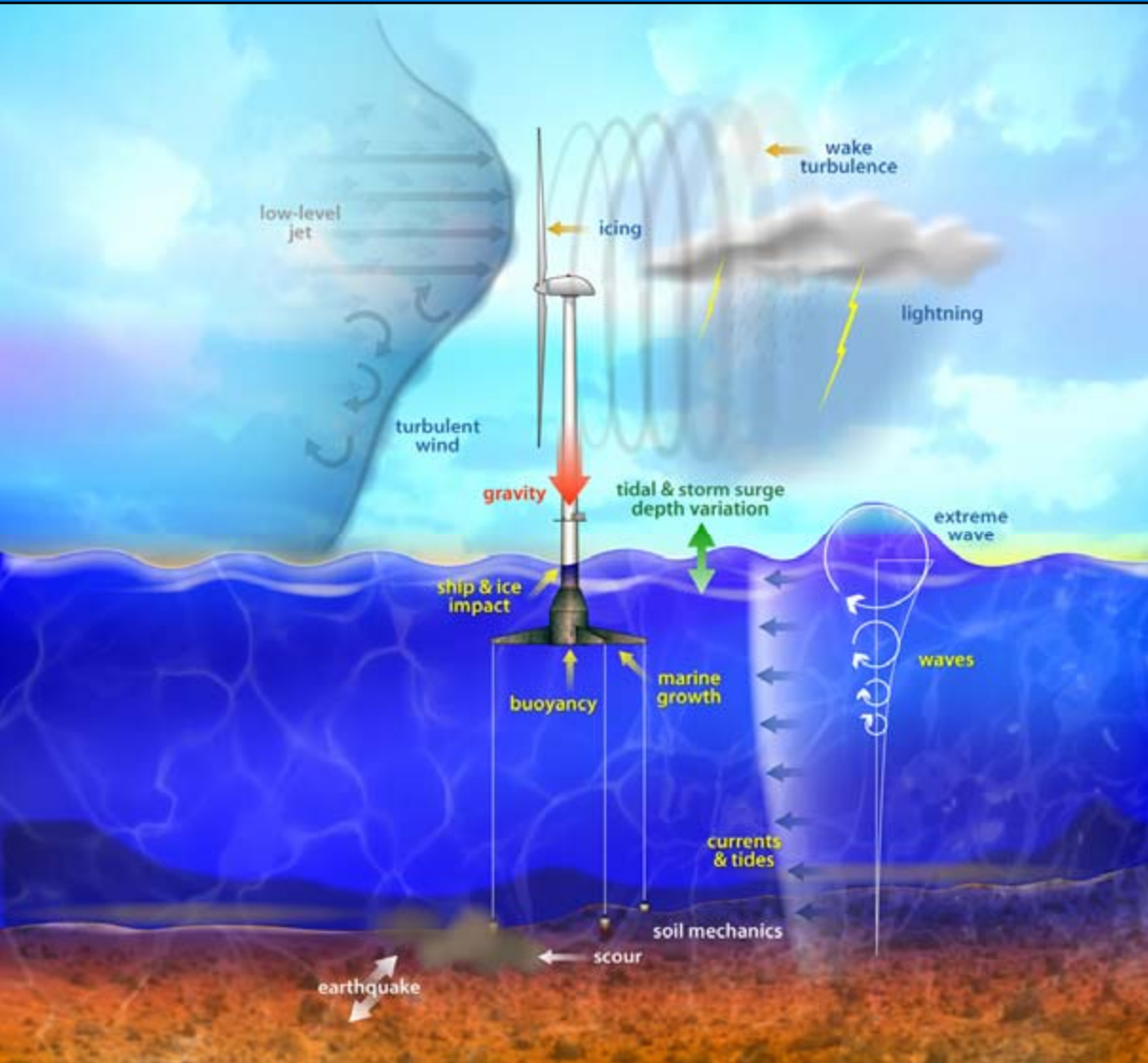
Horns Rev

**Country:** Denmark  
**Location:** West Coast  
**Total Capacity:** 160 MW  
**Number of Turbines:** 80  
**Distance to Shore:** 14-20 km  
**Depth:** 6-12 m  
**Capital Costs:** 270 million Euro  
**Manufacturer:** Vestas  
**Total Capacity:** 2 MW  
**Turbine-type:** V80 – 80-m diameter  
**Hub-height:** 70 m  
**Mean Windspeed:** 9.7 m/s  
**Annual Energy output:** 600 GWh

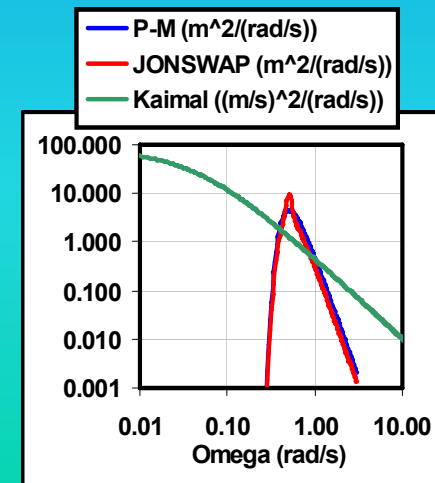




# Offshore Technical Challenges



- Turbulent winds
- Hydrodynamics:
  - scattering
  - radiation
- Irregular waves
- Gravity / inertia
- Aerodynamics:
  - hydrostatics
  - induction
  - skewed wake
  - dynamic stall
- Elasticity
- Mooring dynamics
- Control system
- Fully coupled ex



Wind and Wave Spectra





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# Offshore Turbine Access

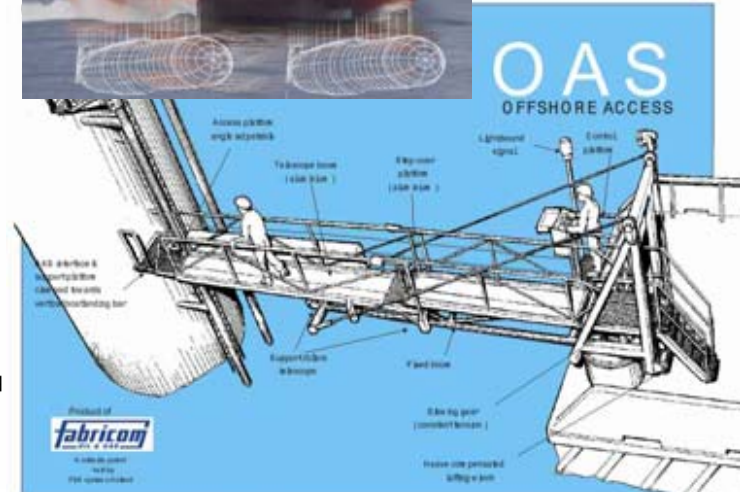
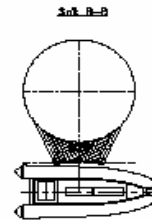
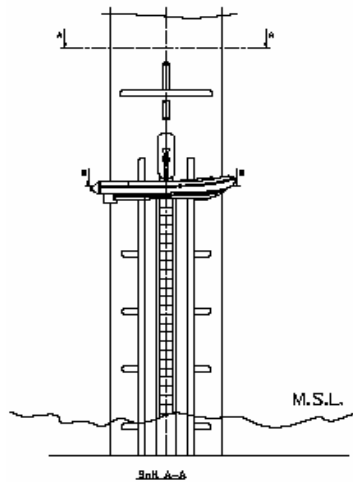
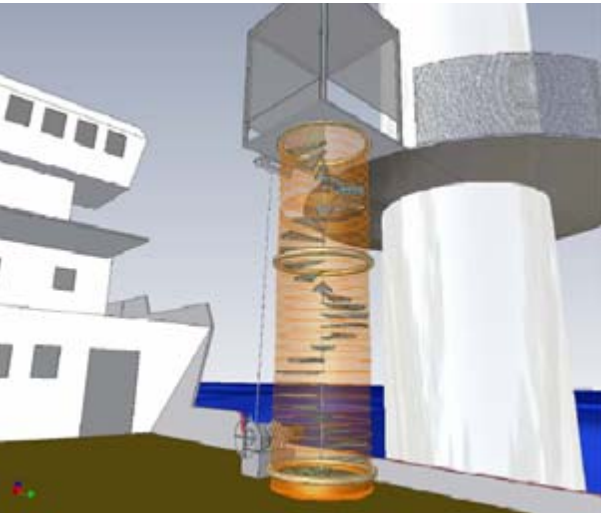


GE Energy

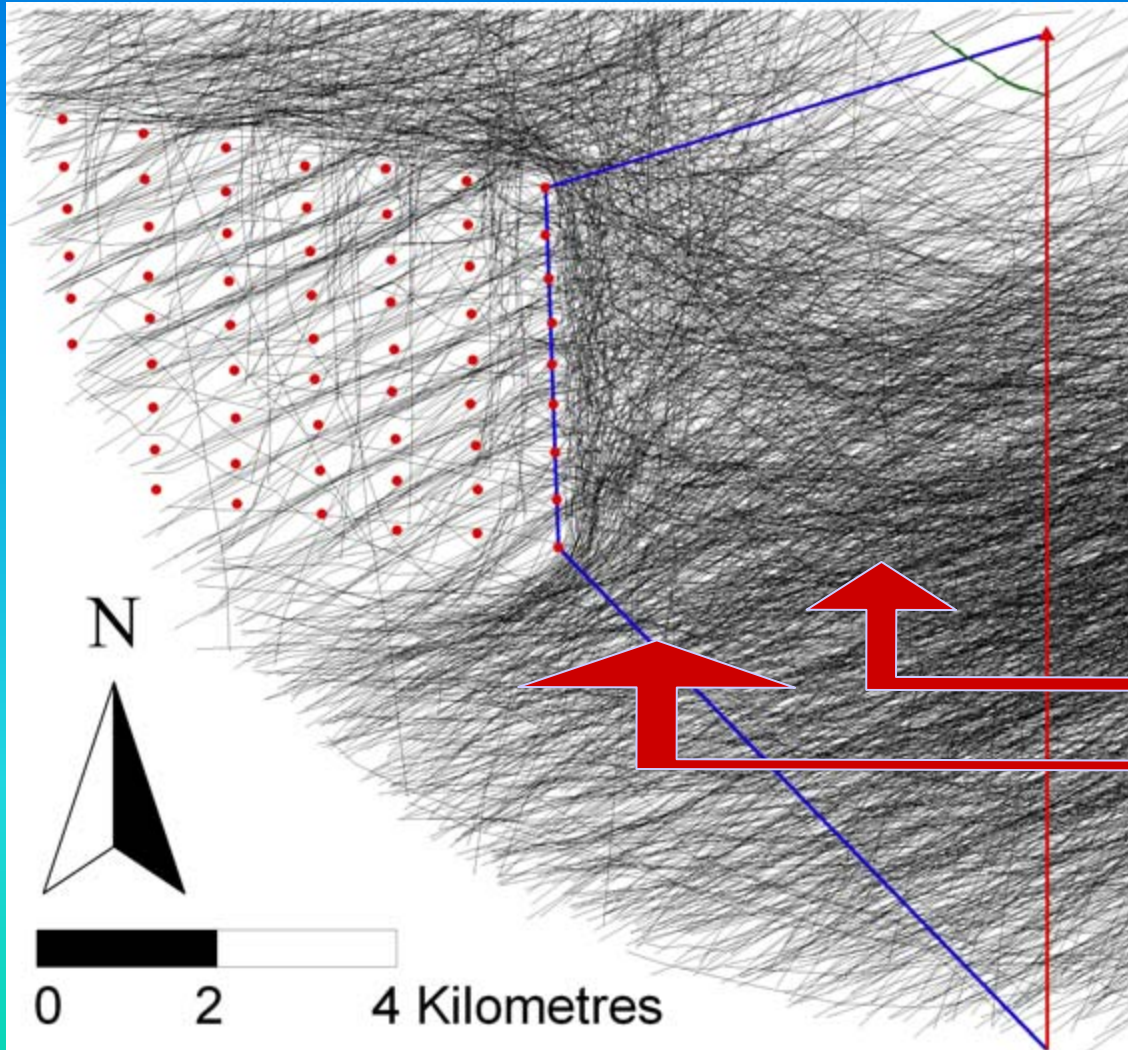


GE Energy

GE Energy



OAS  
OFFSHORE ACCESS



## Operation (2003):

Birds perceive the presence of wind turbines even in bad visibility

Response distance:

day = c. 3000 m

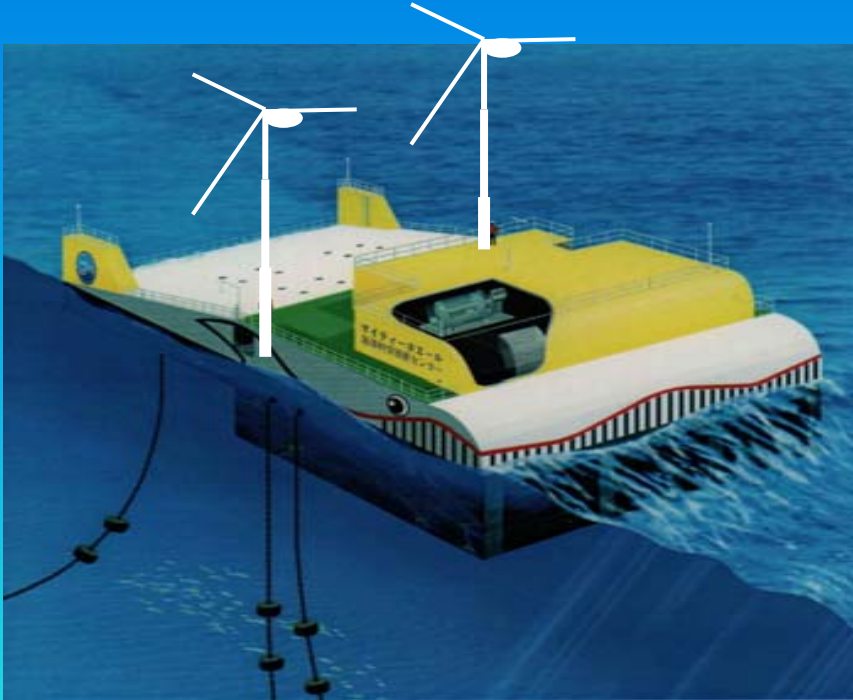
night = c. 1000 m





# Offshore Wind / Wave Synergy

## Small Wind-OWC Wave Platform



- **Common Engineering & Design Considerations**
- **Maximize Grid Interconnect Potential Through Dual Technologies**
- **Improve Intermittency & Total Energy Output**
- **Increase System Reliability & Reduce Maintenance**

**EPRI Building a Coalition of Developers, Universities and Other Stakeholders to Explore the Wind / Wave Development Potential**





# A Future Vision for Wind Energy Markets

**Tomorrow**

**Today  
2005**



**Bulk Power Generator**  
 4-6¢ at 15 mph

- Land Based
- Bulk Electricity
- Wind Farms

**Potential 20% of Electricity Market**

**Land Based Electricity Path**



**Land Based LWST**  
 Large-Scale  
 2-5 MW

**Transmission Barriers**



**LWST Turbines:**

- 3¢/kWh at 13 mph
- Electricity Market

**2012**

**Offshore Electricity Path**



**Offshore Turbines**  
 5 MW and Larger

**Cost & Regulatory Barriers**



**Offshore LWST Turbine:**

- 5 Cents/kWh
- Shallow/*Deep* Water
- Electricity Market
- Higher Wind Sites

**2012 and Beyond**

**Advanced Applications Path**



**Land or Sea Based:**

- Hydrogen
- Clean Water

**Cost & Infrastructure Barriers**



**Custom Turbines:**

- Electricity
- H2 Production
- Desalinate Water
- Storage
- Multi-Market

**2030 and Beyond**