

# Strong cable defenses a must to avoid big check

US developers must make the right choices when installing and managing cables to avoid costly repairs that could have long-term income complications for projects.

An IPF 2018 subsea cable risk session on Thursday at 2pm will hear from industry experts on the lessons learned from Europe, where wire failures are responsible for up to 80% of insurance

claims in the sector. Putting in place adequate protection measures is "imperative" to ensure cables are not damaged by fishing, shipping or dredging activities, according to Ed Jones, a senior engineer with international consultancy Cathie Associates.

Jones is one of the session panellists and will tell delegates "understanding the

whole life cost of the system including installation cost, insurance, cable repairs or loss of revenue is essential for development decisions".

Jones will discuss cable burial methods and detail the company's work with the Carbon Trust in developing guidelines in the area.

"As installation of power cables in a cost-effective manner is now essential for the future of wind farm developments, optimized cable burial with respect to risk has become the preferred protection technique," added Cathie Associates US vice president Sean McDonald.

■ UK manufacturer Scour Prevention Systems has been granted a full US patent for its scour prevention mattresses, which is designed to protect offshore structures, cables and pipelines using end-of-life vehicle tyres.



## Contractors likely to offload legal risk, developers warned

Developers of US offshore wind farms are facing a larger slice of contracting risk for major components as suppliers learn the lessons from the European sector, according to legal experts.

Watson Farley & Williams dispute resolution partner Joshua Sohn said contractors will try to limit their exposure to risk in line with a landmark UK legal ruling last year at the 174MW Robin Rigg wind farm (pictured).

In August, the UK Supreme Court found Danish contractor MT Højgaard liable for historic grouting issues at the Solway Firth site. The ruling set a precedent requiring contractors

to ensure they deliver components that exceed, not just meet, best-practice fabrication guidelines, according to lawyers.

Construction contracts in many US states active in offshore wind typically include disclaimers about warranties or fitness to purpose provisions not expressly stated in contracts, Sohn said.

Many US courts also "do what they can to enforce contracts as written" but contractors are still likely to offload as much risk as possible on early projects.

"[The UK ruling] underscores the importance of making sure the contract works," added Sohn.

Photo: Eon

## O&M crew will have to dig deep

Operations and maintenance providers will face a series of challenges to secure service contracts at future US offshore wind farms, according to experts.

Logistical, legal and geographical hurdles await companies keen to grab a slice of the action, said Natural Power operations and asset management director Euan Fenelon.

Fenelon is speaking during

Operating an Offshore Wind Farm at 2.30pm on Wednesday and will tell IPF 2018 delegates that O&M providers may need to make substantial investments in the US to play a role.

The Jones Act will further force the hand of O&M companies, which will need to build and deploy US-flagged crew transfer and service operations vessels, Fenelon said ahead of the event.



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