

# LEADING FISHERIES ORGANISATION JOINS FORCES WITH INNOVATIVE SWEDISH FLOATING WIND DEVELOPER

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Killybegs Fishermen's  
ORGANISATION LTD.



## First ever stakeholder collaborative partnership to establish floating offshore wind power project off North West of Ireland

**The Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO) and Sinbad Marine Services have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with global floating offshore wind developer and technology provider, Hexicon AB. The innovative and historic partnership is predicated on a 'new approach' which sees local fishermen engaged and influencing the development process from the outset.**

Key decisions, including site selection, cable routing and land fall will be collectively analysed and agreed. Similarly other stakeholders, including environmental organisations will also be afforded input at an early stage in shaping the location and design of the floating wind farms. In parallel, long-established port operator and marine service provider, Sinbad Marine Services, will ensure the floating offshore wind project maximises its engagement with local industry and leverages local infrastructure.

Floating wind energy is experiencing exponential growth globally and Irish waters are exceptionally well-suited for the emerging technology which will likely rival, or even replace fixed bottom offshore wind as the leading offshore wind technology. The global expansion of offshore windfarms is however often a concern for fishing communities and cause for conflict. In that context and to ensure cooperation between the industries, the KFO, Sinbad Marine Services and Hexicon are joining forces to create a 'new approach' for the development of floating wind projects. This is the first time in offshore wind that key players from several fundamentally opposed sectors have come together to collaborate on a project with a common objective.

With wind speeds of over 10 metres per second (m/s), Ireland has some of the world's best wind resources and is considered one of the top five emerging markets for offshore wind.

Together with the vast continental shelf, Ireland also has a significant sea area with excellent bathymetry for floating wind technology. These are just some of the reasons why Ireland has attracted so many offshore wind developers from all over the world, including Hexicon. At the same time, the fishing industry in Ireland represents an important economic sector, generating national income and providing employment for thousands of people. Successfully combining these two worlds, will put coexistence at the centre of future offshore wind development in Ireland and elsewhere.

### How the "New Approach" works

- 1** Fishing industry involved from the start collaborating with developers for their mutual benefit
- 2** Developers don't draw lines on maps before meaningful consultation with maritime communities
- 3** The location of floating offshore wind to reduce visual impacts on coastlines and seascapes
- 4** Biodiversity is to be protected with no detrimental impact on fish stocks and no limitation on access to traditional fishing grounds
- 5** The benefit to the local community from offshore wind energy will be transformative and long lasting
- 6** Floating wind technology is the key to delivering alternative fuels for the marine and fisheries sectors



# TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER

**In order to deliver a ‘New Approach’ which underpins a resilient fishing industry while simultaneously generating new opportunities for coastal communities, the KFO and local marine service provider, Sinbad Marine Services opened the door for discussions with an offshore floating wind developer which shared their values.**

They consequently found a match in Hexicon, a Swedish floating offshore wind developer and technology provider.

To successfully develop the wind resource off the North West coast of Ireland requires a port with the necessary skills on tap to grow a local supply chain as well as a proven ability to service offshore infrastructure projects. Geographically, the port of Killybegs is also ideally placed to service the offshore energy sector with a proven track record in marine engineering services. It is the only dedicated Blue Economy Marine Cluster in Ireland.

Sinbad Marine Services and the KFO have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Hexicon to develop an innovative new floating offshore wind project together.

This involves the development of up to 2 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy off the North West of Ireland, approximately 50 kilometres from the Donegal coast.

The intention is to use part of the energy generated to produce green fuels such as hydrogen and/or ammonia. This in turn could be used to power the fishing fleet and other vessels, whilst also contributing to energy security for the port, onshore industries and the local community. Contingent on adequate grid reinforcement being provided, the remainder of the energy can be connected to the national grid and contribute to Ireland’s stated target of 5GW of offshore energy by 2030.

Cooperation with stakeholders has always been a driving force within Hexicon. From its first projects in Scotland and South Korea, the company recognised the importance of working with fishing communities. Those experiences have subsequently underpinned Hexicon’s understanding of the concerns of other important stakeholders, especially environmental. This approach has led to a perfect alignment with the KFO’s “New Approach” for a partnership model for excellence in project development.

## About the KFO

**The Killybegs Fishermen’s Organisation is the largest of the Irish producer organisations, representing fishermen from a coastline extending from Inishowen in North Donegal to Galway. It has been at the heart of all critical developments which impact on Irish fishermen since 1979.**

The KFO counts pelagic, demersal and crustacean fishermen among its members. It is affiliated to the European Association of Producer Organisations (EAPO) and is actively involved in four Regional Advisory Councils namely the Pelagic Advisory Council, the North Western Waters Council, the Markets Advisory Council and the Long Distance Advisory Council.

## Local benefits

**With generations of experience working in and servicing the seas off the North West, Killybegs brings marine, servicing and engineering skills to the emerging offshore floating wind sector.**

With its natural deep-water harbour, Killybegs has established itself as an advanced deep sea port servicing the deep sea pelagic, cargo and energy sectors.

Killybegs Marine Cluster, which is the only one of its kind in Ireland, comprises more than 20 members, has a combined turnover of €300million per annum, and over 350 onshore marine engineers employed. This expertise has allowed for the port to operate as a supply base to support offshore drilling campaigns for nine separate wells for various clients including Shell, Equinor and Eni. The port handles and stores very large and heavy components for major onshore and offshore energy projects.

Many of the core engineering and service skills already in the marine cluster are transferable to floating offshore wind. The tradition of innovation and entrepreneurship in Killybegs will foster new jobs and companies securing future jobs for the region.

## Intention to apply for a Marine Area Consent (MAC) under the new Marine Area Planning Act

**The application will be made under the Phase two round to be administered by the newly established Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) which is expected next year.**

MARA will manage permitting of all offshore projects by issuing a MAC to qualifying projects which in turn allows the developer to make an application for planning permission to An Bord Pleanála. Subject to all consents being approved, it is intended to apply for planning for this project in 2025 with a view to building the first IGW phase of the project by 2027.

The route-to-market for these projects will be the Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS) auctions which dates are to be announced. A grid connection assessment will be carried out by EirGrid.



## About Hexicon

**Founded in 2009, Hexicon is a Swedish floating offshore wind developer and technology provider.**

Floating offshore wind is a rapidly growing sector of the offshore energy mix which positions Hexicon to be a key contributor to the transition from fossil fuels to renewables.

Hexicon has a number of projects at advanced stages of development in Norway, the UK and South Korea. Hexicon also has a presence and partnerships in Greece, Italy, Spain, Sweden, South Africa, and most recently North America. Hexicon has a stellar track record of attracting world class partners including Aker, Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, and Bechtel.

Sustainability, innovation, and partnerships are at the core of Hexicon's business model. Hexicon is listed on Nasdaq First North Premier Growth Market.

“ This is a unique new approach to how floating wind energy can work in collaboration with fishermen without any detrimental effect on the fishing sector or environment. We at the KFO, weren't interested in being presented with a fait accompli nor lines drawn on maps by any prospective developer.

*In signing this MoU, we have guaranteed that we will be at the centre of a project which has the potential to be economically-transformative. Offshore wind is coming and with the KFO seeking out a 'new approach' to partnering with a suitable developer, we have put ourselves in pole position to harness a historic opportunity for the North West.* ”

**Seán O'Donoghue**  
CEO, KFO

“ As ship agents and supply base operators, Sinbad Marine Services is very excited to enter this new strategic partnership with the KFO and Hexicon. Providing a stable supply of clean energy will help Killybegs become the first green port in Ireland, which will significantly transform the economic and social opportunities for future generations in the region. ”

**Jim Parkinson**  
MD, Sinbad Marine Services



## Collaboration and research

**Together with Science Foundation Ireland, Hexicon are co-funding an 18-month research project to build a multi-objective decision-making and constraint mapping tool.**

This will be used to identify suitable regions for floating wind farms using datasets which include biodiversity, sediment types, protected sites, geotechnical and geophysical with commercial fisheries data and expert interpretation provided through the KFO and other marine stakeholders. It is intended to provide a platform for as wide a range of stakeholders as possible, to contribute expertise and data.

Earth sciences researchers from UCC and UCD along with GIS experts are managing this project. When complete, this will determine the optimum sites taking into account social acceptance, environmental impact, water currents, seabed conditions, marine mammals and birds among other factors.

Hexicon believes that ocean health maintained by robust ecosystems contributes to the wealth of coastal communities. These communities' connections to the ocean have fostered a deep sense of place which should be respected and enhanced.

## Cutting edge technology in offshore wind – Hexicon

### Choosing sites

Matching sustainability with innovation is the driver behind the design of Hexicon's TwinWind technology. Operating at depths of between 50 to 200 meters and allowing for a footprint 40% smaller than that required for traditional single turbine platforms, the innovative twin turbine design enables more turbines per sea area. This in turn increases the energy yield and reduces their footprint on the seabed, requiring substantially less mooring and cabling infrastructure than single turbine models.

Using the KFO's "New Approach" principles, identification of prospective areas for wind farms will be through an evidence-based approach, considering the interests of the fishing industry and the livelihoods of their communities in tandem with science-led environmental protection and conservation. This approach will continue in the detailed site selection, wind farm orientation, and operation. The KFO's contribution to project planning from the outset, will ensure that the development of floating offshore wind will result in positive impacts on the fishing industry, coastal communities and the environment.

This project is at early-stage data review and interpretation. The project team have begun a program of consultation with key stakeholders. They are also looking forward to an inclusive approach to site selection, where transparency, positive engagement and fairness are steadfast guiding principles.

“ At Hexicon, we are extremely passionate about building the industry of the future. The North West of Ireland is perfectly suited for floating offshore wind and in partnership with the KFO and Sinbad Marine, we believe we can deliver a project which is sensitive to the marine environment and to the livelihood of fishermen. This also has the potential to be transformative for Killybegs and its hinterland, establishing the area as a hub for both thought leadership and offshore services for floating wind. Lastly, we see a real opportunity for onshore industries to benefit from the many economic activities a utility scale floating wind project can bring to the region. ”

**Marcus Thor**  
CEO, Hexicon



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