

BALEA

The project

Technology category: Wind energy

Location: Armintza, Bizkaia, Basque Country, Spain

Max. NER 300 funding: EUR 33.4 million

Final investment decision: June 2018 (estimated)

Entry into operation: June 2020

State of advancement

All efforts focused on ensuring the financial viability of the project.

Outlook for coming year

Ensure the financial viability of the project. Then, pre-construction design, studies and health & safety, permitting or procurement could be carried out.

Outlook for coming 5 years

As the financial viability issue is solved, all project phases should be covered without delay.

Project sponsor

EVE – Ente Vasco de la Energía

NER 300

Project summary

BALEA is an innovative demonstration project that consists of installing floating offshore platforms of four wind turbines (two of 8 MW and two of 5 MW) in front of the village of Armintza (Bizkaia-Basque Country) in the Cantabric Sea. This offshore wind farm will own a reduced visual impact and a much higher and more consistent wind resource than an onshore wind farm, due to the absence of topographic features that disrupt the wind flow.

The project is sponsored by EVE (Ente Vasco de la Energía, the Basque Energy Agency of the Basque Government) using GAMESA's wind turbines, with the support of Iberdrola and the cooperation from the Energy Cluster of the Basque Country, which represents a number of qualified suppliers of equipment and systems for the wind energy marketplace. The project's budget is EUR 114 million. Furthermore, it represents a pioneering floating offshore project in Spain that follows the path of floating offshore projects in other European countries, such as Norway and Portugal. Nevertheless, BALEA faces the challenge of using new-concept high-power wind turbines (> 5 MW).