

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the details about the DOE award?

- Ohio is one of five projects to win this particular DOE offshore wind partnership. In the first year (Budget Period 1), the DOE contributes \$4.0 million and the partners contribute \$1 million. LEEDCo will then compete for an additional \$46.7 million in DOE funding for the following four years.

2. What must LEEDCo do in Budget Period 1 to win the down select for one of three projects?

During Budget Period 1 LEEDCo will:

- a. Conduct the appropriate engineering that leads to bounded project cost estimates, two foundation candidates, and a cost benefits analysis between the different candidates.
- b. Continue the ongoing regulatory process, and complete the necessary applications for permitting (state and federal – NEPA) and leasing as well as innovations for improving the installation and operation of the proposed project.
- c. Complete the initial interconnection design, and submit applications to PJM.
- d. Undertake the appropriate research and development activities to assess the feasibility of an early turbine foundation, innovative installation methodologies, system dynamic response to icing conditions, and operations and maintenance optimization.

3. How will LEEDCo finance the remainder of the project?

- The financing structure and strategy remain the same by negotiating with municipal and investor-owned utilities, in addition to exploring voluntary power purchasers. Winning the five-year award of \$50.6 million will significantly buy down the cost of the project, while LEEDCo continues to pursue financing opportunities for the remainder of the project costs.

4. How did LEEDCo select its partners in applying for the grant?

- LEEDCo has had existing relationships with many of its partners such as Case Western Reserve University and Freshwater Wind. Within the last year, as the project has evolved, relationships developed with Siemens and DNV KEMA, world leaders in offshore wind.

5. What has LEEDCo proposed to the DOE to lower the cost of offshore wind energy?

- By its very nature, the completion of a First-of-a-Kind project leads to cost reductions through experience, adaption to local conditions, and optimization of the management team. LEEDCo and its partners have also proposed a number of innovative ideas in order to lower the cost of the first project prior to construction. Many of these cost-reduction techniques include logistics and design efficiencies. While turbine innovations are important, major innovations will occur in the balance of system, including foundations, construction, and deployment.
 - Evidence of this can be gleaned from an NREL report which estimates Balance of System to be 60% of the total cost for offshore wind projects (Blanco 2009).”

6. What permits has LEEDCo received toward building the project?

- LEEDCo has been communicating with the applicable regulatory agencies since 2008 so that the project is sited and built responsibly, but it currently holds no formal permits. The Icebreaker team remains committed to a number of on-going studies ensuring compliance with all of the regulatory agencies. LEEDCo does hold an Option to Lease Submerged Land from the State of Ohio for four grid squares, seven miles out in Lake Erie.

7. What is the date of expected operation for the project?

- LEEDCo is now on a timeline as determined by the DOE award and is aiming for late 2016 as a realistic date of commissioning.

More information:

- For more information on LEEDCo, Icebreaker, or other FAQs, please visit www.LEEDCo.org.