

Empire Wind selects Edison Chouest Offshore to provide plug-in hybrid service operations vessel

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Empire Offshore Wind, a joint venture between Equinor and bp, has awarded a long-term service operations vessel charter agreement to US marine transportation provider, Edison Chouest Offshore (ECO)

The plug-in hybrid service operations vessel (SOV) will be the first in the US offshore wind sector capable of sailing partly on battery power.

The vessel will accommodate up to 60 wind turbine technicians and will be utilized for the safe and efficient operations and maintenance of the Empire Wind 1 and Empire Wind 2 offshore wind farms. The charter agreement has a fixed period of 10 years, with commencement in the mid-2020s.

The US-flagged vessel will be Jones Act compliant and have its home port at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) in New York. The SOV will be constructed with components from ECO's extensive supplier base across 34 US states.

The supplier estimates that this will generate over 250 high-skilled US jobs during vessel construction. Edison Chouest Offshore is also dedicating considerable effort and resources to recruiting and training vessel crew from the New York region. ECO will operate the vessel from their New York office.

The plug-in hybrid vessel will be the first in the US capable of sailing on battery power for portions of the route. The SOV will sail into the port of SBMT on battery power, recharge the battery using shore power and sail out of New York Harbor. The hybrid vessel is certified to "tier 4 emissions standards", reaching the highest standard for marine applications.

Teddy Muhlfelder, Vice president, Empire Wind and Beacon Wind, Equinor said: "Equinor and bp's agreement with Edison Chouest will generate ripple effects throughout the supply chain, creating jobs in numerous states across the country."

"With the first of its kind, plug-in hybrid service operations vessel, Empire Wind will reduce potential emissions from our operations in the New York City area. This is another critical step forward in the development of the offshore wind industry, while helping achieve critical state and federal climate goals," says Muhlfelder.

Mette H. Ottøy, Chief procurement officer, Equinor, says: "Edison Chouest Offshore will provide a state-of-the-art vessel fit for Empire Wind."

"We selected Edison Chouest in part for its extensive experience and expertise as a shipbuilder and we look forward to a collaboration beginning with construction and continuing through operations for the next decade or more. This is an important step in our efforts to develop a domestic supply chain in the US for offshore wind," says Ottøy.

About Empire Wind

- Empire Wind is being developed by Equinor and bp through their 50-50 strategic partnership in the US.
- Empire Wind is located 15-30 miles southeast of Long Island and spans 80,000 acres, with water depths of between approximately 75 and 135 feet. The lease was acquired in 2017. The projects two phases, Empire Wind 1 and 2, have a total installed capacity of more than 2 GW (816 + 1,260 MW). The project will be a major contributor to meeting New York State's ambitious clean energy and climate goals. When completed, Empire Wind 1 and 2 will power more than 1 million New York homes.
- For more information on Empire Wind, please visit www.EmpireWind.com.

About South Brooklyn Marine Terminal

- Equinor and bp are investing in port upgrades to help transform the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SBMT) into a world-class offshore wind staging and assembling facility and to become the operations and maintenance (O&M) base both for Equinor and other project developers going forward.
- SBMT will become one of the largest dedicated offshore wind port facilities in the United States at approximately 73 acres, with the capacity to accommodate wind turbine generator staging and assembly activities at the scale required by component manufacturers.
- SBMT is being redeveloped together with New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and terminal owner Sustainable South Brooklyn Marine Terminal (SSBMT). SSBMT is a joint venture of Red Hook Terminals and Industry City.

About bp

bp's ambition is to become a net zero company by 2050 or sooner, and to help the world get to net zero. bp is America's largest energy investor since 2005, investing more than \$130 billion in the economy and supporting about 230,000 additional jobs. For more information on bp in the US, visit www.bp.com/us.

Further information

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