Status of Offshore Wind Energy: First Half of 2026

Industry calls for swift reform of the Offshore Wind Energy Act

- **Offshore wind energy in Germany is growing strongly, adding 1,077 MW in the first half of the year and exceeding the ten-gigawatt mark for installed capacity**
- **Industry calls for an amendment to the Offshore Wind Energy Act to ensure investment security through bilateral, index-linked CfDs still in summer 2026**
- **A stable and viable project pipeline with trustworthy partners operating in a fair competitive environment ensures industrial value creation, investment and jobs in Germany and Europe**

Berlin, Bremerhaven, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Rostock, 21 July 2026 – On 30 June 2026, 1,764 offshore wind turbines with an installed capacity of 10.8 gigawatts (GW) were in operation in the German North Sea and Baltic Sea. In the first half of 2026, 84 new turbines with a capacity of 1,077 megawatts (MW) were connected to the grid.

A further 22 turbines with a capacity of 323 GW are currently under construction in the Borkum Riffgrund 3 and He Dreiht offshore wind farms, as well as in the North Sea Cluster A, but are not yet operational. The final investment decision (FID) has already been taken for projects with a total capacity of 2.6 GW. Further offshore wind projects with a capacity of 17.5 GW have been awarded, but no FID has yet been finalised. According to current plans, 30 GW of offshore wind capacity will be installed in Germany by 2032. This is evident from the latest surveys conducted by Deutsche WindGuard on behalf of the industry organisations BWE, BWO, VDMA Power Systems, WAB e.V., WindEnergy Network e.V. and Stiftung Offshore-Windenergie.

Amend the Offshore Wind Energy Act

Although the expansion of offshore wind energy is currently still progressing, the results of the latest tender rounds show that the existing regulatory framework has long since ceased to reflect current market conditions. In particular, the lack of bids in August 2025 highlights the urgent need for a swift amendment to the Offshore Wind Energy Act (WindSeeG). As long as awarded projects remain in limbo and the future legal framework remains unclear, there is considerable uncertainty for project developers, manufacturers, suppliers and investors. Meanwhile, the industry wishes to prepare for the 2027 tenders as quickly as possible.

Modernising the investment and financing framework

To finance future offshore wind projects, Germany needs a robust and internationally competitive investment framework. The amendment to the WindSeeG must fundamentally overhaul the tender design. The industry associations advocate the introduction of an indexed, two-sided Contracts-for-Difference (CfD) model. Such a risk-hedging instrument reduces financing risks, increases the likeliness of projects being realised and helps to ensure competitive electricity costs for industry and consumers in the long term. The previous system of negative bids has failed and must be replaced by CfDs without delay. It is also necessary to establish a workable hedging mechanism for long-term power purchase agreements (PPAs), so

that PPAs become financeable for banks and acceptable to small and medium-sized industrial enterprises.

Secure the project pipeline and continue expansion on an ongoing basis

A viable outlook is needed for the offshore wind projects awarded between 2023 and 2025. The focus must be on ensuring that these projects are implemented consistently. “Where projects can no longer be implemented due to adverse changes in the regulatory framework and increased risks arising from multiple crises, the Federal Government is called upon to examine legally enshrined criteria for a return option, as well as an associated mechanism to re-tender the affected sites without delay. This will ensure that sites and grid connections become available again at an early stage, new projects can be realised, and reliable prospects for the supply chain can be created. This is the only way to safeguard the continuous expansion of offshore wind energy,” say the industry organisations.

Offshore wind strengthens Germany as an industrial location

A reliable expansion pathway provides planning certainty for investments in production capacity, supply chains and port infrastructure. According to a study by the wind:research institute commissioned by the BWO, offshore wind energy already secures around 49,000 jobs in Germany today. For this positive trend to continue, fair competitive conditions are needed that effectively protect European companies from market distortions and safeguard investment in Europe. At the same time, the regulatory framework must strengthen the protection of critical energy infrastructure and effectively limit physical and digital security risks along the supply chain.

About the clients commissioning the biannual expansion statistics for offshore wind energy:

About the German Windenergy Association (BWE)

The German Wind Energy Association (BWE) is a partner to more than 3.000 companies in the wind industry sector and represents the interests of its approximately 17.000 members. BWE pools the combined know-how of a diverse industry sector.

About the German Offshore Wind Energy Association (BWO)

The aim of the BWO is to represent the political interests of the offshore wind industry in Germany. The BWO acts as central point of contact for politicians and authorities at federal and state level for all questions relating to offshore wind energy.

About the German Offshore Wind Energy Foundation

The non-profit organisation’s overall purpose is to consolidate the role of offshore wind energy in the energy mix of the future in Germany and Europe and to promote its expansion in the interests of environmental and climate protection. Since 2005, it has been established as a non-partisan, supra-regional and cross-sector think tank as well as an independent communication platform for the entire offshore wind energy industry.

About VDMA Power Systems
VDMA Power Systems is the association for the power plant engineering. It represents the interests of manufacturers and suppliers of electricity and heat generation systems in Germany and abroad. These include wind energy, photovoltaic and hydropower plants, engines and thermal power plants as well as storage and sector coupling technologies.

About WAB e.V.
The WAB is the nationwide contact for the offshore wind industry, the onshore network in the Northwest and promotes the production of green hydrogen from wind power. The association includes around 250 smaller and larger companies as well as institutes from all areas of the wind industry, the maritime industry, the emerging hydrogen economy and science.

About WindEnergy Network e.V. (WEN)
The WEN is the leading company network for wind energy in the northeast region with over 90 member companies. The aim is to promote the expansion of companies and supply chains in order to enhance regional value creation in the future sector renewable energies. The key topics are windenergy on- and offshore, maritime technologies in connection with offshore windenergy as well as the development of green hydrogen.

Press contacts

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