

From Strategy to Action: Building the Future of Floating Offshore Wind

i3float

Project facts

I3FLOAT is a three-year European project funded under the Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Instrument that brings together 24 partners from eight regions across six European countries. Its mission is to strengthen Europe's floating offshore wind value chain by accelerating the market uptake of innovative technologies, fostering interregional collaboration and supporting SMEs through innovation services, strategic innovation planning and cascade funding. By connecting regional ecosystems with different levels of innovation maturity, I3FLOAT aims to reinforce Europe's industrial competitiveness and position the floating offshore wind sector for large-scale deployment.

Editorial

Dear readers,

Welcome to the second edition of the I3FLOAT newsletter.

Since the launch of the project, I3FLOAT has entered a key implementation phase. Over the past months, partners have worked together to build the foundations for innovation investments across Europe's floating offshore wind value chain. One of the most significant milestones has been the development and publication of the Floating Offshore Wind Strategic Innovation Agenda,the result of a collaborative process involving over 400 representatives from 195 organisations across the European floating offshore wind ecosystem. Their contributions helped identify, validate and prioritise 44 Innovation Lines, organised into 7 Strategic Innovation Areas and 20 Subareas, reflecting the sector's main technological, industrial and operational needs.

This strategic work has now translated into concrete opportunities for SMEs. On 7 September 2026, the first I3FLOAT Open Call opened for applications, with a total budget of €2.52 million to support near-to-market technological solutions for the floating offshore wind sector. Through financial support and complementary advisory services, I3FLOAT aims to accelerate innovation time-to-market while strengthening interregional collaboration and SME participation across the European floating offshore wind value chain.

In this edition, we invite you to discover these latest developments and the progress achieved across I3FLOAT, from the Floating Offshore Wind Strategic Innovation Agenda and the first Open Call to the project's technological demonstrations, advisory structures and growing interregional innovation ecosystem.

The I3FLOAT Consortium

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The Floating Offshore Wind Strategic Innovation Agenda

A shared roadmap for innovation in Europe's floating offshore wind sector

One of the major milestones achieved by I3FLOAT has been the publication of the **Floating Offshore Wind Strategic Innovation Agenda**, a comprehensive framework identifying the main technological and industrial innovation needs of Europe's floating offshore wind sector.

Developed during the first half of 2026, the Agenda aims to serve as a **strategic reference for industry, technology developers, research organisations and policymakers**, helping align innovation efforts with market needs and supporting the transition towards large-scale commercial deployment.

The Agenda covers the entire floating offshore wind lifecycle, identifying and prioritising technological innovations with the greatest potential to improve industrial competitiveness, reduce costs and accelerate market uptake.

A truly collaborative process

The Agenda is the result of an extensive participatory process involving **over 400 representatives from 195 organisations** across the European floating offshore wind ecosystem, bringing together industry, research institutions, public authorities and regional innovation stakeholders.

The process was structured around three complementary stages:

1. Identification of innovation needs | January–February 2026

Starting from existing roadmaps and sectoral studies, eight regional workshops brought together stakeholders to identify the main technological challenges and innovation needs facing floating offshore wind.



2. Characterisation of Innovation Lines | March–April 2026

An online participatory consultation enabled stakeholders to review, refine and further develop the identified Innovation Lines, collecting **121 contributions**.

3. Prioritisation of Innovation Lines | May–June 2026

A second online consultation assessed the Innovation Lines according to their technical- industrial viability and expected impact on cost reduction, gathering **2,111 assessments**.

This collective effort has provided I3FLOAT with a shared, evidence-based framework to guide future innovation activities and investments across the European floating offshore guide future innovation activities and investments across the European floating offshore wind value chain.

400+	195	16	2,111
representatives	organisations	regional workshops	assessments

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From collective knowledge to strategic innovation priorities

105 Innovation Lines covering the entire floating offshore wind lifecycle

The Floating Offshore Wind Strategic Innovation Agenda translates the needs identified by the European floating offshore wind ecosystem into a structured framework comprising **7 Strategic Innovation Areas, 20 Subareas and 105 Innovation Lines**.

These areas cover the complete lifecycle of floating offshore wind projects, from initial design and construction to industrialisation, offshore installation, operation, maintenance and decommissioning.

Each Innovation Line is presented through a dedicated technical factsheet, providing information on its objectives, technological maturity, proposed actions, validation needs and expected results.

This structure offers companies, research organisations and technology developers a comprehensive overview of the innovation opportunities and technological challenges facing the sector.

Identifying the highest-priority Innovation Lines

To determine where innovation efforts could deliver the greatest impact, the 105 Innovation Lines were assessed against two main criteria:

Technical-industrial viability: the feasibility of developing and implementing the proposed innovation.

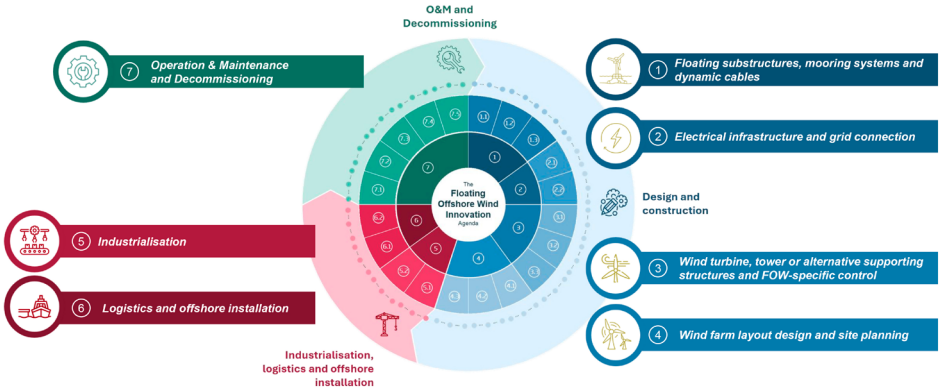
Expected impact on cost reduction: its potential contribution to improving the economic competitiveness of floating offshore wind.

The assessment resulted in five Priority Levels (PL1–PL5), reflecting the relative strategic importance of each Innovation Line.

A total of 44 Innovation Lines were classified within the two highest priority levels (PL1 and PL2), representing the technological priorities considered most relevant for accelerating the industrial deployment and competitiveness of floating offshore wind.

These 44 prioritised lines provide the basis for the **Open Challenges included in the first I3FLOAT Open Call**, connecting the strategic priorities identified by the sector with concrete opportunities for SME-led innovation.

Covering the complete floating wind lifecycle



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Key findings and strategic impact of the Innovation Agenda

Supporting the industrial deployment of floating offshore wind in Europe

Beyond identifying technological challenges, the Floating Offshore Wind Strategic Innovation Agenda provides valuable insights into the innovation priorities that will shape the future competitiveness of Europe's floating offshore wind sector. The assessment of the 105 Innovation Lines highlights four key strategic conclusions:

1. Floating offshore wind is entering a new phase of industrial maturity

The sector is moving from technology demonstration towards commercial-scale deployment. Future competitiveness will increasingly depend on industrialising mature solutions, scaling manufacturing processes and improving standardisation, repeatability and operational efficiency.

2. Competitiveness will depend on coordinated innovation across the value chain

Cost reduction requires an integrated approach across system design, manufacturing, installation, operation and maintenance. Strengthening collaboration between industry stakeholders will be essential to optimise interactions across the value chain rather than individual technologies in isolation.

3. Technology validation should increasingly demonstrate industrial value

Beyond technical performance, innovative solutions must demonstrate their manufacturability, scalability and ability to deliver measurable economic benefits. Validation should increasingly focus on how technologies can be integrated into industrial processes and deployed under commercial operating conditions.

4. A shared strategic direction for the future of floating offshore wind

The Agenda provides a common framework to align innovation priorities, guide investment and strengthen collaboration between industry, research organisations, public authorities and funding bodies, supporting the long-term competitiveness of European floating offshore wind.

From strategic priorities to innovation opportunities

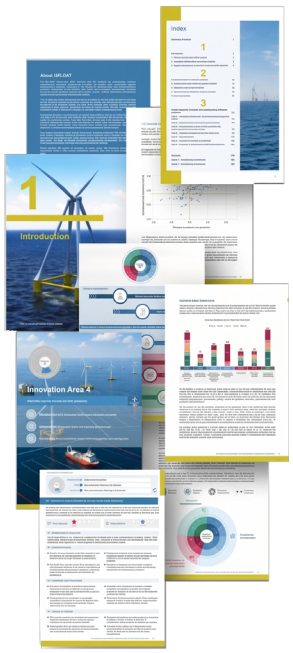
The Agenda is designed to support decision-making across the floating offshore wind ecosystem, helping companies align their R&D and investment strategies, guiding research organisations towards priority innovation needs and providing policymakers with a common framework for future innovation support.

Within I3FLOAT, these strategic priorities are already being translated into concrete opportunities through the **first Open Call**, which includes 44 Open Challenges corresponding to the highest-priority Innovation Lines, alongside 11 Specific Challenges addressing technological needs identified by industry.

By connecting strategic analysis with innovation funding, I3FLOAT aims to accelerate the development and market uptake of technological solutions while strengthening Europe's floating offshore wind value chain.

Discover the final Floating Offshore Wind Strategic Innovation Agenda.

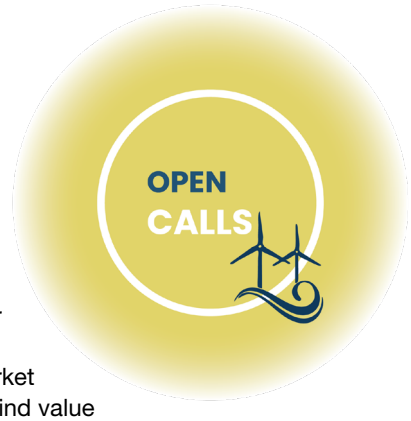




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The first I3FLOAT Open Call

Turning strategic priorities into funding opportunities



The **first I3FLOAT Open Call is now open**, providing €2.52 million in financial support for SMEs developing innovative technological solutions for the floating offshore wind sector. The call is designed to accelerate the commercialisation of technologies approaching market readiness (**TRL 6–8**) while strengthening collaboration across Europe's floating offshore wind value chain.

Building directly on the **Floating Offshore Wind Strategic Innovation Agenda** and on concrete technological needs identified by industry. The call addresses Specific Challenges and Open Challenges. Funding is initially foreseen for one eligible, above-threshold proposal for each of the 11 Specific Challenge and up to 10 projects addressing Open Challenges.

Interregional collaboration is an important component of the call. Projects may be submitted by **one SME or by two SMEs from different eligible regions**, with particular attention to strengthening participation from Europe's Less Developed Regions (LDRs). Projects involving at least one SME established in an LDR will receive additional points during the evaluation process.

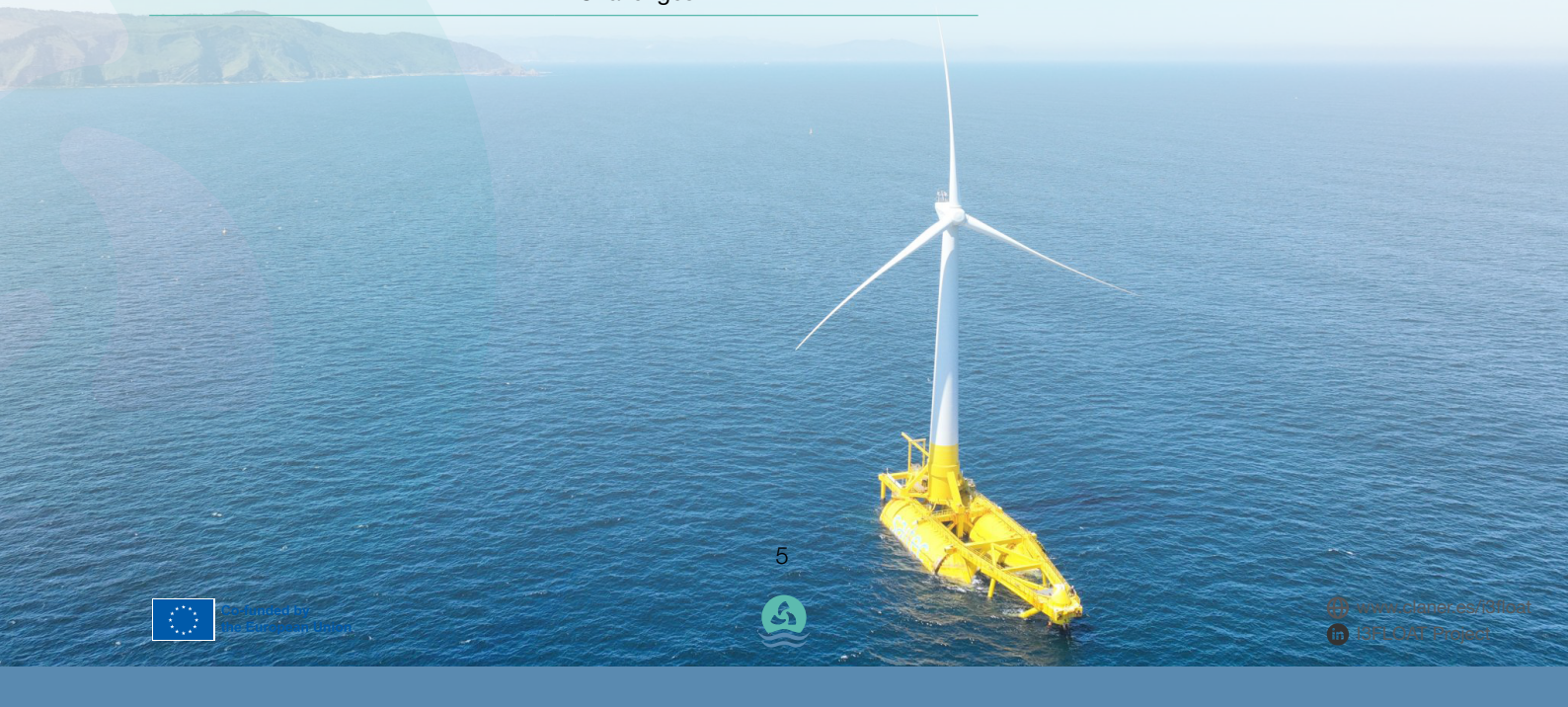
Key figures

Opening date	7 September 2026, 10:00 CEST
Submission deadline	10 November 2026, 17:00 CET
Available budget	€2.52 million
Target applicants	SMEs developing technological solutions for floating offshore wind
Technology maturity	TRL 6–8
Maximum grant per SME	€60,000
Maximum funding per project	€120,000 for projects involving two SMEs from different eligible regions
Project duration	Up to 12 months
Funded Challenges	10 Open Challenges + 11 Specific Challenges

Who can apply?

The call is open to SMEs meeting the eligibility criteria established in the **I3FLOAT Submission Toolkit**.

Applicants are encouraged to consult the **Submission Toolkit and its annexes**, particularly Annex 4 (List of I3FLOAT Open Call Eligible Regions), to verify their eligibility and review all application requirements before submitting their proposals.



Two complementary funding pathways

Specific Challenges

11 Specific Challenges address concrete technological needs identified by I3FLOAT Challenge Owners, including Floating Foundation Developers (Saitec, Eolink and EnerOcean), technology suppliers (Aventa, Core Marine, Geodis and Tetrace) and members of the I3 Advisory Board (EDF Power Solutions, Iberdrola, Navantia Seanergies, and Qair).

Applicants are invited to propose solutions responding to one of these defined challenges.

One proposal per Specific Challenge may be funded, provided it meets the eligibility requirements and evaluation threshold.

Open Challenges

The **Open Challenges** correspond to the 44 prioritised Innovation Lines identified in the Floating Offshore Wind Strategic Innovation Agenda.

They allow SMEs to propose innovative technological solutions aligned with the sector's strategic priorities.

Up to 10 projects addressing Open Challenges will be funded under the first Open Call, subject to the selection conditions established in the Submission Toolkit.

Innovation Areas covered by the Open Challenges

The 44 prioritised Innovation Lines cover **six Innovation Areas**:

- Floating substructures, mooring systems and dynamic cables.
- Electrical infrastructure and grid connection.
- Wind turbine, tower or alternative supporting structures and FOW-specific control.
- Industrialisation.
- Logistics and offshore installation.
- Operation, Maintenance and Decommissioning.

Beyond funding

Selected SMEs will also benefit from additional support services offered by I3FLOAT clusters, including:

Networking & Scale-Up Support: Market studies, networking missions and participation in offshore wind events.

Financial Advisory Services: Guidance on European and national funding opportunities, access to investors and business planning.

Valorisation Services: Support for business model development, intellectual property management, stakeholder mapping, communication and pitching.
These services are provided free of charge, although travel and subsistence expenses are not directly covered by I3FLOAT.

Ready to apply?
Applications must be submitted **in English through the Goodgrants platform** by **10 November 2026 at 17:00 CET**.
Applicants should consult the **Submission Toolkit**, including the full eligibility criteria and the lists of Open and Specific Challenges, before submitting their proposal.

Explore the 1st I3FLOAT Open Call and access all application materials.
A second I3FLOAT Open Call is foreseen for April 2027, creating additional opportunities for SMEs to join theproject.

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EnerOcean

Making floating offshore wind smarter through advanced monitoring

One of the major challenges facing floating offshore wind is ensuring the long-term reliability of floating platforms operating in harsh offshore environments. Continuous exposure to waves, corrosion, fatigue loads and marine growth makes structural monitoring essential for reducing maintenance costs, extending asset lifetime and improving operational safety.

Within I3FLOAT, the EnerOcean pilot is developing a new generation of monitoring technologies capable of providing continuous information on the condition of floating offshore wind systems throughout their entire lifecycle. By combining advanced numerical modelling, monitoring and artificial intelligence, the pilot aims to support more efficient operation and maintenance strategies while increasing the reliability of floating wind assets.

Two complementary innovations

The pilot is centred around two complementary technological innovations.

Component-Level Full Lifecycle Health Monitoring focuses on monitoring the structural behaviour of critical components during every phase of the asset lifecycle, including manufacturing, assembly, load-out, towing, installation and operation. Advanced simulations, fatigue assessments and monitoring architectures are being developed to predict structural degradation and optimise maintenance decisions before failures occur.



The second innovation, Comprehensive Multilevel Underwater Structures Monitoring, applies artificial intelligence and computer vision to automate underwater inspections. The system is designed to identify corrosion, biofouling, coating degradation and structural defects with high accuracy, reducing inspection time while improving the quality and consistency of maintenance operations.

Partners driving the innovation

The pilot is led by EnerOcean, working closely with CoreMarine and EONSEA, whose expertise in offshore engineering, numerical modelling, monitoring and inspection technologies supports the development and validation of the proposed solutions throughout the project.

Expected impact

By improving maintenance strategies and intelligent underwater inspection, the EnerOcean pilot is expected to reduce operational risks, lower operation and maintenance costs, extend the service life of floating offshore wind assets and improve the overall bankability of floating wind projects. These innovations will contribute to making floating offshore wind more competitive and commercially attractive in global markets.

Pilot at a glance

Challenge

- Improve the reliability and lifetime of floating offshore wind assets.

Key innovations

- Full Lifecycle Health Monitoring
- AI-based Underwater Monitoring

Main partners

- EnerOcean
- CoreMarine
- EONSEA

Expected impact

- Improvements in maintenance strategies
- Reduced O&M costs
- Higher asset reliability
- Increased competitiveness of floating offshore wind

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Selected European funding opportunities

HORIZON EUROPE								
Cluster	**Topic Code**	**Title**	**Total Budget (€M)**	**EU Contribution per Project (€M)**	**Opening**	**Deadline**	**Link / Detailed Brief Summary**	**Link**
CL5	HORIZON-CL5-2026-11-D3-06	Resource assessment for deep sedimentary reservoirs	18.0	~4.5	04 Aug 2026	01 Dec 2026	Focus on offshore geological characterisation. Knowledge transferable to seabed anchoring systems, foundation stability and marine site assessment for floating wind farms.	
CL5	HORIZON-CL5-2026-11-D3-23	Data sharing to support the training and development of AI foundation models in the energy sector	30.0	~10.0	04 Aug 2026	01 Dec 2026	Development of AI energy models. Applicable to floating wind forecasting, optimisation and energy market integration.	
CL5	HORIZON-CL5-2027-02-D3-09	Wave and tidal energy technologies	134.0	~6-8	Expected in 2027	Expected in 2027	Marine renewable innovation. Engineering synergies in floating structures, mooring systems, marine operations and hybrid offshore platforms (wind + wave).	
CL4	HORIZON-CL4-2027-01-MAT-PROD-03	Factory processes and automation for de- and re-manufacturing	36.0	5-6.5	22 Sept 2026	02 Feb 2027	Circular manufacturing and remanufacturing systems. Supports lifecycle extension of floating platforms and turbine components.	
CL6	HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV-07	Health of ecosystems and wild species, predictions and impacts on human health, in the face of existing and emerging stressors, from a One Health approach	14.0	~7.0	20 Apr 2027	22 Sept 2027	Biodiversity and ecosystem monitoring. Supports sustainable floating wind deployment and improved permitting frameworks.	

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I3 Advisory Board

Bringing industry leadership into innovation

One of the key strengths of the I3FLOAT project is the active involvement of leading industrial companies throughout the innovation process.

The **I3 Advisory Board** brings together major European developers, utilities and offshore wind companies to provide strategic guidance, validate the project's technical direction and ensure that innovation activities respond to real market needs. Their expertise helps bridge the gap between research, technology development and future commercial deployment, reinforcing I3FLOAT's objective of accelerating innovation time-to-market.

Beyond providing strategic advice, the I3 Advisory Board has played an important role in shaping the I3FLOAT innovation framework. Its members contributed to the definition of industrial **Specific Challenges** and provided market-oriented input during the development of the **Floating Offshore Wind Strategic Innovation Agenda**, helping ensure that the project's innovation priorities reflect concrete technological and industrial needs.

Members of the I3 Advisory Board

EDF power solutions · elicio · FLOTATION ENERGY · Iberdrola · DJN JAN DE NUL · Navantia SEANERGIES · OW OCEAN WINDS · Qair · EIFFAGE SMULDERS

I3 Advisory Board meets the Pilot Hubs Online meeting | June 2026

On 30 June 2026, the first joint meeting between the I3 Advisory Board and the four I3FLOAT Pilot Hubs marked an important milestone in the project's collaborative approach.

During the online session, the Floating Foundation Developers (FFDs), together with their technology suppliers, presented the progress achieved across the four demonstration pilots. The presentations covered innovations including advanced materials, digital twins, structural health monitoring, manufacturing processes, logistics optimisation and advanced mooring systems.



Representatives from the I3 Advisory Board participated actively in the discussions, providing valuable industrial perspectives and identifying the pilot developments they intend to follow more closely throughout the project. This continuous dialogue between technology developers and future market adopters helps ensure that the innovations supported by I3FLOAT respond to real industrial challenges and have a clear pathway towards commercial deployment.

As the project progresses, the I3 Advisory Board will continue supporting the consortium by providing strategic industry guidance, contributing to the development of future Specific Challenges, following the progress of the Pilot Hubs and strengthening collaboration between industry, innovation actors and SMEs.

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I3FLOAT at Europe's leading offshore wind events

Bringing innovation, collaboration and funding opportunities to the European floating wind community

During the first months of the project, I3FLOAT has built a strong presence at Europe's leading offshore wind events, using these international platforms to engage with industry leaders, research organisations, public authorities and SMEs. These events have played a strategic role in promoting the project, presenting the collaborative process behind the **Floating Offshore Wind Strategic Innovation Agenda** and engaging the European innovation ecosystem ahead of the launch of the first I3FLOAT Open Call.



Floating Offshore Wind Turbines (FOWT) 2026
Montpellier, France | March 2026

As one of the world's leading conferences dedicated exclusively to floating offshore wind, FOWT provided an ideal platform to present I3FLOAT to the international offshore wind community.

BASQUENERGY Cluster, coordinator of the I3FLOAT project, and Pôle Mer Méditerranée co-organised a dedicated workshop entitled **"The power of interregional collaboration to develop innovation investments on floating wind"**, introducing the project and presenting the collaborative process behind the Floating Offshore Wind Strategic Innovation Agenda.

The workshop also featured a roundtable discussion with representatives from **EDF Power Solutions, Ocean Winds and Qair**, acting as I3FLOAT Challenge Owners, who shared their perspectives on the sector's technological challenges and innovation needs.



WindEurope Annual Event 2026
Madrid, Spain | April 2026

WindEurope, Europe's largest wind energy conference and exhibition, represented another major dissemination milestone for I3FLOAT.

The project organised an official conference session entitled **"Addressing innovation bottlenecks in floating wind: opportunities for the Spanish value chain"**, moderated by Marcos Suárez (BASQUENERGY Cluster). The panel brought together representatives from **Navantia Seanergies, Iberdrola** and the **Government of the Canary Islands** to discuss the technological, industrial and regulatory challenges shaping the future of floating offshore wind.

The session also highlighted the progress of the Floating Offshore Wind Strategic Innovation Agenda and presented how the Prioritised Innovation Lines would provide the basis for the Open Challenges to be addressed by SMEs through the first I3FLOAT Open Call.

Beyond the conference programme, I3FLOAT was showcased throughout the exhibition at the stands of BASQUENERGY Cluster and SAITEC, with numerous consortium partners engaging with companies, investors and policymakers from across Europe, further strengthening the project's visibility within the European floating offshore wind ecosystem.

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Expanding the I3FLOAT innovation community

Connecting with stakeholders across Europe

Alongside its participation in Europe's flagship offshore wind conferences, I3FLOAT has continued engaging regional ecosystems through specialised events, workshops and networking activities. These initiatives have helped introduce the project to new stakeholders, strengthen collaboration across participating regions and prepare SMEs to engage with the funding opportunities now available through I3FLOAT.

PSEW 2026 ŚwinoujŚcie Poland June 2026



During Poland's largest wind energy conference, the Wind Industry Hub organised the second I3FLOAT Regional Workshop for West Pomerania. The event presented the outcomes of the **Floating Offshore Wind Strategic Innovation Agenda**, including the Prioritised Innovation Lines, and introduced the first I3FLOAT Open Call ahead of its launch, highlighting the funding opportunities that would become available for SMEs, particularly those located in Less Developed Regions.

Mediterranean Blue Economy Conference Ravenna, Italy June 2026



I3FLOAT was also presented during the Sustainable Blue Economy through Transformative Innovation Conference, organised in Ravenna by Cluster BIG. Bringing together representatives from industry, research organisations and public authorities, the event provided an opportunity to position floating offshore wind within the wider Blue Economy strategy and to showcase the **Floating Offshore Wind Strategic Innovation Agenda** and its Prioritised Innovation Lines, while introducing the first I3FLOAT Open Call ahead of its launch to a broader maritime innovation community.

New pilot infographics showcase innovation across the I3FLOAT ecosystem

To increase the visibility of its demonstration activities, I3FLOAT published a series of four infographics presenting each of the project's Pilot Hubs: SAITEC, EOLINK, EnerOcean and MULTI. engineering.

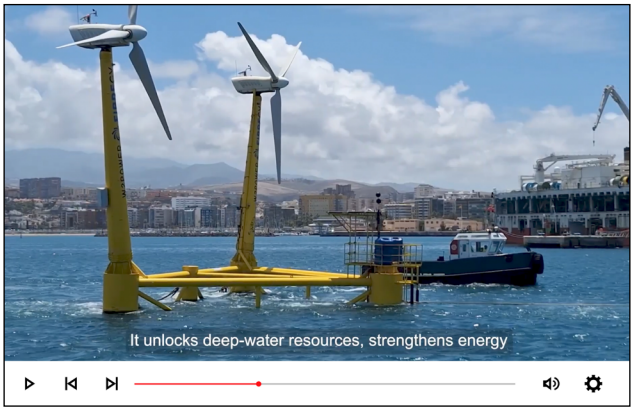
The infographics provide an overview of the technological challenges addressed by each pilot, the innovative solutions under development and the collaboration between Floating Foundation Developers and their technology suppliers. Together, they illustrate how I3FLOAT is advancing innovation in areas such as structural monitoring, industrialisation, digital twins, manufacturing, logistics and offshore infrastructure.



I3FLOAT launches its official project video

To further raise awareness of the project and its objectives, I3FLOAT launched its official project video, presenting the initiative's vision, strategic goals and expected impact on Europe's floating offshore wind sector.

The video explains how the project brings together 24 partners from eight European regions to strengthen the floating offshore wind value chain through interregional innovation investments, support services for SMEs and collaboration across regional innovation ecosystems.

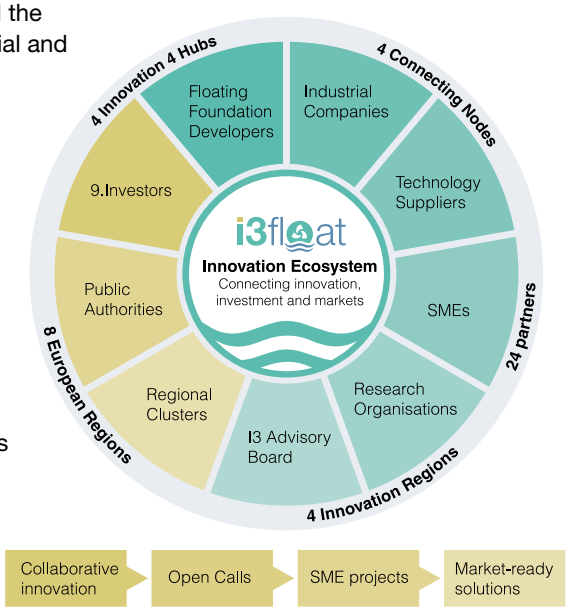


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Meet the I3FLOAT Innovation Ecosystem

Connecting regions, technologies and markets across Europe

I3FLOAT brings together 24 partners from eight European regions to create a connected innovation ecosystem for floating offshore wind. Its structure combines four Innovation Hubs, where near-to-market technological solutions are being developed and demonstrated, with four Connecting Nodes that support knowledge transfer, stakeholder engagement and the replication of innovation across regions with different levels of industrial and technological maturity.



The ecosystem connects floating foundation developers, technology suppliers, SMEs, research organisations, regional clusters, public authorities and industrial stakeholders. Through this collaborative framework, technological expertise, infrastructure, market knowledge and investment opportunities can be shared across regional and national borders.

The first I3FLOAT Open Call is expected to further expand this ecosystem by enabling new SMEs to join the project and develop solutions addressing the Specific Challenges identified by industry and the Open Challenges derived from the Prioritised Innovation Lines of the **Floating Offshore Wind Strategic Innovation Agenda**.

Why an interregional approach?

Floating offshore wind requires capabilities that are rarely concentrated within a single company or region. Platform design, advanced materials, mooring and cable systems, manufacturing, port logistics, installation, monitoring and operation all depend on specialised knowledge and coordinated industrial capacity.

By connecting complementary regional ecosystems, I3FLOAT helps technologies progress more rapidly from development to demonstration and commercial deployment. This approach also gives SMEs access to expertise, partners, markets and infrastructures beyond their home regions, while strengthening European value chains and supporting innovation in Less Developed Regions.

Creating value across regions

- Stronger and more integrated European value chains
- Faster knowledge and technology transfer
- Greater cross-border industrial collaboration
- New market and investment opportunities for SMEs
- Improved access to specialised expertise and infrastructure
- Accelerated market uptake of floating offshore wind technologies

What's coming next?

Evaluation and selection of projects under the first I3FLOAT Open Call

Launch of the second I3FLOAT Open Call, foreseen for April 2027

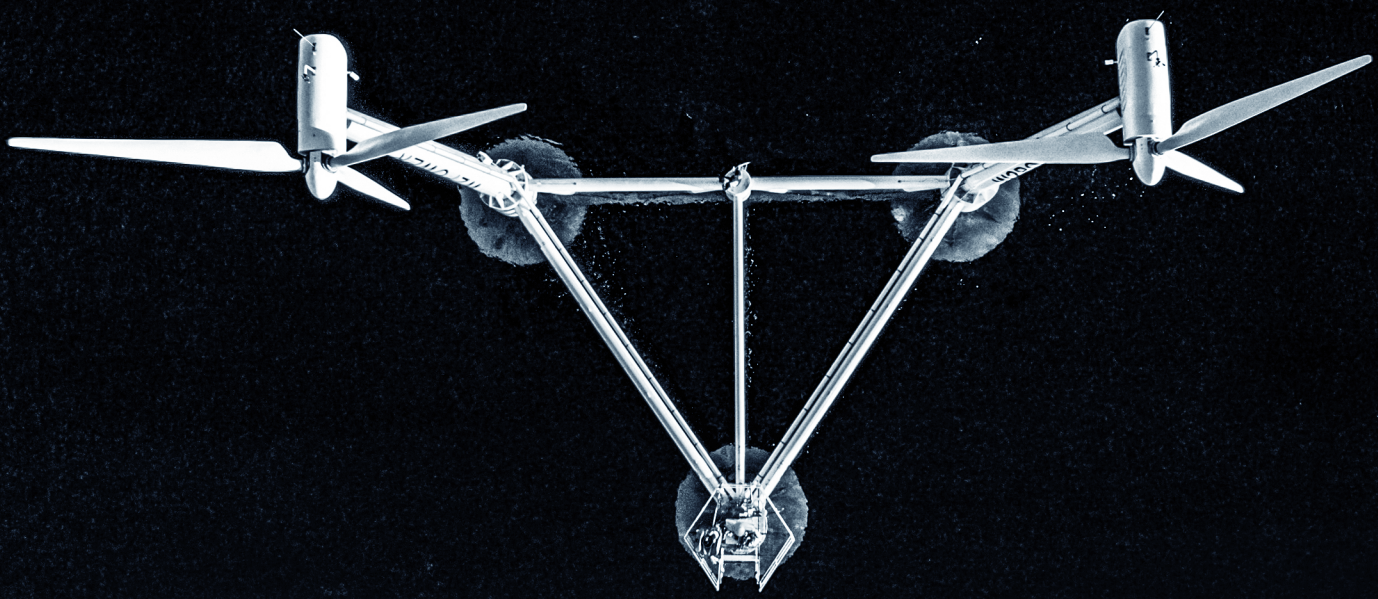
Implementation of SME-led innovation projects

Continued development of the four I3FLOAT Pilot Hubs

New networking, advisory and market-access activities

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