

Invitation to market dialogue

Regarding the geophysical, geotechnical and environmental site investigations for the Energy Island in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea

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Discussion Paper

Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	About the Energy Islands	3
3	Participation in the dialogue	4
4	Questions on site investigations	5

Danish Energy Agency

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1 Introduction

The Danish Energy Agency (DEA) invites potential tenderers and relevant market operators to participate in the written market dialogue on the geophysical, geotechnical and environmental site investigations for the Energy Islands in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea

Based on political agreements on location and site investigations, Energinet is – on behalf of DEA and the Ministry of Climate and Energy – undertaking site investigations for the energy islands in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. The results from the site investigations are expected to inform future tenders of energy islands, and decrease risk.

This market dialogue will be an opportunity for the market and potential tenderers to provide feedback, input and recommendations on the main elements of the site investigations and the time schedule for these. Energinet, who will undertake the site investigations, has prepared a memo outlining the planned activities. This document includes background information on the current status for the planning of the energy islands, as well as questions pertaining to the themes in the memo from Energinet.

The discussion paper is based on initial investigations and planning assumptions. Whilst the DEA is confident in describing the principal outline of the coming project and processes, it must be recognised that the project remains a work in progress and that changes may occur.

For more information on the DEA tender, please visit our website: <https://ens.dk/en/our-responsibilities/wind-power/energy-islands> .

We look forward to receiving your feedback.

Danish Energy Agency

2 About the Energy Islands

With the Climate Agreement for Energy and Industry of 22 June 2020¹, a broad majority of the Danish Parliament decided to initiate the realisation of an artificial island in the North Sea (in the following the “Energy Island”). The Energy Island will be the beginning of a new era for future development of Danish offshore wind.

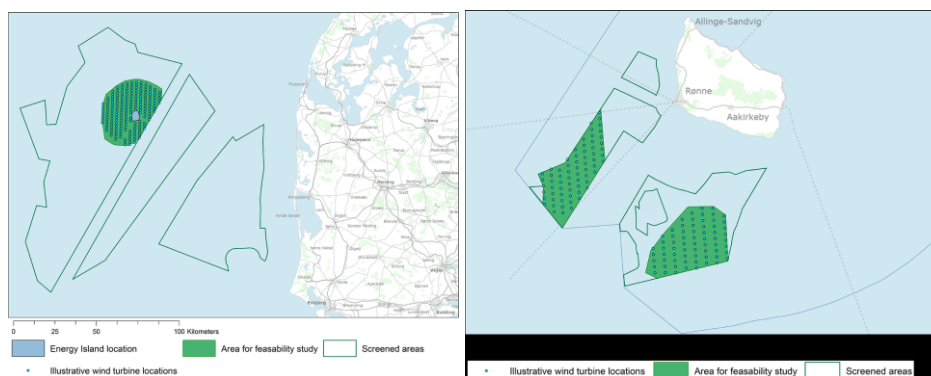
Where the designation “Energy Island Project” is used, it refers to the project as a whole, including the artificial island, the power transmission network, the offshore wind farms and other potential activities.

The Energy Island location in the Baltic Sea will be up to 2 GW offshore wind power, connected to the existing island of Bornholm. The offshore wind farms are expected to be located south and south-west of Bornholm.

The Energy Island located in the North Sea must have an area large enough to handle an initial capacity of 3 GW offshore wind power. As the construction of new international connections to neighbouring countries develop, the size of the island may be expanded in order to increase the scaled offshore wind power. In the future, the island should be able to receive and transmit up to 10 GW offshore wind power. The parties behind the Climate Agreement have in February 2021² decided that the Energy Island in the North Sea should be an artificial island that will connect and distribute power from the surrounding offshore wind farms.

Location and site investigations

The parties behind the Climate Agreement have designated an area for the location of the Energy Island and offshore wind farms in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea, and they have agreed to begin the preliminary investigations for the Energy Island and offshore wind farms.



¹ [https://en.kefm.dk/Media/C/B/faktaark-klimaaftale%20\(English%20august%2014\).pdf](https://en.kefm.dk/Media/C/B/faktaark-klimaaftale%20(English%20august%2014).pdf)

² [Aftaletekst - Energiløser - Ejerskab og konstruktion af energiløser mv.pdf \(kefm.dk\)](#) – only available in Danish

The Danish transmission system operator (TSO), Energinet³ has thus initiated the preliminary investigations of the area in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. The preliminary investigations are the first steps towards the realisation of the Energy Islands and include geophysical (e.g. sonar studies where the seabed is screened) and geotechnical studies (e.g. drillings into the seabed) as well as environmental studies (e.g. fish, birds and benthic animals).

3 Participation in the dialogue

The market dialog on site investigations will only be in writing, and there will no physical or virtual dialogue meetings via Skype.

The DEA encourages all relevant market operators and potential tenderers to submit written recommendations and answers to the questions raised by the DEA in this “Discussion Paper”. Please be precise and to the point in your written answers. A summary of your main recommendations should be included in your reply.

Written recommendations shall be submitted by e-mail to energyislands@ens.dk. In the answer in the market dialogue, please provide a brief introduction to your business(es) and state why you are interested in this project.

Indicative timetable for the market dialogue

23 June 2021	This “Discussion Paper” will be available on Energy island in the North Sea Energistyrelsen (ens.dk)
6 August 2021	Deadline for submission of written answers and recommendations.

If potential tenderers request confidentiality of certain information for competition reasons, the DEA will be able to meet such requests, provided that they do not infringe the obligations of the Freedom of Information Act (Access to Public Administration Files Act), the Danish Public Administration Act and the Environmental Information Act and the Public Procurement rules, in particular the principles of equal treatment and transparency. Information received will under no circumstances be used in any way to provide competitive advantages to a single market player.

³ [About Energinet | Energinet](#)

4 Questions on site investigations

4.1 Planned site investigations

Energinet, who will undertake the site investigations, has prepared a memo outlining the planned activities. This memo is published alongside this discussion paper, and contains the following sections:

1. Background
2. Energy Island North Sea – MetOcean
3. Energy Island North Sea – seabed investigations
4. Environmental Assessments
5. Planned time schedule

The DEA has granted a permit for the planned site investigations in the North Sea, which includes further details on the site investigations (only available in Danish)⁴. Future permits for e.g. site investigations in the Baltic Sea will be published on the same web page.

4.2 Questions:

The DEA would like to invite the market to comment on the following

- *Do you see a need to include further parameters or themes to the geophysical, geotechnical and environmental site investigations for you to participate in the tenders for the Energy Island Project?*
- *Is the planned duration of site investigations appropriate for the specific topics?*
- *Is the scope for MetOcean and seabed investigations appropriate?*
- *Would you expect to undertake additional site surveys prior to future tender and/or construction of an artificial island or offshore wind farms?*

⁴ https://ens.dk/sites/ens.dk/files/Energioer/forundersoegelsestilladelse_for_omraadet_for_energieoeg_og_havvind_i_nordsoeen.pdf