

RECHARGE

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'Go big and go deep': TotalEnergies locks-in oars with Simply Blue for US floating wind

Sam Roch-Perks, founder of Simply Blue Group. Photo: SBG



French oil giant doubles down on plans to fast-track entry into the American offshore wind market with joint venture with Irish developer

By **Darius Snieckus**

Transitioning French oil giant TotalEnergies and Irish renewables developer Simply Blue have formalised a joint venture (JV) to build floating wind projects off the US.

The JV – TotalEnergies SBE US – aims to marry TotalEnergies' experience in large-scale offshore oil & gas projects with Simply Blue's rapidly developing floating wind expertise, bolstered recently **by the addition of a trio of industry pioneers** "to unlock untapped deepwater opportunities that will provide renewable electricity to millions" of American homes.

"Our ambition is to install 100GW of renewable power generation [globally] by 2030, part of which will come from floating wind projects. We are eager to see this partnership with Simply Blue help our company meet this goal," said TotalEnergies gas, renewables and power division president Stéphane Michel.

Oil giant TotalEnergies dives into US offshore wind with EnBW and Simply Blue tie-ups.

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"We are convinced of the large potential of floating wind to provide US coasts with renewable electricity, and are committed to contribute our extensive expertise in offshore projects to make it happen."



Simply Blue CEO Sam Roch-Perks stated: "The future and next frontier of US offshore wind is floating. This joint venture with TotalEnergies has everything we need to deliver floating offshore wind on America's coasts."

Roch-Perks, who has grown the start-up in a short span of time to have a 3.2GW portfolio of projects in development, noted that "almost two-thirds of US offshore wind resources are found in deeper waters that require floating platforms.

"TotalEnergies SBE US brings together the scale, expertise, and international track record to responsibly develop floating offshore wind power on all of America's coasts."

Offshore wind pioneer trio sign to Simply Blue for US floating frontier drive.

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Stephanie McClellan, chief of strategy and policy of the new JV, said: "Offshore wind has arrived. To bring its full benefits to market, we need to go big and go deep.

"TotalEnergies SBE US will accelerate development of US floating wind, and help states and the federal government meet their clean power goals."



At last count, TotalEnergies had more than 6GW of offshore wind in development worldwide, 40% of which is floater-based, including over 2GW of deepwater projects in South Korea.

Floating key to Biden's plans

Floating wind projects are increasingly being touted as key to the US meeting the Biden administration's ambitious goal of having **30GW off offshore plant turning by 2030**, with BOEM director Amanda Lefton saying recently that with the global sector still on the brink of industrialisation, the US **was well positioned to move swiftly to the front of the sector pack.**

Last month, California governor Gavin Newsom **signed a bill into law** moving ahead long-anticipated plans to develop floating wind in the US Pacific by mandating state agencies to prepare a concrete plan to advance some 4GW of projects.

A first array in the US Atlantic, off Maine, is now firmly in the frame following hand-in of a **lease application by the state to BOEM for a 144MW project.**

The Global Wind Energy Council **expects 16.5GW of floating turbines to be in the water by 2030**, a dramatic increase from the 6.5GW it was anticipating only a year ago, with most of that growth coming in the second half of the decade when the sector, which currently has just over 100MW in place, is tipped for dramatic lift-off.