



SYMBIOSIS – OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR DEFENCE

Introduction

Offshore renewables in Europe are developing at an unprecedented pace. The EU offshore strategy affirms the expansion of offshore renewable energy, and its use as an **EU priority**.

Considering that the EU has the largest maritime space globally, the variety of its maritime areas offer significant potential for developing offshore renewable energy sustainably while underpinning other economic, social, and defence activities at regional and European levels. The European Green Deal also reflects the EU's commitment to promoting this potential.

The involvement of the defence sector in offshore renewable energy can help the EU achieve its climate neutrality goals and support the transition to a more sustainable energy future.

On 1 October 2022, EDA launched the "Symbiosis – Offshore Renewable Energy for Defence" project, which will run for 30 months. Its name signifies the mutually beneficial relationship between the interdependent civilian and military sectors and the potential mutual value that brings to both this co-existence.

Scope and objectives

The Symbiosis project aims at identifying and presenting the conditions that will support the co-existence between offshore renewable energy projects and defence operations and systems in European maritime spaces.

Through **research, simulation-modelling, and evaluation-testing**, the project will explore various legal, technological, and operational solutions to address stakeholder concerns, including military requirements, to boost offshore renewable energy development. The project's scope will focus on three key pillars.



STAKEHOLDERS

Identify key stakeholders in reaching a shared understanding of each other's concerns and requirements and create conditions for co-existence



BARRIERS

Map the maritime defence areas for military activities, assess their suitability for the deployment of offshore renewable energy projects and identify barriers, and risks constraining their development and exploitation



SOLUTIONS

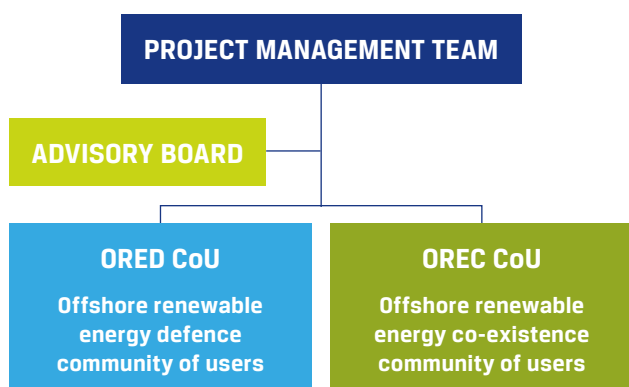
Present solutions to address the identified barriers and provide recommendations for enabling sustainable conditions for co-existence

Structure

Within Symbiosis, EDA will continue to serve as an interface between ministries of defence and the EU community, ensuring coherence with the Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector (CF SEDSS) by leveraging best practices and lessons learned.

The EDA Project Management Team (**PMT**) will oversee the implementation of EU requirements by regularly interacting with relevant Commission entities such as **DG ENER** and **DG MARE**. The PMT will also collaborate closely with European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (**CINEA**) to ensure that the project adheres to the granting authority's guidelines. Additionally, the PMT will be supported by an **Advisory Board** and the active engagement of two communities of users (CoU):

- the **military** (offshore renewable energy defence community of users (**ORED CoU**);
- the **civilian** (offshore renewable energy co-existence community of users (**OREC CoU**).



Bringing these communities together will enable them to deepen their insights into the barriers to deploying offshore renewables in the maritime defence domain, as well as create synergies to address them.

Events and deliverables

To achieve the project's goals, the following deliverables will be produced:

- Terms of Reference for the management of the Advisory Board and the projects' communities of users, ORED and OREC;

- Conference and workshop reports;
- Final report on project's findings and solutions for fostering defence and offshore energy projects co-existence.

The Agency will host regular coordination meetings and events to which all relevant stakeholders and experts will be invited.



THREE ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS



TWO PLENARY CONFERENCES



UP TO FIVE REGIONAL WORKSHOPS



UP TO FIVE AD-HOC EXPERT GROUP MEETINGS

Impact

The Symbiosis project will also contribute to implementing the EU Climate Target Plan in meeting its 2030 goal of generating 80% of electricity by renewable sources, allowing the EU to become the world leader in renewable energy. EDA will promote awareness of the project's positive impact and stimulate the development and implementation of necessary energy-related policies and measures in the defence sector.

Unlocking future potentials

As the first **EDA Horizon Europe-funded project, Symbiosis** will:

- enable the offshore industry to interact with defence and advance state-of-the-art research on applying offshore technologies for defence;
- spur innovation and provide modelling solutions for creating sustainable co-existence conditions and allow exploitation in maritime defence spaces;
- contribute to enhancing the resilience of offshore renewable energy installations;
- foster multinational collaboration and open opportunities for future projects;
- pave the way for a future roadmap of coordinated actions in harvesting the potential of offshore renewable energy for the European Union.