

**Infrastructure Planning
Planning Act 2008
The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Project – DCO Application

Issue Specific Hearing 2 on Offshore Environmental Matters

Post Hearing Submissions (including written submissions of oral case)

of

the Ørsted IPs



Pinsent Masons

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1. **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This document summarises the main oral submissions made by Hornsea 1 Limited, the collective of Breesea Limited, Soundmark Wind Limited, Sonningmay Limited and Optimus Wind Limited (together, the **“Hornsea 2 Companies”**), Orsted Hornsea Project Three (UK) Limited, Orsted Hornsea Project Four Limited, Lincs Wind Farm Limited, Westermost Rough Limited and Race Bank Wind Farm Limited (together or in any combination, the **“Ørsted IPs”**) at Issue Specific Hearing 2 (**ISH2**) dealing with Offshore Environmental Matters held on 4 December 2024, in relation to the application for development consent for the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Project (the **“Outer Dowsing Project”**) by GT R4 Limited, trading as Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (the **“Applicant”**).
- 1.2 ISH2 was attended by the Examining Authority (the **“ExA”**), the Applicant and a number of Interested Parties, including the Ørsted IPs.
- 1.3 This document does not purport to summarise the oral submissions of parties other than the Ørsted IPs, and summaries of submissions made by other parties are only included where necessary in order to give context to the Ørsted IPs’ submissions in response.
- 1.4 Numbered items referred to are references to the numbered items in the agenda published by the ExA on 26 November 2024 **[EV6-001]** (the **“Agenda”**). The Ørsted IPs made oral submissions under Agenda items 3.1 and 3.2 only. Where post hearing notes have been added, those notes are prefixed with *“Post Hearing Note”* and set out in italics for clarity.

2. WRITTEN SUMMARY OF THE ØRSTED IPS' ORAL SUBMISSIONS

Agenda Item	Ørsted IPs' Oral Submissions and Post Hearing Notes
Item 3.1	
Welcome and Introductions	Alex Tresadern, for the Ørsted IPs , did not make any substantive submissions in relation to this agenda item, other than to introduce the Ørsted IPs.
Item 3.2	
<p>Oil, Gas and Other Offshore Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of potential wake effects and implications for energy yield at other offshore windfarms. • Updates on cooperation and agreements, including helicopter access. 	<p><u>Wake Effects and Energy Yield</u></p> <p>The ExA asked whether the Applicant and the Ørsted IPs would be meeting to discuss the potential wake effects of the Outer Dowsing Project and implications for energy yield at the Ørsted IPs' projects, following the lengthy submissions made by the Applicant [REP2-051] and the Ørsted IPs [REP2-076] at Deadline 2 in response to Q1 OG 1.2 of the ExA's First Written Questions [PD-013]. Alex Tresadern, for the Ørsted IPs, noted that these discussions are welcomed and agreed with the approach to these discussions proposed by the Applicant's representative, namely that the Applicant and the Ørsted IPs would schedule regular meetings to discuss the evidence put forward by one another and attempt to reach an agreed position on this matter. Alex Tresadern, for the Ørsted IPs, agreed with the Applicant's representative that Deadline 4 (3 February 2025) would be a more suitable timeframe to work towards to provide a substantive update to the ExA.</p> <p>Alex Tresadern, for the Ørsted IPs, reiterated that the Ørsted IPs consider that a wake assessment is required to be carried out by the Applicant, for the reasons set out in the Ørsted IPs' Deadline 2 submission [REP2-076].</p> <p>The ExA requested a joint submission from the Applicant and the Ørsted IPs with a summary of the agreed position in relation to wake loss, following the above-mentioned discussions, at Deadline 4. The ExA stated that if points of disagreement remain, these can be detailed in a separate Deadline 4 submission from each of the Applicant and the Ørsted IPs. The Applicant and Alex Tresadern, for the Ørsted IPs, agreed to this request.</p> <p><u>Post Hearing Note</u></p> <p><i>The Applicant and the Ørsted IPs are arranging these discussions and will continue to engage between now and Deadline 4 on the above matters. Subject to these discussions, the Ørsted IPs will provide an update on its position at Deadline 4.</i></p> <p><i>The Ørsted IPs also consider that the submission made at Deadline 2 by The Crown Estate [REP2-080] supports the position of the Ørsted IPs, namely that the Applicant should be required to submit a wake assessment. Most notably, the submission by The Crown Estate states that "inter-farm wake effects can extend beyond these buffer distances [proposed by the Applicant]" and that the Offshore Wind Leasing Programme Array Layout Yield Study (the "Study") "summarises modelling applied to generic/hypothetical wind farms and does not replace the need for project-specific analysis". This submission demonstrates that the Study is insufficient for the Applicant to rely upon as it has sought to do in its submissions. The Ørsted IPs continue to strongly encourage the Applicant to carry out project specific wake loss assessments for the relevant Ørsted IP projects.</i></p>

Cooperation and Agreements

Alex Tresadern, for the Ørsted IPs, noted that on 29 November 2024, the Ørsted IPs received a draft cooperation and proximity agreement in relation to the Outer Dowsing Project's export cable corridor and the offshore array area for the Lincs Offshore Wind Farm. The Ørsted IPs welcome this draft, and the fact that discussions are ongoing, and will review and provide comments on this draft as soon as possible, with the intention of seeking an agreed form before the end of this Examination.

Alex Tresadern, for the Ørsted IPs, noted that the Applicant, when providing the agreement for the Lincs Offshore Wind Farm, stated that it intended to replicate the proposed terms in a similar such agreement for the Race Bank Offshore Wind Farm. The Ørsted IPs have not yet received this draft, but again welcome its production and will review and provide comments on this draft as soon as possible, with the intention of seeking an agreed form before the end of this Examination.

Alex Tresadern, for the Ørsted IPs, noted that pending a review of the content of that agreement, the Ørsted IPs may need to seek protective provisions or a separate requirement within the DCO, as appropriate, to protect the Lincs and Race Bank Offshore Wind Farms and secure their positions. If protective provisions or a separate requirement are required, then those Ørsted IPs will engage with the Applicant and submit details of their requirements into Examination as soon as practicable. The current focus of the Ørsted IPs is on the Lincs and Race Bank Offshore Wind Farms, but agreements may also be needed on the other Ørsted IPs' projects, subject to the discussions referenced above that are going to take place between the Applicant and the Ørsted IPs on wake effect and the potential impact on energy yield. Following those discussions, the Ørsted IPs will confirm the position on protective provisions or a separate requirement into the Examination as soon as possible.

Alex Tresadern, for the Ørsted IPs, noted that pursuant to the Ørsted IPs' Deadline 2 submission **[REP2-076]**, Lincs Wind Farm Limited and Race Bank Wind Farm Limited have both requested that both the Outline Cable Specification and Installation Plan **[REP2-033]** and the Outline Vessel Management Plan **[PD1-064]** are updated by the Applicant to make specific reference to confirm that the Applicant is required to consult with these Ørsted IPs as part of the preparation of these documents.

The ExA requested that the above-referenced discussions between the Applicant and the Ørsted IPs also cover the cooperation and proximity agreements and the Ørsted IPs' request for both Lincs Wind Farm Limited and Race Bank Wind Farm Limited to be consulted by the Applicant in the preparation of the Outline Cable Specification and Installation Plan **[REP2-033]** and the Outline Vessel Management Plan **[PD1-064]**. **The ExA** also requested that the Applicant and the Ørsted IPs provide an update at Deadline 4 on these matters. The Applicant and **Alex Tresadern, for the Ørsted IPs**, agreed to these requests.

Post-Hearing Note

The Applicant and the Ørsted IPs are arranging these discussions and will continue to engage between now and Deadline 4 on the above matters. Subject to these discussions, the Ørsted IPs will provide an update on the position in relation to agreements and consultation at Deadline 4.