

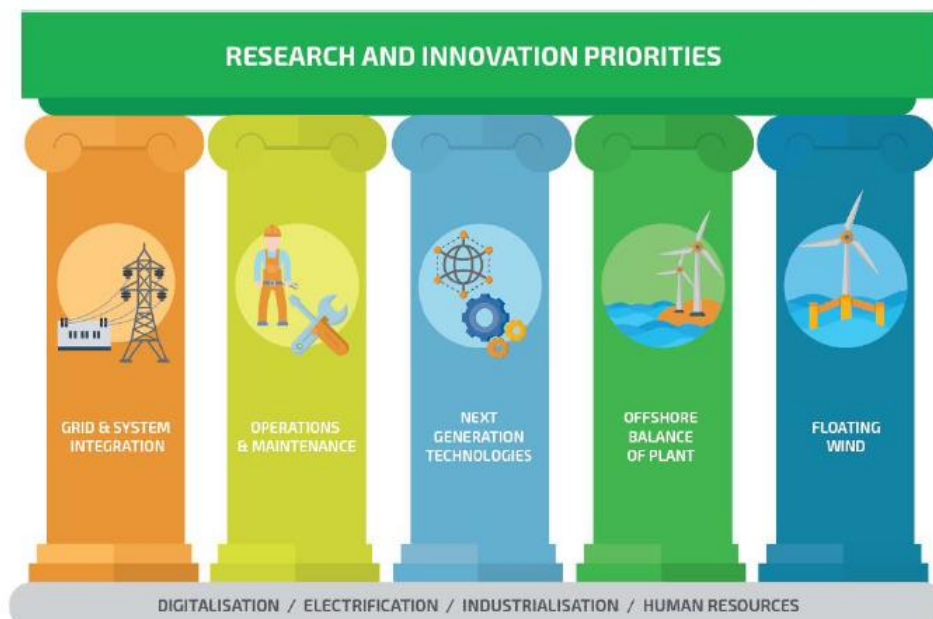
## WindEurope workshop on the Innovation Fund

On 3 July WindEurope hosted a workshop with the European Commission on the recently created Innovation Fund (IF). The event served to collect project ideas from the wind energy industry and to discuss key sector-specific issues with regard to the selection and management of future projects under the Fund. ***The main objective of the workshop was for the industry to provide input to the design elements for the first call of proposals in 2020.***

The agenda started with a knowledge sharing session with four wind energy projects financed through the NER300 programme, the predecessor of the Innovation Fund. NER300 funded a total of eight wind energy projects, six offshore and two onshore, with a combined total budget of €340 million. Presentations included the Veja Mate and Nordsee One offshore wind farm projects, the onshore wind farm Handalm, and the floating offshore wind Vertimed project. ***From the industry, we sincerely appreciate the sharing of their experience.***

After IF presentation from EC, participants reviewed from the general to the particular some messages:

1. Projects have to be aligned to the wind industry's **strategic research and innovation agenda**. This SRIA includes five pillars shown below:



Although reflections in some areas (as for example floating wind or next generation technologies) were exposed in detail, projects in other areas such as Grid Integration including improved storage solutions are also potential candidates for IF funding as long as they meet the requirements of replicable demonstration and innovation.

2. Funding should address the so-called “valley-of-death” in financing (the period between demonstration and final investment decision);
3. Fit-for-purpose upfront investment as early as possibly in the project.

Other general messages were given, aligned with IF mission, as for example focus on replicable projects that boost industrial competitiveness. Also, clarity of IF financial rules in terms such as “relevant costs”, “costs related to innovation” was requested, although maintaining flexibility and case-by-case evaluation.

Industry analyzed some key areas where the IF would add value on greenhouse gas emissions reduction and competitiveness. In summary, the areas and considerations on each one are:

Floating offshore wind:

- Demonstrate optimised or innovative solutions with high potential for lowering costs in foundations, mooring, anchoring, cabling, floating substations and the execution of marine operations and methods;
- **Focus on scalability** of different wind turbine sizes and other components and prepare the supply chain and logistics for it;
- **Boost industrialisation potential**, globally. Including infrastructure like ports development;
- **Promote sectorial synergies**. For example with fisheries, O&G and others.

Next generation of wind turbines:

- Projects with **different combination of wind turbine sizes and types**. Do not impose predefined technology categories and characteristics;
- Projects with the **next generation of components and materials**;
- **Support** projects that demonstrate **data driven** design and operation;
- **Include repowering** projects.

Hybrid power plants (wind, solar PV with or without batteries):

- Demonstration of the **reliability and security of hybrid power plants** for generating higher outputs whilst staying within grid connection limits;
- **Optimization of generation output** (per m<sup>2</sup>) and make efficient use of existing grid infrastructure;
- Innovative **metering systems** to demonstrate energy traceability;
- Demonstrate **battery storage sizing** according to ancillary services market opportunities;
- Execution for **hybridisation of existing plants**;
- **Next generation of hybrids at park and energy system** level with different technologies (wind, solar PV, etc.) including demand side components;
- **Minimize** renewable energy **curtailment costs**.

Electrification and power-to-X:

- **Prioritise direct electrification solutions** for industry replacing fossil-gas for heating processes;
- Demonstrate **solutions supporting electrification** (related to wind sector), such as:

- Wind energy + energy storage solutions (such as hydrogen production or grid connected electrolysers)
- Wind energy + e-fuels production
- Wind energy + EV charging infrastructure

Wind turbines end-of-life strategies:

- Support **low emissions end of life strategies** (e.g. pilots with innovative materials /manufacturing process, reuse);
- Demonstrate the **combination of several end of life strategies**;
- Demonstrate **commercially mature recycling technologies** (e.g. pyrolysis, material and energy recovery);
- **Scale-up** low TRL technologies (e.g. solvolysis, combustion);
- Projects to **industrialise recycling processes**, including wind turbine dismantling logistics, waste management and recovery of high-value materials, such as blade fibers.

Finally, as main conclusion, wind industry requests for a Fund with **high level of flexibility** in order to cover so many different aspects, problems and potential solutions existing in our sector.

-End-

**Contacts:**

Expert Group member: Luis Malumbres Martínez [Imm@iberdrola.es](mailto:Imm@iberdrola.es)

WindEurope Secretariat: Iván Pineda: [ivan.pineda@windeurope.org](mailto:ivan.pineda@windeurope.org)