

Principle Power, EDP to develop wind project off Portugal

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PORTUGAL: Principle Power has signed a memorandum of agreement with Energias de Portugal (EDP) for the phased development of a deepwater wind power project off the coast of Portugal.

The project will use the WindFloat, a Principle Power-owned floating foundation for offshore wind turbines. The WindFloat dampens wave and turbine induced motion, enabling wind turbines to be placed in previously inaccessible locations offshore.

Principle Power and EDP will co-develop a three-phased offshore wind power project. Phase I will consist of the fabrication and installation of a single WindFloat for demonstration purposes. Phases II and III are pre-commercial and commercial deployment, making use of shared infrastructure.

EDP CEO Antonio Mexia said, "Offshore wind is one of our key innovation priorities. The development of floating foundations for wind turbines is a pre-requisite to the development of offshore wind farms worldwide, as areas in which the sea bed is less than 50 m deep are scarce and fixed structures in deeper waters are economically not feasible. We believe the WindFloat may be the correct approach to deepwater offshore wind farms."

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