

RECHARGE

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California in frame for US' first floating wind port as Crowley seals deal with Humboldt Bay

Jeff Andreini (right), Crowley's vice president of new energy, signs a deal to launch exclusive negotiations to develop and operate a floating wind port at Humboldt Bay in Eureka, California. Photo: Crowley



Agreement by maritime contractor to redevelop facility in north of state for use in building and servicing deepwater units comes as plans take shape for first lease sale in US Pacific

By **Eric Priante Martin** in Stamford

The first port terminal in the US purpose-built to serve the emerging floating wind sector is in the frame for Humboldt Bay in northern California, following the signing of a deal by maritime contractor Crowley.

The Florida-based company's agreement with the port, located some 28 miles (45km) from the Humboldt wind energy area, comes as the state is aiming to get in on national efforts to build offshore wind generation capacity that have so far focused chiefly on the East Coast.

Crowley said the deal meant its wind services division would now start exclusive negotiations with the port for a lease that would make it both developer and operator of facility, to be known as the Humboldt Bay Offshore Wind Heavy Lift Marine Terminal.

The terminal's tenants would be involved in manufacturing, installation and operation of floating wind platforms in waters of the Pacific off California coast, as well as serving heavy-lift cargo vessels, crew vessels and marshalling operations.

"Clean, renewable energy for Californians took a step forward through our partnership with the leaders of the Port of Humboldt Bay," said Crowley senior vice president Bob Karl said.

"Through our collaboration, we can reach our shared commitment for sustainable development that gives the state and the nation a new source of energy that respects the environment and reduces greenhouse gas emissions."

Humboldt Bay becomes Crowley's second offshore wind port project. Earlier this month, the company purchased land in **Salem, Massachusetts**, for a terminal there. Engineering and design is underway.

The US Department of the Interior has announced plans to launch an offshore wind lease sale on 6 December for waters on Humboldt Bay.

First in the west

The leasing would mark the first sale of offshore wind energy acreage on the US West Coast, where California's state government is aiming to have up to 5GW of plant running by 2030, or a sixth of the 30GW targeted by President Joe Biden by this date.

Eager to get in on the action, the **Port of Humboldt Bay** has already developed a conceptual master plan for the terminal, funded by a \$10.5m grant from the California Energy Commission.

The Humboldt Bay Offshore Wind Heavy Lift Marine Terminal proposal. Photo: Crowley

The terminal's first phase involves 98 acres, or 397,000m², but adjoining land has been set aside for expansion.

"Guided by the support and expertise of Crowley, the Port of Humboldt Bay now stands to be an international leader in the transition to renewable energy," port board president Greg Dale said.

"The port will play a critical role not only in the Humboldt and Morro Bay call areas, but in all future offshore wind areas of the US West Coast.

