

PRESS RELEASE

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Aquitania Wind Energy, a major offshore wind project led by the ports of Nouvelle-Aquitaine - France

With support from the Regional Council and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the four commercial ports of Nouvelle-Aquitaine are jointly launching Aquitania Wind Energy – a large-scale project aimed at developing the port infrastructure needed to support the offshore wind industry. This is a strategic investment with high stakes and substantial regional socio-economic benefits.

A project with bold ambitions...

The Aquitania Wind Energy (AWE) project aligns with national and European goals for energy transition, including the European Green Deal and France's National Low-Carbon Strategy. France is positioning itself as a major player in renewable energy, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 and reach 45 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2050, including at least 7 GW in Nouvelle-Aquitaine, contributing to 20% of national electricity production.

With a 720-kilometre coastline and strategically located ports, Nouvelle-Aquitaine holds significant potential for the development of floating offshore wind, a key sector for harnessing energy from deep sea areas. AWE seeks to meet these objectives through modern, sector-specific port infrastructure. The goal is to create an integrated and competitive port network capable of handling large-scale operations—from the assembly of floating platforms to the maintenance of offshore wind farms.

...pursuing multiple objectives...

AWE aims to meet environmental, economic, technical and organisational objectives.

The environmental goals include reducing CO₂ emissions by promoting sustainable, renewable energy, while implementing best practices to minimise impact on marine ecosystems. Existing infrastructure will be adapted to limit ecological disruption.

To meet its economic targets, the project will create 650 construction jobs and 160 permanent roles in operations and maintenance between 2026 and 2040. This will stimulate the regional economy and generate local economic benefits.

The technical objectives include developing port logistics and infrastructure tailored to the specific needs of floating offshore wind farms, including facilities for receiving, integrating, and shipping massive industrial components.

Organisational objectives include establishing effective operational synergy through clear distribution of industrial and logistics roles among the ports, governed collaboratively by the partners.

...driven by complementary partners

Coordinated by Port Atlantique La Rochelle, AWE is backed by a strategically aligned consortium, with each partner leveraging its infrastructure and expertise for a specific role.

Running from 2026 to 2034, the project involves major port sites in Bayonne (Tarnos), Bordeaux (Le Verdon-sur-Mer), Rochefort, and La Rochelle (Anse Saint- Marc / La Repentie). Infrastructure will be upgraded to meet the specific needs of floating offshore wind operations:

- Production and export of steel components for floating platforms and other parts in Bayonne;
- Assembly and launch of steel or concrete floating platforms in Bordeaux;
- Integration of turbines onto floating platforms, storage of masts, blades and turbines, and offshore wind farm maintenance in La Rochelle;
- Storage and shipment of anchoring equipment (anchors, chains) in Rochefort.

This infrastructure will ensure efficient industrial and logistical operations, incorporating innovative solutions to reduce environmental impacts and boost competitiveness.

The consortium is further strengthened by support from regional institutions and industrial partners, ensuring effective governance and optimal synergies.

JD Lamy for Port Atlantique La Rochelle



Bordeaux Port



Port of Bayonne



Port Rochefort Charente Atlantique

A significant investment...

The total budget for AWE is €207.8 million, with €129 million in public funding expected. The investments will be used to upgrade the port infrastructure while maximising economic and social benefits for the region. To fund the project, the four commercial ports of Nouvelle-Aquitaine submitted a joint proposal on 31 January 2025 to the ADEME call for projects on port infrastructure for the floating wind industry: [« Infrastructures portuaires métropolitaines pour l'industrie de l'éolien flottant »](#).

...with major socio-economic benefits

According to a 2025 Innosea study on the calls for tender AO7, AO9, AO10*, €2.2 billion in added value will be generated in Nouvelle-Aquitaine over 15 years thanks to AWE. The project will energise the regional industrial landscape and support the creation of a full floating wind value chain. Already, 165 Nouvelle-Aquitaine companies have declared their involvement in the offshore wind market, with 56 reporting revenue from related activities.

During construction (2026-2034), 200 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs will be generated across the participating ports. On average, from 2026 to 2040, the region will see the annual creation of 1,700 FTEs for operations and maintenance—most of them skilled local positions. AWE will also promote vocational training and help upskill the regional workforce.

Aquitania Wind Energy offers a genuine opportunity for Nouvelle-Aquitaine to establish itself as a key player in the floating wind sector—driving the energy transition, boosting regional economic growth, and supporting environmental sustainability.

*The invitations to tender (AO) for the construction of the wind farms planned in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region are as follows:

Oléron 1 (AO7): Fixed-bottom wind farm, capacity 1 to 1.2 GW, over 39 km from the coast, spanning 180 km²;

Oléron 2 (AO9): Fixed-bottom or floating wind farm, capacity 1 to 1.2 GW, over 40 km from the coast, spanning 250 km²;

Southern Bay of Biscay (AO10): Floating wind farm, capacity 1.2 GW, spanning 250 km².

Port Atlantique La Rochelle

As the only deep-water port on France's Atlantic coast, the Port of La Rochelle offers a wide range of maritime and logistics services. It accommodates the majority of large vessels year-round and handles a versatile and diverse flow of goods. As a hub for onshore wind turbines for over 15 years, it has already played a successful role in assembling the fixed-bottom offshore wind farms at Saint-Nazaire and Yeu-Noirmoutier.

"Key Player in Offshore Wind Power": <https://youtu.be/5t67Z6jIV7o?si=H0uiraOVJLvVTouA>

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Bordeaux Port

An estuary port with seven specialised terminals, the Atlantic Port of Bordeaux brings its expertise to bear in service of local industries and stakeholders. Its widely recognised proficiency across a broad range of sectors ensures efficient logistics and global market access for the regional economy. The Port of Bordeaux plays an active role in the decarbonisation process by investing in innovative logistics models and supporting its industrial ecosystem as part of a ZIBAC (low carbon) project, while also promoting the development of marine renewable energy.

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Port of Bayonne

A maritime gateway between France and the Iberian Peninsula, the commercial port of Bayonne holds a key position within the Atlantic port network. Its cross-border location, at the heart of a highly industrialised area, makes it an essential hub for European and international trade. As a driver of regional economic vitality, it unites a range of initiatives aimed at advancing the energy transition and decarbonisation across the wider area. With a dense industrial base, including two rolling mills, the Port of Bayonne will focus on manufacturing components while minimising its impact on the city.

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Port Charente Atlantique

The Port Charente Atlantique is a local port supporting business and industry in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region. It handles a wide range of goods traffic with agility, flexibility, and adaptability across its two sites: Rochefort and Tonnay-Charente. As a stakeholder in the "Territoires d'Industrie" agreement of Rochefort, the Port Charente Atlantique is preparing to host marine renewable energy activities while working to decarbonise port operations.

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