

1 September 2021

The Business Network for Offshore Wind
Ventus Award Committee
1340 Smith Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21209

Dear Ventus Award Committee,

This letter is written in support of the **Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS)** in the **Advancement in Project Siting and Development Award** category. MITAGS, a world-renowned maritime training center, has created exacted models of Ørsted's Ocean Wind and Revolution Wind wind farms for use in their navigation simulator. In 2019, Ørsted and MITAGS entered a strategic partnership where MITAGS developed the simulation and provided the platform for Ørsted to engage stakeholders.

The value in the simulator is the ability to engage stakeholders from the bridge of multiple simulated vessels while navigating through a utility-scale wind farm on various size vessels, in differing sea states, weather conditions, and visibility. This unique engagement has been game changing during important discussions about navigation safety with the United States Coast Guard, professional mariners, and the commercial fishing industry because it provides stakeholders an opportunity to experience firsthand the environmental conditions and amount of available sea room while operating vessels within and around the wind farm. As a developer, stakeholder engagement is paramount to the successful development of projects. MITAGS has made our vision a reality through its navigation simulator, which allows the user to conceptualize the magnitude and layout of the wind farm resulting in a clearer understanding of the project rather than simply looking over charts and drawings on paper.

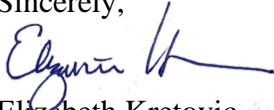
Until MITAGS developed this model, the only way to have this level of engagement and a similar experience was to fly to Europe and embark on a vessel to navigate a fully operational wind farm. Something that is not currently possible in the United States. However, through this partnership with MITAGS Ørsted can cost effectively engage stakeholders in the same manner because there is no longer the need to fly to Europe. This in turn also allows for a much larger and broader group of stakeholder engagement prior to construction of U.S. projects.

Another important aspect of the work MITAGS has completed for Ørsted is the development of accurate models of vessels and their operations for realistic ship handling and maneuvering. MITAGS has created vessels to the

specifications needed to ensure stakeholders have as real an experience as possible. In the future, Ørsted envisions this capability will be a key component of successfully training mariners on the specific vessels that will be utilized during construction and operations on these offshore wind farms. MITAGS' innovation in developing both simulated wind farms and realistic vessel models will significantly contribute to navigation safety and familiarity as the new industry is making its way into the U.S. market.

In summary, MITAGS has created a unique, innovative, cost effective tool for stakeholder engagement that allows the user to experience the wind farm in a way that is otherwise unavailable in the United States. The simulation allows for stakeholders to understand and conceptualize the lay out and amount of available sea room through a holistic experience on a customized vessel in a simulated utility scale wind farm.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Kretovic
Mid-Atlantic Marine Affairs Manager
Ørsted Offshore North America