**Invitation**

**Innovation and matchmaking mission**

**Offshore Wind Energy**

**The Netherlands**

**22th and 23th of October 2018**

Are you active in the Offshore Wind sector? Are you interested in the state of the art on this topic in the Netherlands, or are you interested to explore the R&D- and market opportunities for your organization in the Netherlands? Then join this innovation mission to the Netherlands on 22th and 23th of October.

In order to reach the goal of a decarbonized society in 2050, Europe intends to increase the production and the use of renewable energy. Offshore wind energy in the North sea region stands out as an optimal solution for energy transition.

The Netherlands has proved offshore wind energy to be a powerful, sustainable and profitable alternative. Dutch public and private parties work together to design, develop, build and maintain top quality wind farms. Small and large companies share their knowledge and improve and develop offshore wind technology.

The government creates all the pre-conditions and covers the risks for investors, making it attractive for them to step in. Because the Netherlands realized that there is more to building high quality wind farms at sea than just manufacturing wind turbines. Key to success? An integrated approach. Thanks to this approach, wind energy now has a great positive impact on our country. The price of wind energy dropped spectacularly, the industry quickly became profitable and new jobs were created. Now the Netherlands wants to share her acquired knowledge and experience with France. The implementation in France of offshore wind power would contribute to achieve the objective 40 % renewable electricity by 2030 set by the law on energy transition for green growth. Since 2012, 3000 MW have been awarded in 6 different projects, while 4 floating offshore wind pilot farms (96 MW) are also under development. The last tender which is ongoing, use the competitive dialogue procurement procedure and will be awarded in the North sea in Dunkirk in 2019.

Confronting to similar challenges and goals: a better collaboration on this field can increase full potential of offshore energy on policy, knowledge and foster opportunities and innovation for companies and at the business level.
Draft programme outline

The programme in the Netherlands will include at least the following elements:

**Monday October 22:**
- **Morning:** A Dutch/French seminar on policy and permits, legislation, risk management, costs, knowledge
- **Afternoon:** Visit a windfarm: Westermeerwind, and presentation by Deltares
- **Evening:** Dinner

**Tuesday October 23:**
- **Morning:** A workshop on value chain challenges and business opportunities
- **Afternoon:** Visit the OEEC conference, including B2B matchmaking
- **Late afternoon:** Follow up for further opportunities and networking reception

This mission is organised in conjunction with the Offshore Energy Exhibition & Conference (OEEC) in Amsterdam (OEEC18) bringing together thousands of offshore professionals. Over the years, this annual event has become a place of choice for groups such as industry organisations, professional membership organizations.

Attached you will find the detailed programme.

**For whom?**

This mission is targeted at offshore wind experts and companies as well as institutional experts, from a policy and knowledge perspective and business to business.

**Objective**

The objective of this innovation mission is to build a long term collaboration between the Netherlands and France and to pin-point business opportunities for future cooperation, knowledge exchange and partnerships in offshore wind energy.

**Costs**

The costs for joining this mission will consist of your travel to the Netherlands, your accommodation (£150-200 per night) and the entry fee for the OEEC (£0 for Expo only and £750 for a full conference pass). The seminar on Monday and workshop on Tuesday morning will be free of charge, courtesy of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency.

The Netherlands Enterprise Agency will arrange transfers within the programme, and meetings with businesses, policy and knowledge institutes.

**Sign up!**

Are you interested to receive more information? Would you like to join this two day programme or part of it? Please send us an email at adriana.voerman@minbuza.nl and/or sign up by completing this form.
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