



Appendix 3

Description of qualification requirements and qualitative criteria for Utsira Nord

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1. General information

This document describes the award process, qualification requirements and qualitative criteria for the award of project areas in Utsira Nord. The document also describes the documentation requirements and how the criteria will be assessed. The document is Appendix 3 to Announcement of competition for project areas for offshore wind in Utsira Nord.

2. The award process

2.1 Introduction

Pursuant to Section 2-3 of the Offshore Energy Act, one or more sub-areas within an area opened pursuant to Section 2-2 are to be announced and awarded through competition. Upon announcement, the Ministry shall determine whether the award is to take place through an auction, through an evaluation of the applicants based on objective and non-discriminatory conditions, or through a combination. The Ministry has determined that the award of project areas in Utsira Nord will be conducted through a qualitative competition, where applicants are evaluated based on objective and non-discriminatory criteria. The Ministry has therefore established qualitative criteria, see sections 2.3 and 4.

Section 2-3, third paragraph of the Offshore Energy Act stipulates that applicants must document adequate technical competence, financial strength, and fulfil relevant health, safety and environmental requirements, and that the Ministry may impose other objective and non-discriminatory conditions. The Ministry has therefore established qualification requirements that applicants must meet in order to be awarded an area (see sections 2.2 and 3).

The Ministry is responsible for evaluating applications for the award of project areas. The Ministry has tasked Enova, in consultation with the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE), with evaluating the applications under the two criteria *Cost Level, Realism & Maturity*, and *Innovation and Technology Development*. The Ministry has tasked NVE with evaluating applications under the *Sustainability* criterion. If necessary, the Ministry may seek assistance from other state entities or external experts when evaluating the applications.

2.2 Assessment of applicants' qualifications

After the application deadline, the Ministry will assess whether the applicants meet the qualification requirements related to revenue, solidity/credit rating, financing plan, experience, project plan, health, environment and safety, integrity, climate footprint, and recyclable materials.

2.3 Ranking of applicants based on qualitative criteria

Applicants who meet the requirements, cf. section 2.2, will be ranked according to the qualitative criteria (Cost level, realism & maturity, Innovation and technology development, Execution capability, Sustainability and Positive ripple effects).

Each criterion will be scored from 1-10 based on an overall evaluation of its sub-criteria.

The best application within each main criterion will receive 10 points, while other applications will receive scores reflecting their relative differences from the best application. The score for each criterion is multiplied by the following weights:

Table 1 Criteria and Weighting

Criterion	Weight
Cost level, realism, and maturity	35 percent
Innovation and technology development	10 percent
Execution capability	35 percent
Sustainability	10 percent
Positive ripple effects	10 percent

2.4 Award of project area

The three applicants who receive the highest total score in the qualitative competition will each be awarded a project area. The applicant with the highest score will be awarded their preferred project area, the applicant with the second highest score will be awarded their preferred project area among the remaining two project areas, and the applicant with the third highest score will be awarded the last project area.

2.5 Common rules for the applications

Applications must adhere to the following guidelines:

- The application shall be based on project area 2 unless otherwise specified.
- The applicant's submissions must be consistent across the different criteria. Inconsistent submissions may lead to deductions on one or more criteria.



- Applicants may only rely on associated parties to meet qualification requirements and qualitative criteria where explicitly stated in the specific requirement or criterion. What constitutes associated parties is described in appendices 5a and 5b. A letter of support is required for an applicant to be able to rely on support from associated parties to meet the requirements.
- All amounts shall be stated in Norwegian kroner (NOK). If currency conversion is necessary, the mid-rates published by Norges Bank on May 19, 2025, with four decimal places, shall be used.

3. Qualification requirements

This chapter outlines the qualification requirements and the required documentation. Applicants must meet these requirements to be eligible for award of a project area. Applicants who do not meet the requirements in this chapter will be rejected from the competition.

Table 2 Qualification requirements

Requirement	Explanation	Documentation
A Revenue	<p>Applicants must for the last three years have had an average annual revenue of at least NOK 20 billion.</p> <p>For consortia, the revenue requirement will be assessed collectively. Each consortium member's average revenue over the last three years will be adjusted based on the consortium member's share in the consortium. The consortium's collective revenue will then be determined as the sum of the individual consortium members' calculated revenue.</p> <p>If a consortium member relies on support from an associated party, the associated party's revenue will be adjusted based on ownership share in the consortium member.</p> <p>If an associated party does not directly or indirectly have an ownership share in the consortium member, the revenue will be adjusted based on connection through the ownership structure (see example in appendix 6).</p>	<p>A. Annual report and digital link to the annual report for the last three years.</p> <p>B. Auditor's report for the last three years (if not included in the annual report)</p> <p>C. Completed appendix 6.</p> <p>If the applicant or consortium member cannot provide annual reports or auditor's reports from the past three years, or other requested documentation, the applicant must submit other documentation that can show revenue at a level equivalent to the requested documentation. Such other documentation shall not exceed 10 pages.</p> <p>If an applicant or consortium member relies on support from an associated party to meet the revenue requirement, a signed support letter from the associated party shall be submitted, cf. Appendix 5a. If the applicant or consortium member relies on support from an associated party, the associated party's revenue will be considered, and not the revenue of the applicant or consortium member. Documentation in accordance with the above-mentioned requirements must also be submitted for the associated party.</p>
B Solidity/ Credit rating	Applicants must have either:	<p>A. Credit rating. The credit rating shall not be older than 12 months from the application deadline.</p> <p>B. Completed appendix 6.</p>



Requirement	Explanation	Documentation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solidity of at least 20 percent in each of the last three years, or • A credit rating of at least BBB- (S&P) / BBB- (Fitch) / Baa3 (Moody's) / BBB (Scope Ratings). <p>Solidity is calculated as:</p> $1) \frac{\text{equity}}{\text{total capital}} * 100$ <p>For consortia, each consortium member must meet the requirement regarding solidity or credit rating either itself or through support from an associated party</p>	<p>If the applicant or a consortium member cannot provide a credit rating or other requested documentation, the applicant must submit other documentation that can show solidity at a level equivalent to the requested documentation. Such other documentation shall not exceed 10 pages.</p> <p>If an applicant or consortium member relies on support from an associated party to meet this requirement, a signed support letter from the associated party shall be submitted, cf. Appendix 5a. If the applicant or consortium member relies on support from an associated party, the associated party's solidity/credit rating will be considered, and not the solidity/credit rating of the applicant or consortium member. Documentation in accordance with the above-mentioned requirements must also be submitted for the associated party.</p>
C Financing plan	<p>Applicants must have a realistic and credible financing plan for the project where planned financing sources ensures sufficient financial capacity to carry out the project.</p> <p>Estimated investment costs in the financing plan shall be in accordance with the investment costs (CAPEX) stated in the Cost Level, realism, and maturity criterion.</p>	<p>A. Financing plan that specifies at minimum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Project budget until the investment decision is made, and Financing of costs in the entire project from investment decision to commissioning. <p>B. Description of the applicant's experience with planning and carrying out financing of up to three relevant projects.</p> <p>Maximum of ten pages.</p>
D Experience	Applicants must have experience with:	A. Completed Appendix 7, section 1.



Requirement	Explanation	Documentation
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offshore wind: development, installation, and commissioning of one offshore wind project with a capacity of 200 MW or more. 2. Grid connection: experience with development, installation, and commissioning of a grid connection solution with a voltage of at least 66 kV. <p>The reference project(s) shall be fully commissioned within the last 10 years counted from the application deadline. The applicant shall minimum have had 20 percent ownership during development, installation, and commissioning of the reference projects.</p>	<p>The requirement shall be answered with a maximum of two reference projects, one for offshore wind and one for grid connection. The applicant may also refer to a single project if it covers both offshore wind and grid connection as described in points 1 and 2.</p> <p>If an applicant or consortium member relies on support from an associated party to meet this requirement, a signed support letter from the associated party shall be submitted, cf. Appendix 5b. Documentation in accordance with the above-mentioned requirement must also be submitted for the associated party.</p>
E Project plan	<p>The applicant must have a project plan with clear milestones for the execution of the project, including for activities related to the license application, front-end engineering, construction, and commissioning of the project.</p> <p>The project plan must show understanding of what will be required for the project to be executed within the project's framework as regards time, cost, resource requirements and quality.</p>	<p>A. Project plan with milestones related to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Regulatory approvals ii) Any reservation of capacity for major deliveries iii) Contracting of major deliveries iv) Final Investment Decision (FID) v) Installation vi) Full commissioning vii) Decommissioning <p>B. Organizational chart for the project organization</p> <p>Applicants should base the project plan on the following time estimates for regulatory approvals (the time estimates are indicative and set for evaluation purposes only):</p>



Requirement	Explanation	Documentation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four months for the determination of the impact assessment program (including public consultation). • Six months for the processing of each of the license application and the detailed plan (including public consultation). <p>Maximum 15 pages.</p>
F Health, safety and environment (HSE)	The applicant must have satisfactory systems for quality assurance, HSE and internal control, and fulfil applicable HSE rules in force at any given time.	<p>A. HSE declaration signed by person(s) authorised to bind the applicant.</p> <p>B. Documentation of planned systems for quality assurance and HSE.</p> <p>C. Documentation of planned systems for internal control</p> <p>D. Description of the company's organization with regard to establishing and maintaining obligations related to quality assurance and HSE.</p> <p>Maximum two pages in total (HSE self-declaration may be submitted in addition).</p>
G Project responsible's integrity	<p>The applicant must have the necessary integrity as project responsible. Whether the applicant has the necessary integrity will be based on an overall assessment of the submitted documentation.</p> <p>The applicant shall have its tax and VAT affairs in order. Applicants with arrears linked to their tax certificates may be rejected.</p>	<p>A. Tax and VAT certificates, no more than six months old as of the application deadline, confirming that the applicant has fulfilled its obligations with regard to the payment of taxes, National Insurance contributions and VAT. For more information, see skatteetaten.no. Foreign applicants shall submit certificates from corresponding authorities as the Norwegian authorities.</p> <p>If the applicant is, or within the last 3 years has been, involved in an appeals case or dispute with the tax authorities</p>



Requirement	Explanation	Documentation
	<p>The applicant, associated companies, owners or representatives shall not be subject to sanctions or restrictive measures.</p> <p>If the applicant, associated companies, owners or representatives have previously been convicted of a criminal offence, adequate measures shall have been taken to prevent any recurrence and ensure the necessary integrity.</p> <p>If the applicant is part of a consortium, all consortium members shall have the necessary integrity.</p>	<p>concerning imposed or notified additional tax (or a corresponding sanction from foreign tax authorities for missing or incorrect information), the case shall be accounted for as part of the application.</p> <p>B. The applicant shall confirm that neither the applicant, the applicant's direct or indirect holding company(s), the applicant's ultimate indirect owner(s), an affiliated party that the applicant relies on support from in the competition, or directors, managing director nor any other person in an administrative, management or control body of the aforementioned companies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Are subject to sanctions or restrictive measures by Norwegian authorities or in accordance with obligations under international law by which Norway is bound, or ii) Has been convicted in a final judgement or issued with a fine for the following criminal offences within the last 3 years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Participation in a criminal organisation b) Corruption c) Fraud d) Terrorist acts or criminal offences connected to terrorism e) Money laundering or financing of terrorist activities f) Child labour and other forms of human trafficking <p>If individuals or companies mentioned under letter B above are subject to sanctions or restrictive measures, or have been convicted or accepted a penalty charge notice for one or more of</p>



Requirement	Explanation	Documentation
		<p>the aforementioned matters within the last three years, the applicant shall disclose this. In such cases, the applicant shall also submit documentation demonstrating whether measures have been taken to nonetheless ensure the necessary integrity as project responsible, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Paid compensation which the relevant company(s) or person(s) have been imposed for any losses arising from the issue, or committed to such payment. ii) Actively cooperated with competent authorities to clarify the facts and circumstances of the matter, and iii) Implemented appropriate technical, organizational and personnel measures to prevent recurrences.
H Carbon footprint	<p>The applicant shall carry out analyses of the carbon footprint.</p> <p>The estimates shall be based on the applicant's project concept, cf. qualitative criteria 3C Project concept.</p>	<p>A. Estimated carbon footprint (atmospheric CO₂e emissions) calculated according to ISO 14040 and 14044</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) System boundaries shall be defined in accordance with the ISO standard. ii) Carbon factors shall be sourced from an Ecoinvent version 3 database; primary data shall be used where the applicant has access to such. iii) Applicants shall use IPCC AR5 and a 100-year time horizon (GWP100). iv) The climate footprint shall be reported both with and without planned and potential mitigation measures. v) Recycling of materials after end of life shall not be included in the calculation of the climate footprint, as recycling is assessed under the qualification requirement for recyclable materials.



Requirement	Explanation	Documentation
		vi) The Climate footprint shall be specified in the form of both CO ₂ e/kW, CO ₂ e/kWh, absolute emissions in tonnes of CO ₂ e for the project, and absolute emissions in tonnes of CO ₂ e for each project phase as defined by the ISO standard.
I Recyclable materials	<p>The applicant shall estimate the share of recyclable materials specified for the nacelle, turbine blades, turbine tower, floaters, anchoring solution, inter-array cables, and grid connection to shore.</p> <p>The estimates shall be based on the applicant's project concept, cf. qualitative criterion 3C Project concept.</p>	<p>A. Estimated share of recyclable materials specified for the nacelle, turbine blades, turbine tower, floaters, anchoring solution, inter-array cables, and grid connection to shore.</p> <p>The applicant shall indicate the recycling rate based on both current technology and expected technological developments in recycling.</p>

4. Qualitative criteria

This chapter describes the qualitative criteria and the documentation that must be submitted. The three applicants with the highest total scores will each be awarded a project area, cf. sections 2.3 and 2.4.

Cost level, realism, and maturity

The criterion shall contribute to awarding the project areas to applicants with a cost estimate that demonstrates the highest possible level of realism and maturity, and contribute to reduce the state's cost by limiting the amount of state aid needed to realize projects in Utsira Nord.

Under this criterion, the applications will be evaluated based on cost estimates and energy production for a floating offshore wind project with a total installed capacity as close as practically possible but below 500 MW, established at Utsira Nord and fully operational in 2034.

Table 3 Qualitative criteria: Cost level, realism and maturity

Criterion	Explanation	Documentation
1A Cost level, realism, and maturity	<p>The applicant must have a realistic and lowest possible cost estimate for a 500 MW floating offshore wind project in Utsira Nord fully operational in 2034.</p> <p>The maturity and realism of the estimates will be assessed and weighted more heavily than the cost estimates themselves. Unrealistic, immature, or undocumented cost estimates will result in point deductions.</p> <p>The applicant will also be assessed on whether they actively address cost uncertainty and have a strategy to mitigate key uncertainty factors that could lead to higher costs. The applicant will also be evaluated on their experience with technology maturation and cost reductions.</p>	<p>A. Main documentation 1A: Maximum five pages summarizing the criterion and submitted appendices.</p> <p>B. Appendix 1A-A: Completed template for cost estimates and the 2034-tab, cf. Appendix 4, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Cost estimates for CAPEX and OPEX for production facilities and grid facilities to be owned by the offshore wind developer. The cost estimates shall be provided as expected costs (P10, P50, and P90). ii) Estimated energy production, gross and net. Energy production shall be provided as expected production (P10, P50, and P90). <p>C. Appendix 1A-B: Documentation explaining how the cost estimates have been structured and calculated (CAPEX).</p>



Criterion	Explanation	Documentation
		<p>D. Appendix 1A-C: Documentation of the uncertainty analysis and risk management strategy, including at minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Description of how the uncertainty analysis was conducted, identification and explanation of the most uncertain cost elements, as well as chosen methods and planned measures to mitigate the uncertainties. ii) A plan to address uncertainties and choice of methods, e.g., contracting strategies, risk management in project implementation, plan for using alternative suppliers, price and commodity hedging strategy. <p>E. Appendix 1A-D: Documentation and methodological description of how annual energy production has been estimated.</p> <p>F. Appendix 1A-E: Documentation on how operation and maintenance costs have been estimated (OPEX).</p> <p>G. Appendix 1A-F: Documentation of the technology qualification conducted for the selected concept, as well as a description of how the qualification activities support the cost estimates. A plan for further development up to commissioning shall also be provided.</p> <p>H. Appendix 1A-G: Documentation of processes, dialogue, and any agreements with suppliers, where at minimum the following is described: turbine supplier, floater fabrication, assembly, and installation.</p>



Criterion	Explanation	Documentation
		<p>I. Appendix 1A-H: Documentation of experience with cost reductions from previous projects through innovation, scaling, and project execution relevant to future floating offshore wind projects. The applicant's role in the projects shall be described. Documentation must also be provided for ongoing and planned research and development, user-tested or piloted technology, etc., that supports the cost-reducing effect.</p> <p>The user guide and assumptions for the cost estimates are provided in the template in Appendix 4.</p> <p>The cost estimate shall be based on Project Area 2 and otherwise reflect the applicant's project concept, cf. qualitative criterion 3C Project concept.</p> <p>Any other assumptions made by the applicant must be clearly stated.</p>

Innovation and technology development

As floating offshore wind is developed further and realised, cost reductions for floating offshore wind are anticipated. This criterion is intended to promote measures, innovations and technology development that can result in future cost reductions for floating offshore wind. This will contribute to making floating offshore wind commercial and competitive as soon as possible.

Tabell 4 Qualitative criteria: Innovation and technology development

Criterion	Explanation	Documentation
2A Potential for cost reductions	<p>The applicant must demonstrate a clear understanding and measures for technological development, innovation and other cost-reducing processes that will result in the most cost-effective and competitive fully operational offshore wind project by 2040.</p> <p>The applicant must, through a plan for realizing cost reductions, substantiate how the technological innovation applied at scale will lead to lower costs.</p> <p>The applicant shall base the plan on the key technology choices underlying their project concept. The applicant will be assessed on the technology's potential for cost reductions and the applicant's plan for, and experience with, realizing cost reductions.</p> <p>Innovation and technology with potential for significant cost reductions will be weighted positively.</p> <p>The realism of the plan will be assessed, and unrealistic plans will result in point deductions.</p> <p>The applicant will also be assessed on whether they have an active approach to cost uncertainty and a</p>	<p>A. Main Documentation 2A: Maximum 5 pages summarizing the criterion and submitted attachments, which must at minimum include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A justified and quantified estimate of the potential for cost reductions from 2034 to 2040. The estimate shall assume that the applicant has established a 500 MW production facility in operation at Utsira Nord from 2034, and quantify the potential for further cost reductions for a similar facility to be commissioned in Project Area 2 in 2040. <p>B. Appendix 1A-A: Completed cost estimate template and the 2040 excel tab, cf. Appendix 4. The potential shall, as far as possible, be estimated for the same items as indicated in the cost estimate template per Criterion 1A, and include both CAPEX, OPEX, and possible improvements in energy production</p> <p>C. Appendix 2A-A: Documentation of the plan for activities and their realization to achieve cost reductions by 2040. The plan shall include a risk assessment in which the applicant describes key factors that may impact the cost reduction potential and the planned strategy to mitigate these.</p>



Criterion	Explanation	Documentation
	strategy to mitigate key uncertainty factors that could lead to higher costs.	<p>D. Appendix 1A-H: Documentation of experience with cost reductions from previous projects through innovation, scaling, and project execution relevant to future floating offshore wind projects. The applicant's role in these projects shall be described. Documentation of ongoing and planned R&D, user-tested or piloted technology, etc., supporting the cost-reducing effect shall also be submitted. Attachment 1A-H is also submitted in response to the qualitative criterion 1A Cost level, realism, and maturity, and does not need to be submitted more than once.</p> <p>E. Appendix 2A-B: Documentation of the applicant's strategic partnerships, development processes, and letters of intent with suppliers and other actors, and how the collaboration will contribute to achieving cost reductions.</p> <p>Any assumptions and premises made by the applicant must be clearly stated.</p>
2B Dissemination potential	<p>The applicant will be evaluated in respect of opportunities and measures for the further dissemination and scaling of the key technologies that form the basis for the applicant's project concept, cf. qualitative criteria 3C Project concept.</p> <p>The applicant must substantiate the potential for dissemination of the technology, including the extent to which and how the technology will be made available to other projects or actors.</p>	<p>A. Main Documentation 2B: Maximum four pages, which must at minimum include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) A description and justification of the potential for dissemination and scaling of the technology, as well as a description of specific advantages of the concept that enable such dissemination. ii) A description of measures and plans for making the technology available to other projects or actors.



Criterion	Explanation	Documentation
	Technology with the potential for dissemination and scaling will be given a positive weighting.	<p>The applicant must, as far as possible, quantify and specify when the dissemination potential will be realized.</p> <p>Any assumptions and premises made by the applicant must be clearly stated.</p>

Execution capability

To facilitate the realization of the projects, it is important that applicants awarded project areas have the strongest possible financial strength and relevant experience, as well as the most mature and robust project concept. Therefore, the Ministry has established a qualitative criterion where the applicants' ability to execute will be evaluated. Applicants will be assessed based on three qualitative criteria related to financial strength, relevant experience, and project concept.

The applicant's response to sub-criterion 3C Project Concept, along with clarifications and elaborations in the license applications, will be included in the investment support agreement.

Table 5 Qualitative criteria: Execution capability

Criterion	Explanation	Documentation
3A Financial Strength	<p>The applicant's financial strength will be assessed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Revenue, and ii) Equity <p>Revenue is determined in the same manner as specified for the qualification requirement regarding revenue in section 3.</p> <p>The qualitative criterion 3A Financial Strength will be assessed based on revenue beyond an average annual revenue of 20 billion NOK over the past three years.</p> <p>The applicant's equity is the applicant's average book value equity over the past three years.</p> <p>For consortia, equity will be assessed collectively. Each consortium member's average equity over the past three years will be adjusted based on the consortium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Annual report and a digital link to the annual report for the last three years B. Audit report for the last three years (if not included in the annual report) C. Completed Appendix 6 <p>The above documentation is also submitted in connection with the response to qualification requirements A Revenue and B Solvency/credit rating in section 3, and need only be submitted once.</p> <p>If the applicant cannot provide annual reports, audit reports for the last three years, or other requested documentation, the applicant must submit other documentation that can illustrate the level of financial strength.</p> <p>If an applicant or consortium member relies on support from an associated party to meet this criterion, a signed support letter from the associated party shall be submitted, cf. Appendix 5a. If an</p>



Criterion	Explanation	Documentation
	<p>member's share in the consortium. The consortium's collective equity will then be determined as the sum of the individual consortium members' calculated equity.</p> <p>If a consortium member relies on support from an associated party, the associated party's equity will be adjusted based on ownership share in the consortium member.</p> <p>If an associated party does not directly or indirectly own a share in the consortium member, the equity will be adjusted based on connection through the ownership structure (see example in Appendix 6).</p>	<p>applicant or consortium member relies on support from an associated party, the associated party's revenue and/or equity will be considered, and not the revenue and/or equity of the applicant or consortium member. Documentation in accordance with the above-mentioned requirements must also be submitted for the associated party.</p>
3B Relevant experience	<p>The applicant will be evaluated based on relevant experience in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Floating offshore wind ii) Bottom-fixed offshore wind <p>In the evaluation, particular emphasis will be placed on the applicant's experience with floating offshore wind. Experience with fixed-bottom offshore wind will also be given weight.</p> <p>Projects that have progressed far in development will be weighted more heavily than projects in early stages of development (see Appendix 7, section 2 for a description of project phases). Projects where the applicant has participated in multiple project phases will also be weighted more heavily.</p>	<p>A. Appendix 7, section 2, completed for a maximum of 15 projects.</p> <p>If an applicant or consortium member relies on support from an associated party to meet this criterion, a signed support letter from the associated party shall be submitted, cf. Appendix 5b. Documentation in accordance with the documentation requirements described above must also be submitted for the associated party.</p>



Criterion	Explanation	Documentation
	<p>The total capacity (MW) of the projects will be considered in the evaluation.</p> <p>Reference projects shall be from the last 10 years counted from the application deadline.</p> <p>The applicant shall minimum have had 20 percent ownership in the reference projects.</p> <p>If the applicant relies on support from an associated party to meet this criterion, the connection with the applicant may also be considered in the evaluation.</p>	
3C Project Concept	<p>The applicant must have a project concept with an associated risk assessment related to project execution.</p> <p>The project concept and risk assessment shall contribute to ensuring that the project has the best possible conditions to be completed within applicable deadlines and frameworks.</p> <p>The project concept will be evaluated based on how mature, robust, and realistic the concept is, with particular emphasis on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) which considerations and trade-offs form the basis of the concept; and ii) the extent to which the concept is adapted to and takes into account the identified risk factors. 	<p>A. Description of the project concept which at least outlines planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Installed capacity and estimate for net annual energy production P50 ii) Project location, area requirements (onshore and offshore) and offshore wind park layout iii) Location of installation port and operations & maintenance base. iv) Type of turbine (MW, tower height, tip height, etc.) v) Type of floater (technology, materials, etc.) vi) Type of anchoring solution vii) Type of cable within the production installation (internal cabling) viii) Technical lifetime of the installations (production installations and grid installations)



Criterion	Explanation	Documentation
	The risk assessment will be evaluated based on the realism of the assessment, the overall risk management in the project, and how general risks for offshore wind projects as well as specific risk factors for the relevant project have been identified and handled.	<p>ix) Preliminary calculations of wake effects (taking into account own production installations only)</p> <p>x) Preferred grid solution for the onshore connection point</p> <p>If significant adjustments to the project concept are needed should the applicant be awarded project area 1 or 3, this must be clearly stated in the submission.</p> <p>B. Risk assessment describing key factors that may complicate project execution, and the planned strategy to mitigate these.</p> <p>Maximum 15 pages in total. (Illustrations may be included in addition).</p>

Sustainability

The development of offshore wind shall take place in a sustainable manner that takes into consideration the climate and the environment. The sustainability criteria shall contribute to sustainable offshore wind development that ensures coexistence and minimizes impacts on the climate and environment. The Ministry may, in the licensing decision, impose conditions regarding mitigation measures or similar that shall serve the same purpose.

Planned measures related to qualitative criteria 4A–D shall be incorporated into the notification with a proposal for a project-specific study program and be subject to an environmental impact assessment in accordance with the approved study program, cf. Sections 3 and 4 of the Offshore Energy Act Regulations. If the environmental impact assessment shows that the measure is appropriate, the Ministry of Energy may impose conditions in the license requiring implementation, execution, reporting, and monitoring of measures. The licensing decision will include a condition that the licensee for the offshore wind installation shall carry out a sustainability analysis of the project and submit a final report no later than two years after the facility is commissioned. The final report shall include a GAP analysis comparing plans and results. The final report shall be made public.

Table 6 Qualitative criteria: Sustainability

Criterion	Explanation	Documentation
4A Minimization of climate footprint	<p>The applicant shall strive to minimize the project's climate footprint.</p> <p>The applicant shall have a climate plan describing planned and potential measures to minimize the project's climate footprint.</p> <p>Planned measures shall be based on the applicant's project concept, cf. qualitative criterion 3C Project Concept.</p> <p>For potential measures, the applicant shall specify what is required for the measure to be implemented.</p>	<p>A. Climate plan with descriptions of planned and potential measures to minimize the project's climate footprint, and, if possible, quantify the measures' emission-reducing effect. The applicant must describe the extent to which they commit to implementing the measures.</p> <p>B. Description of the applicant's experience with climate measures in relevant projects.</p> <p>Maximum five pages (any calculations may be included in addition).</p>



Criterion	Explanation	Documentation
	<p>The applicant will be assessed based on the quality of the plan and measures, as well as the degree of commitment to relevant and concrete measures. Relevant measures that the applicant commits to implementing will be weighted more heavily than potential measures.</p> <p>The applicant will also be assessed based on documented experience and competence from relevant work.</p>	
4B Coexistence	<p>The project shall facilitate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Good coexistence in the project area by preventing spatial conflicts with affected stakeholders. ii) Appropriate multi-use by enabling the sharing of space and resources between different activities or commercial purposes. <p>The applicant shall prepare a plan describing specific planned and potential measures to improve coexistence and multi-use in the project area.</p> <p>Planned measures shall be based on the applicant's project concept, cf. qualitative criterion 3C Project Concept. For potential measures, the applicant shall</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Situation description: The applicant shall identify the key stakeholders, as well as challenges and opportunities related to spatial use in and around the project area. B. Coexistence measures: Describe measures to prevent and mitigate spatial conflicts, as well as any potential unintended (negative) effects associated with them. C. Multi-use measures: Describe measures for the sharing of space and resources between different activities or commercial purposes, as well as any potential unintended (negative) effects associated with them. <p>For sections B and C above, the applicant shall assess the measures in relation to qualitative criterion 4D Nature and Environment, the overall impact on biodiversity in the project area, and the potential for nature-positive effects through other effective area-based conservation measures.</p>



Criterion	Explanation	Documentation
	<p>specify what is required for the measure to be implemented.</p> <p>The applicant will be assessed based on the quality of the plan and measures, as well as the degree of commitment to relevant and concrete measures. Relevant measures that the applicant commits to implementing will be weighted more heavily than potential measures.</p> <p>The applicant will also be assessed based on documented experience and competence from relevant work.</p>	<p>D. Experience and Competence: Description of the applicant's experience and competence related to coexistence in relevant projects.</p> <p>The applicant must describe the extent to which they commit to the proposed measures.</p> <p>If significant adjustments to the plan or measures will be necessary in the event the applicant is awarded project area 1 or 3, this must be clearly stated in the submission.</p> <p>Maximum four pages.</p>
4C Waste, recycling and reuse	<p>The project shall contribute to good waste management, with particular emphasis on recycling throughout the project's lifetime.</p> <p>The applicant shall prepare a plan describing specific planned and potential measures for waste management, recycling, and reuse of major components in the offshore wind installation.</p> <p>Planned measures shall be based on the applicant's project concept, cf. qualitative criterion 3C Project Concept.</p> <p>For potential measures, the applicant shall specify what is required for the measure to be implemented.</p>	<p>A. Plan for waste management, recycling, and reuse: A plan for waste management, recycling, and reuse of major components in the offshore wind installation, including specific planned and potential measures for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Use of materials and chemicals ii) Waste management iii) Recycling iv) Reuse of major components in the offshore wind installation v) Avoiding/reducing pollution the project may cause, including microplastics <p>The applicant must describe the extent to which they commit to the measures.</p>



Criterion	Explanation	Documentation
	<p>The applicant will be assessed based on the quality of the plan and measures, as well as the degree of commitment to relevant and concrete measures. Relevant measures that the applicant commits to implementing will be weighted more heavily than potential measures.</p> <p>The applicant will also be assessed based on documented experience and competence from relevant work.</p>	<p>B. Experience and competence: Description of the applicant's experience and competence in waste management, recycling, and reuse in relevant projects.</p> <p>Maximum five pages.</p>
4D Nature and environment	<p>Consideration for nature and the environment shall be maintained throughout the entire project lifecycle. The project shall therefore contribute to increased knowledge and innovation in technologies and methods that reduce impacts on biodiversity and the environment or provide positive nature effects in the project area.</p> <p>The applicant shall prepare a plan describing specific planned and potential measures to protect biodiversity and the environment.</p> <p>Planned measures shall be based on the applicant's project concept, cf. qualitative criterion 3C Project Concept. For potential measures, the applicant shall specify what is required for the measure to be implemented.</p>	<p>A. Mitigation measures: Describe measures to avoid, mitigate, restore, or compensate for impacts on biodiversity and the environment, as well as how the development and use of new technology will be incorporated into the design of the offshore wind installation.</p> <p>B. Knowledge gathering: Describe measures to close knowledge gaps related to impacts on biodiversity and the environment, as well as innovative measures for mapping and monitoring biodiversity and the environment in the project area.</p> <p>C. Experience and competence: Description of the applicant's experience and competence with nature and environmental measures in relevant projects.</p> <p>The applicant must describe the extent to which they commit to the measures.</p>



Criterion	Explanation	Documentation
	<p>The applicant will be assessed based on the quality of the plan and measures, as well as the degree of commitment to relevant and concrete measures. Relevant measures that the applicant commits to implementing will be weighted more heavily than potential measures.</p> <p>The applicant will also be assessed based on documented experience and competence from relevant work.</p>	<p>For clarity, the environmental impact assessment program is not the subject of this submission.</p> <p>If significant adjustments to the plan or measures will be necessary if the applicant is awarded project area 1 or 3, this must be clearly stated in the submission.</p> <p>Maximum five pages.</p>

Positive ripple effects

The government wants the development of offshore wind to facilitate positive ripple effects. The criterion *Positive ripple effects* shall contribute to industrial development by building experience and competence development in the supply chains during development.

The criterion will reward applicants who contribute positively to increased competence and development in the supply chains.

The licensing decision will also include a condition requiring the licensee for the offshore wind installation to conduct an analysis of the ripple effects of the development and submit a final report no later than two years after the facility is commissioned. The final report shall include a GAP analysis comparing planned ripple effects and actual results. The final report shall be made public.

The applicant's response to criterion 5 Positive Ripple Effects, as well as clarifications and elaborations of this in license applications, will be included in the investment support agreement.

Table 7 Qualitative criteria: Positive ripple effects

Criterion	Explanation	Documentation
5A. Development of the supplier industry and infrastructure for offshore wind	<p>The project shall contribute to the development of the supplier industry and infrastructure for offshore wind in an economically sustainable manner.</p> <p>The applicant must have a plan with measures describing how the project will contribute to developing the supplier industry and infrastructure for offshore wind for future projects. The measures should be as concrete as possible and related to the project. If possible, the proposed measures should be described based on previous experiences with developing the supplier industry and infrastructure, including which measures have worked and which potentially have not worked.</p>	<p>A. Plan that includes at minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Description of measures to develop the supplier industry in the various segments of the project (studies, fabrication, installation, operation, and maintenance) ii) Description of which parts of the project can utilize existing infrastructure and which parts require new infrastructure iii) Description of the planned tendering and contracting strategy, and how this can contribute to developing the supplier industry. The description shall cover the planning, construction, and operation phases. <p>B. Description of the applicant's experience with measures for developing the supplier industry and infrastructure in previous projects.</p>



Criterion	Explanation	Documentation
	<p>The plan should demonstrate the applicant's understanding of the needs of the supplier industry in connection with offshore wind project development. The same applies to the need for infrastructure development related to offshore wind projects. The plan shall include measures within the project segments of studies, fabrication, installation, operation, and maintenance.</p> <p>The applicant will be evaluated based on the quality, realism, and relevance of the measures.</p>	<p>Maximum 6 pages, where the plan under item A can be up to 3 pages.</p>
5B. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs)	<p>The project shall contribute to SMEs gaining valuable experience with offshore wind. SMEs are defined here as companies with up to 100 employees.</p> <p>The applicant must have a plan for how the project will help SMEs gain experience with deliveries or services related to the project. The measures in the plan should be concrete and linked to the project. The plan should demonstrate the applicant's understanding of what it takes for SMEs to gain experience with deliveries related to offshore wind projects.</p> <p>If possible, the proposed measures should be described based on previous experiences that have enabled SMEs to gain experience with offshore wind, including which measures have worked and which potentially have not worked.</p>	<p>A. Plan that includes at minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Description of measures to ensure that SMEs gain experience with deliveries or services from offshore wind in the project. <p>B. Description of the applicant's experience with measures related to the development of SMEs in previous projects, and any agreements entered into with SMEs.</p> <p>Any description of agreements made with SMEs regarding deliveries or services in the project shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Number of employees ii) Revenue of the SME iii) Which segment the agreement covers iv) Duration and commitment of the agreement



Criterion	Explanation	Documentation
	<p>The plan shall include measures within the project segments of studies, fabrication, installation, operation, and maintenance.</p> <p>The applicant will be evaluated based on the quality, realism, and relevance of the measures.</p>	<p>v) The development objectives the SME is expected to achieve through the agreement</p> <p>Maximum 6 pages, where the plan under item A can be up to 3 pages.</p>
5C Competence development	<p>The project shall contribute to improving, developing, and expanding skills, knowledge, and capabilities within offshore wind both in the applicant's own organization and in the supply chain. The project shall also facilitate the use of skilled workers and apprentices.</p> <p>The applicant must have a plan for how the project contributes to competence development within their own organization and in the supplier chain.</p> <p>The plan shall facilitate that competence development is properly managed during the project implementation and provide incentives for subcontractors to employ skilled workers and apprentices. The measures in the plan should be concrete and related to the project. If possible, the proposed measures should be described based on previous experience with competence development, including which measures have worked and which potentially have not worked. The plan should demonstrate the applicant's understanding of the</p>	<p>A. Plan that includes at minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Description of competence development measures related to the project. ii) Description of specific measures to facilitate the use of skilled workers and apprentices in the various parts of the project. iii) Description of how the applicant will incentivize their subcontractors to employ skilled workers and apprentices. iv) Description of contributions and collaboration with institutions and associations related to relevant research and development in offshore wind. <p>B. Description of the applicant's experience with competence development measures in previous projects.</p> <p>Maximum 6 pages, where the plan under item A can be up to 3 pages.</p>



Criterion	Explanation	Documentation
	<p>needs for competence development within offshore wind.</p> <p>The applicant will be evaluated based on the quality, realism, and relevance of the measures for the project implementation.</p>	