



PRESS RELEASE

First Minister of Wales visits TotalEnergies in Paris to discuss Celtic Sea floating wind plans

Paris, 17th March 2023 – In the same week that Welsh Ministers provided the planning consents for the TotalEnergies 100 MW Erebus floating wind project, the First Minister of Wales, Rt Hon Mark Drakeford, visited TotalEnergies French headquarters located in Paris to discuss the project and wider opportunities of floating wind in the Celtic Sea.

During the visit, the First Minister met the TotalEnergies Renewables' team working on Erebus, Wales' first floating windfarm, and joined a roundtable to discuss the global ambitions TotalEnergies has for the technology. The visit was also an opportunity to discuss some of the challenges and significant opportunities that floating wind could provide for Wales and the Celtic Sea region.

Wales' first planned floating windfarm is located approximately 40 kilometres off the Pembrokeshire coastline and Blue Gem Wind, the joint venture between TotalEnergies and Simply Blue Group is on target to begin operating the 100MW Erebus project in 2026. Project Erebus will house seven next-generation 14 MW turbines on floating platforms, providing enough low carbon energy to power 93,000 homes.

Erebus is part of the first phase of a 4 GW renewable energy development in the Celtic Sea, enough power for 4 million homes. The installation of these turbines will help providing new low carbon energy in the region while contributing to Welsh and UK net zero targets and energy security.

First Minister Mark Drakeford said, *"It was a pleasure to visit TotalEnergies' headquarters to meet some of the team who'll be working on the Erebus project. Erebus has the potential to show the world that Wales and the Celtic Sea can deliver renewable energy alongside the sustainable management of our marine resources. We are ambitious for the floating offshore wind sector in Wales – we believe it has the potential to deliver sustainable sources of energy into the future and it is also a once-in-a-generation opportunity to open up new markets for local suppliers and to create thousands of high-quality jobs in Wales."*

"We were pleased to welcome the First Minister of Wales, Rt Hon Mark Drakeford in Paris at TotalEnergies headquarters, just a few days after the announcement from Welsh Ministers to grant the necessary planning consents for Erebus, Wales first floating wind farm. We've been working since 2020 to develop a project that meets both environmental and societal requirements while contributing to Wales' energy targets and energy security improvement. Erebus will play a crucial role in advancing the deployment of floating offshore wind, a low carbon technology which is extremely promising to contribute to the development of renewable energy in the United-Kingdom and worldwide." **said Olivier Terneaud, VP Offshore Wind at TotalEnergies.**

To read about the project, please visit : <https://totalenergies.com/media/news/press-releases/renewables-total-enters-floating-offshore-wind-first-project-uk>

TotalEnergies and renewables electricity

As part of its ambition to get to net zero by 2050, TotalEnergies is building a portfolio of activities in electricity and renewables. At the end of 2022, TotalEnergies' gross renewable electricity generation installed capacity was 17 GW. TotalEnergies will continue to expand this business to reach 35 GW of gross production capacity from renewable sources and storage by 2025, and then 100 GW by 2030 with the objective of being among the world's top 5 producers of electricity from wind and solar energy.

<https://renewables.totalenergies.com/en>

About TotalEnergies

TotalEnergies is a global multi-energy company that produces and markets energies: oil and biofuels, natural gas and green gases, renewables and electricity. Our more than 100,000 employees are committed to energy that is ever more affordable, cleaner, more reliable and accessible to as many people as possible. Active in more than 130 countries, TotalEnergies puts sustainable development in all its dimensions at the heart of its projects and operations to contribute to the well-being of people.

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