

## Press release

# RWE and Saitec collaborate to commission enhanced environmental monitoring studies at DemoSATH floating offshore wind project

- **“DemoSATH Lab” initiative kicks-off enhanced environmental monitoring studies to gain better knowledge about underwater noise, bird detection and the interactions of marine life with the platform.**
- **The studies will be conducted on DemoSATH, a 2 MW operational floating offshore wind turbine installed 2 miles off the Spanish coastline.**

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The [DemoSATH](#) floating offshore wind turbine has been operational off the Basque coast since September 2023 and is providing first-hand insights into the challenges of operating floating wind turbines on the open sea. Now, Spanish engineering firm Saitec Offshore Technologies and global offshore wind player RWE have launched the "DemoSATH Lab" initiative to carry out further environmental monitoring studies around the demonstrator. The DemoSATH Lab research will study the platform's interactions with the environment focusing on the possible impact on birds, the emission of underwater noise and the interactions of marine life with the structure. The programme will last until at least the end of 2025 in order to span multiple seasons and weather conditions.

**Javier Del Real, Head of Environment and Stakeholder Engagement at Saitec Offshore Technologies:** “The knowledge acquired, based on the experience in DemoSATH Lab will allow Saitec Group to improve the ecological fit of SATH technology and develop floating offshore wind projects respectful to the marine environment”.

**Martin Dörnhöfer, Director of Floating Wind at RWE Offshore Wind GmbH:** “As a leading global offshore wind player, we are also pioneering in floating offshore wind. Through the DemoSATH project, we are gaining first-hand experience in the deployment and operations of floating offshore wind technology on the open sea. The DemoSATH Lab research will help us to increase our understanding of key biodiversity aspects of floating offshore wind turbines, such as underwater noise and bird interactions during operation. This will help us to ensure our future development of floating offshore wind is undertaken in coexistence with nature.”

## DemoSATH Lab research areas

**Bird interactions** – This research will use data from the DTBird monitoring system that is already installed at the DemoSATH platform. Its dual aims are to increase understanding of the interactions of birds with floating offshore wind turbines and foundations and to improve bird detection module algorithms and responses.

**Underwater noise** – A comprehensive underwater noise monitoring system has been set-up for the operational phase of DemoSATH. The outputs will be analysed in comparison to the baseline underwater noise profiles measured before the demonstrator was installed and during commissioning. This will increase understanding of operational underwater noise from floating wind installations and the overall impact on the noise landscape through the project lifetime. Additional information about the presence and behaviour of marine mammals around the structure may also be obtained.

**Monitoring of marine ecosystem biodiversity** – a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) will be deployed periodically to observe how marine life (such as invertebrates, fish and marine megafauna) interacts with the DemoSATH substructure, moorings, anchors and power cables within the local environment. These monitoring activities will provide insights into the presence, abundance and behaviour of fauna groups/species around the floating offshore wind turbine.

The **DemoSATH platform**, located 2 miles off the Basque coast at the Biscay Marine Energy Platform (BiMEP) testing area at Armintza, features a turbine with a capacity of 2 megawatts that was installed in September 2023. Its annual production is equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of approximately 2,000 Spanish households. As a result of this project, floating offshore wind technology was introduced into Spain's energy mix for the first time. The commissioning marked the beginning of a two-year operational period to gather data about the behaviour of the “Swinging Around Twin Hull” - SATH technology, developed by Saitec Offshore Technologies. The success of the project is due to the combined capabilities of its partners: Saitec Offshore Technologies, the designer of the SATH technology, and project developers RWE, with its extensive expertise in the offshore wind sector, and Kansai Electric Power Co. Inc. (KEPCO), with its experience in the energy market.

### For further enquiries:

Viola Baumann  
Press spokesperson  
RWE Offshore Wind GmbH  
T +49 (0) 201 5179 5404  
E [viola.baumann@rwe.com](mailto:viola.baumann@rwe.com)

Melisa Aparicio  
Marketing and Communications  
Saitec Offshore Technologies  
T +34 944 64 65 11  
E [melisaaparicio@saitec.es](mailto:melisaaparicio@saitec.es)

**Pictures of the DemoSATH project for media use** (credit: Saitec Offshore Technologies) are available at the [RWE Media Centre](#)

## **RWE**

RWE is leading the way to a green energy world. With its investment and growth strategy Growing Green, RWE is contributing significantly to the success of the energy transition and the decarbonisation of the energy system. Around 20,000 employees work for the company in almost 30 countries worldwide. RWE is already one of the leading companies in the field of renewable energy. Between 2024 and 2030, RWE will invest 55 billion euros worldwide in offshore and onshore wind, solar energy, batteries, flexible generation, and hydrogen projects. By the end of the decade, the company's green portfolio will grow to more than 65 gigawatts of generation capacity, which will be perfectly complemented by global energy trading. RWE is decarbonising its business in line with the 1.5-degree reduction pathway and will phase out coal by 2030. RWE will be net-zero by 2040. Fully in line with the company's purpose - Our energy for a sustainable life.

### **Forward-looking statements**

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