

SCIENCE MEETS INDUSTRY OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY

24-25 MARCH 2025 | STRAND HOTEL FEVIK, GRIMSTAD

SPEAKERS



Knut Mjåland
CEO, GCE NODE

Knut Mjåland is CEO of Global Center of Expertise NODE. He has extensive managerial experience from the global energy sector and high-tech materials/composites industry.

Mjåland served 15 years as Senior Vice President at MHWirth (now HMH) and two years as General Manager of OPS Contracting. Prior to joining GCE NODE, he spent six years as CEO of Mandals, a world-leading producer of lay-flat hoses owned by Michelin. Mjåland is an accomplished manager of branch offices around the world and brings extensive experience from the board room.

He was trained as a Technical Engineer at the Air Force Technical College in Kristiansand and he holds a degree in Business Economics and Marketing from Harstad University College.

Mjåland is a former Board Member of GCE NODE.



Sille Grjotheim
Global Segment Director,
Floating Offshore Wind, DNV

Sille Grjotheim is Global segment director floating offshore wind in DNV. Sille has extensive international leadership experience, working in DNV in various countries for more than 30 years with certification, classification as well as having served on the Board of DNV for 9 yrs.

Sille graduated with a Master of Science in metallurgy and corrosion in Norway/France in 1993, has additionally leadership training from INSEAD and today also serves as chair of the Project Board for the export initiative for offshore wind by the Ministry of trade, fishery, and industry as well as a member of the Board of Steering group for Norwegian Offshore Wind.



Knut Erik Steen
Director, Oil & Gas Technology Suppliers/
Marine Renewables, Federation of
Norwegian Industries

Knut Erik Steen works primarily with the Federation of Norwegian Industries' activities related to the oil & gas and ocean renewables sectors. Prior to joining the Federation of Norwegian Industries Knut was Director for Offshore Wind at Norwegian Energy Partners.

Knut has over 30 years of experience including 13 years at Statoil (Equinor) where he held several management positions including Technical Manager for Hywind Pilot Park Scotland.

Knut Erik holds a Master of Science in Naval Architect & Ocean Engineering from the University of Glasgow.



Anne Knausgård
Country Manager Norway, Parkwind

Anne Knausgård was appointed Country Manager for Parkwind Norway in 2024 and has over 25 years of experience in the energy industry, including oil, gas, and renewables. She has been involved in offshore wind since 2008 with Equinor (formerly Statoil) and later at Aker Offshore Wind and Mainstream Renewable Power. She contributed to the Sørilige Nordsjø II and Utsira Nord tender teams, engaging stakeholders and driving innovation for Norway's offshore wind supplier industry.

She has led large oil & gas projects at Equinor, Norske Shell, and EMAS AMC, holding key roles such as Head of Project Procurement at Statoil and VP positions at EMAS AMC. From 2004–2019 she was Chair of the Norwegian Petroleum Association (Oslo Branch), and of the Polytechnical Association's Petroleum and Renewables network from 2004–2023.

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Zhiyu Jiang
Professor, University of Agder

Zhiyu Jiang holds a PhD in Marine Structures from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), awarded in 2014. Zhiyu has been a professor of Structural Engineering at the University of Agder since 2023.

His main academic interests lie in the design and modelling of offshore renewable energy systems. Jiang actively publishes in international journals and was recognized by Stanford University as one of the world's top 2% of researchers in both 2023 and 2024.

Zhiyu serves on the editorial boards of four international journals, including Renewable Energy and Journal of Offshore Mechanics and Arctic Engineering. In 2024, he was elected as a member of the Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences.



Marta Moyano
Senior Research Scientist, PhD,
The Norwegian Institute for Water
Research (NIVA)

Marta Moyano is a Senior Researcher at NIVA and adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Agder.

Marta holds a PhD in Oceanography and has more than 20 years' experience working at the interface of ecophysiology, biological oceanography, and aquaculture, using a multifaceted approach (laboratory experiments, field sampling and numerical models).

Her research investigates the impacts of environmental stressors, including climate change and offshore wind, on the physiology and population dynamics of plankton and fish.



Niklas Indrevær
Executive Account Director, GE Vernova

Niklas Indrevær has been working in offshore wind and renewable energy since 2012, leading commercial and project development efforts across a range of projects. As Executive Account Director at GE Vernova, he is responsible for offshore wind sales and market strategies in the Nordic region. A key part of his work involves bringing innovative wind technology closer to commercialization, including leading the effort to establish a wind turbine test site in Gulen, Norway.

Niklas' career spans roles at Equinor and Aker Solutions, where he played a central role in major offshore wind projects, including Hywind Tampen. With extensive experience in commercial negotiations, stakeholder engagement, and technology development, he has worked at the interface between industry, government and research to enable practical advancements in offshore wind.



Kristoffer Skjolden Skau
Director, GeoData and Technology,
The Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI)

Kristoffer Skjolden Skau is Director of GeoData and Technology at the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI). He leads NGI's laboratories, digital initiatives, and instrumentation activities both onshore and offshore. NGI has over 400 employees working on geo-related challenges and significant international activity within offshore wind.

Kristoffer holds a master's degree and a PhD from NTNU. His research has contributed to the development of foundation models for offshore wind, understanding cyclic soil response, and soil-structure interaction.

NGI has begun development of ProWind, a national research infrastructure dedicated to offshore wind. ProWind will enable physical testing of soil, foundations, anchoring, structures, and environmental impact, which is crucial for developing offshore wind technology and developing strong Norwegian industrial players.

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Kjell Eirik Haavold
Head of Legal, Norwegian Competence
Centre for Offshore Wind

Kjell Eirik Haavold is Head of Legal at the Norwegian Competence Centre for Offshore Wind and Project Manager of HavnERGI. The goal of HavnERGI is to research how Norway can realize the necessary capacity and investment needed for Norwegian ports to succeed with the Norwegian offshore wind ambitions.

Prior to working with offshore wind, Kjell Eirik spent 7 years at the Norwegian Tax Administration where he focused on bankruptcies and labour market crime. He has also been a local politician in Agder and Chairman of the Board at the Port of Kristiansand for four years.

Kjell Eirik holds a master's degree in law from the University of Oslo.



Ketil Arvesen
Vice President, Fred Olsen 1848

Ketil Arvesen is Vice President at Fred Olsen 1848. He has been involved in the offshore wind industry since 2008 and was instrumental in placing the yard contract for the first two large installation ships owned by Fred Olsen Windcarrierer, building 7 CTV's and initiating the service company Global Wind Service (GWS).

Ketil has early-stage experience from the US market, negotiating the contract to construct the first US Offshore Wind farm, Block Island.

Ketil holds a master's degree in business administration and management from the Norwegian School of Economics and Business (NHH).



Knut Høiland
CEO, Flex2Future

Knut Høiland is CEO of Flex2future AS. Høiland has been responsible for the development of the Flex2power technology for the past 6 years. Up until 2024 the development was taken care of by Rosenberg Worley AS in Stavanger. In 2024 the Flex2power technology was transferred into Flex2future AS. Høiland is one of the founders of Flex2future AS.

Høiland has during the past 40 years held manager positions within different industry companies in the Stavanger region and has also founded several companies.

Høiland holds a bachelor's degree as business engineer from the University of Stavanger.



Pål Norheim
CEO and Board Member, Stationmar

Pål Norheim joined the board of Stationmar January 2022 and assumed the role as CEO March 2023.

Pål has 40 years of experience in the oil & gas industry, including 10 years in CEO positions. This includes management positions in various companies related to design, construction, operation of mobile drilling rigs, and drilling technology development.

Pål also has international experience as Chief Technical Officer at Frigstad Discover Invest Ltd., Singapore. From 2011 to 2023 Pål was Technical Manager for Saipem Norway, where he today maintains a part-time position as Technical Advisor.

In Saipem Pål has been involved in operation of floating semisub drilling rigs all over the Norwegian sector, for clients such as Equinor, ENI, Shell, AkerBP, Total, Vår Energi, Repsol and Wintershall DEA. This also included five years for drilling the Goliat wells in the Barents Sea.

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Tord Broms Thorsen
Business Development Manager,
Sevan Deepwater Technology

Tord Broms Thorsen is a Business Development Manager at Sevan Deepwater Technology. He holds a Master of Science in Marine Technology from Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), specializing in hydrodynamics.

Tord began his career at Global Maritime in Stavanger (2007–2011), where he worked on mooring analyses, planning, and executing rig move operations.

Since joining Sevan in 2011, he has contributed to hydrodynamic analyses, mooring system designs, and loading systems. In recent years, he has transitioned into business development, leveraging his technical expertise to drive innovation and opportunities for the company.



Ivar Knutsen
SVP Technical and Supply Chain,
Wind Catching Systems

Ivar Knutsen is the technical manager in Wind Catching Systems and has been with the company for approximately four years. He is responsible for the technical development of the Windcatcher technology and its many components, including the management of subcontractors and inhouse team.

In his career, Ivar has worked with engineering and project management aspects of marine structures, including offshore gas installations, marine operations, ship design, specialized equipment design, as well as energy generation concepts, based on both natural gas and wind. This has included positions in companies such as Aker Solutions, Maats Tech Ltd., Vard Group, Floating Energy Group and Havfram.

Ivar holds an MSc in Marine Systems Design from Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim and graduated in 1999.



Kjetil Kleven
CEO, Firenor

Kjetil Kleven is CEO of Firenor International AS. Prior to joining Firenor, Kleven was Project Manager at Cameron Sense in Kristiansand. He has also experience as Managing Director of Water Mist Engineering, Business Development Manager at Båtservice Offshore, 11 years in different managing roles at Aker MH and a period as Business Consultant at National Institute of Technology.

Kleven holds a MSc in Physical Metallurgy from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).



Roy Stenbro
Research Manager - Wind Energy,
Institute for Energy Technology IFE

Roy Stenbro leads the Wind Energy Department at the Institute for Energy Technology (IFE). He and the department have worked primarily on offshore wind turbine R&D for the past 16 years in close cooperation with industry. They have extensive experience in the analysis and design of most parts of offshore wind turbines and many different offshore wind turbine concepts.

Stenbro also has significant experience with applications of artificial intelligence and leads the AI research center initiative AIENERGY.

Before joining IFE, he worked at Schlumberger, GE, MøllerGruppen, and the National Institute of Technology.

Stenbro holds an MSc in Marine Technology from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTH/NTNU).

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Arild Lithun
Manager Operations Hywind Tampen,
Equinor

Arild has been the Head of Operations for Hywind Tampen at Equinor since April 2024.

He is responsible for the world's largest floating wind farm, as well as the first offshore wind farm that exclusively supplies power to offshore oil and gas installations.

Arild has extensive experience in engineering and commissioning of Oil & Gas projects, with 15 years of operational leadership experience. This includes serving as Platform Manager for the Norne FPSO, Snorre B semi-submersible, and the bottom-fixed steel and concrete Sleipner platforms.

Arild holds an MSc in Process Engineering from the University of South-Eastern Norway, along with a subfield in Organizational and Leadership Psychology from the University of Bergen.



Audun Johanson
Member of Grid Connection Expert Group,
Samarbeidsforum for havvind / R&D Project
Manager & New Opportunities, Nexans

Audun is a contributor to, and leader of, technology development initiatives for the future subsea energy transmission including floating wind and hydrogen.

He joined Nexans as a metallurgist in 2013 and is currently R&D Project Manager. Audun's expertise in the fields of material science and mechanics enable the creation new components, cable designs and manufacturing pathways.

Audun has established multiple new industrial research pathways and partnerships. Many of the projects often involve long term degradation mechanisms of un-explored material combinations with associated complex testing and modelling, which are key for the deployment of new products including dynamic cables operating at 145 kV and above.



Jon Dugstad
Director Renewable Energy, NORWEP

Jon Dugstad is the Director of Renewables at Norwegian Energy Partners (NORWEP), where he champions the organization's efforts in offshore wind and solar energy. With an extensive career in financial and strategic advisory, Jon joined NORWEP in 2009. Since then, he has played a pivotal role in advancing the Norwegian offshore wind and solar energy industries on an international scale.

Throughout his tenure at NORWEP, Jon has been a highly sought-after speaker and moderator at industry events. Norwegian Energy Partners is a foundation with nearly 350 partner companies, all firmly rooted in the Norwegian offshore energy industry.

Jon holds a diploma as Diplom-Kaufmann (MBA) from Germany.



Thea Lurås Oftebro
PhD Candidate, Department of
Interdisciplinary Studies of Culture,
Faculty of Humanities, NTNU

Thea Lurås Oftebro is a PhD candidate at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies of Culture. Her project is funded by FME Northwind and are part of work package 5 'Sustainable Wind Energy'.

The project explores justice for people and nature in offshore wind development. Thea Lurås Oftebro is supervised by Senior Researcher Sara Heidenreich, Professor Robert Næss and Professor Tomas Moe Skjølsvold.

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Aje Singh Rihel
Sustainability Lead, Esgian

Aje Singh Rihel has been working with market intelligence, analysis, methodology, and insights for 17 years, covering the upstream oil and gas, offshore wind, and EU ETS sectors. His extensive experience from supply chain demand/supply and cost analysis and sustainability regulations has given him a deep understanding of the interplay between policy decisions, industry development, and climate impact.

Aje currently holds the role of Sustainability Lead at Esgian, where he is heading the company's offshore wind GHG footprint and circularity business and the newly launched offshore wind power generation



Magne Oland
Senior Claims Executive, Gard

Magne Oland joined Gard last year as Senior Claims Executive. Magne works with insurance claims across the energy sector, including the global wind turbine market, drilling contractors, as well as Exploration & Production companies.

Prior to joining Gard, Magne worked at Odfjell drilling from 2010 where he was involved in drilling operations on the Norwegian Continental Shelf.

Magne is a Marine Engineer and started working at sea in 1997. He has experience from container vessels, cruise ships, anchor handlers, subsea construction, and diving vessels. He has broad experience in installation and maintenance of subsea infrastructure including trenching of wind turbine cables in the UK sector and the BritNed interconnector (Electric import/export between England & Netherland).



Jarle Dyrdal
Vice President/Head of Offshore Wind,
Å Energi

Jarle Dyrdal is currently Vice President and Head of Offshore Wind at Å Energi.

Jarle has 30 years of experience in the energy and oil & gas industry. He has had several executive positions, including CEO and several key technology and business development positions in the Schlumberger system and at HMH, TTS and Cameron, both in Norway and internationally. Since 2021 Jarle has been responsible for building the offshore wind team and leading the offshore wind business in Å Energi.

In addition, Jarle has served as board member on both corporate and company levels, including TTS Group ASA, TTS Offshore Handling AS, GCE NODE, Meventus AS, Battery Storage Holding AS and AmpTank Nordic Oy.

Jarle holds a BSc in Industrial Electronics from the University of Agder.

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MODERATORS



Marthe Michelsen Bottéri
Communications Manager,
Norwegian Competence Centre
for Offshore Wind

Marthe Michelsen Bottéri is the Communications Manager at the Norwegian Competence Centre for Offshore Wind. With a strong background in strategic communication and public relations, she works to promote offshore wind initiatives and engage key stakeholders.



Siren Neset
Business Developer and
Regional Manager, NORCE

Dr. Siren M Neset is Business Developer and Regional Manager at NORCE Norwegian Research Centre AS, Department of Technology. Prior to this Neset worked at the Research Council of Norway for 10 years where she served as a regional representative in Agder.

She has extensive experience within research and research management from previous positions as researcher and group leader at SINTEF Materials and Chemistry and as Department Head for Natural Sciences at the University of Agder.

Neset holds a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Oslo.



Rune Schlanbusch
Chief Scientist, NORCE

Rune Schlanbusch is a Chief Scientist and works as Deputy Research Director in the research group DARWIN at NORCE Norwegian Research Center.

Rune holds a MSc within Space Technology from the University of Tromsø and a PhD within Engineering Cybernetics from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). His research interests include asset management through condition monitoring, structural health monitoring and decision-making processes, and control design and stability analysis of unmanned systems.



Geir Grasmø
Professor, Offshore Energy –
Offshore Wind, The University
of Agder

Dr. Geir Grasmø has been Professor in Materials and Structures at UiA since 2015 and currently serves as leader for UiA Offshore Energy cross disciplinary project.

He has over 35 years of experience in RD&I from research and industry companies, working in the intersection of RD&I. Main research comprises applied materials science for a broad range of applications.

The UiA Offshore Energy initiative focuses on education, research and research-based innovations for offshore energy which includes a wide range of perspectives including social, economic, jurisdictional and technological impacts.



Kristin Wallevik
Dean, School of Business and
Law, University of Agder

Kristin Wallevik is dean of the School of Business and Law at the University of Agder. She holds a PhD in International Management from Copenhagen Business School and an MBA from The Monterey Institute of International Studies (USA).

Wallevik was previously managing director and department head at Agderforskning. Prior to Agderforskning, Kristin Wallevik was controller & financial manager in HMM (earlier Aker MH, part of Aker Solutions Group). She was also financial manager at VingCard (TrioVing Group). At Aker MH she worked research funding instruments and large industry projects.

Kristin has held several board positions in various enterprises.

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PITCHING SESSION



Kasper Sandal
Specialist Engineer, Semar

Kasper Sandal is an engineer with a passion for offshore wind. He holds a PhD in Wind Energy from the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) and has worked in various roles within offshore wind.

At Semar AS, Kasper works with design, analysis and installation of mooring systems for floating wind turbines. He leads the technical work with Honeymooring. Kasper also teaches a course on Offshore Wind Substructures at University of Agder.



Maxime Thys
Research Manager Ships and Ocean Structures, SINTEF Ocean

Maxime Thys is research manager in the department of ships and ocean structures at SINTEF Ocean (Trondheim, Norway). Maxime has a PhD in hydrodynamics for ships and has been studying offshore wind turbines for more than 10 years.

Maxime's competences cover hydrodynamics, structural response, and experimental methods for offshore structures. He also has a special interest in digitalization of experimental methods (Cyber-physical testing) and on how to exploit data.



Line Kristiansen
Business Developer/ Renewables, HMM

Line Kristiansen is an engineer educated at the University of Agder in Grimstad and possesses extensive experience from various companies in Agder.

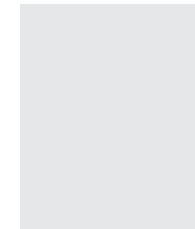
Since 2011, Line has been working at HMM, where she has played a crucial role in project management within both the aftermarket department, deliveries of new products, and innovation projects. She currently focuses on business development in renewable energy, with a particular commitment to offshore wind, contributing to the advancement of sustainable energy development.



Thomas Hårklau
CEO and Founder, Kitemill

Thomas Hårklau is the CEO and Founder of Kitemill, founder of Vossvind, and a board member of Voss Energi. He has international experience in renewable energy and engineering, having worked with organizations such as the IEA, EASA and FGW. Thomas has in addition led several EU-supported projects.

Under his leadership, Kitemill has progressed from initial prototypes towards commercial demonstration projects and strategic partnerships, focusing on alternative and cost-effective sustainable energy solutions and supporting the transition towards cleaner energy systems.



Geir Olav Hovde
Manager Floating Wind Development Team, APL/NOV

Geir Olav Hovde is Manager for the APL/NOV Floating Wind Development Team. He has been with APL/NOV for 30 years and was stationed in Houston for a total of 6 years over 2 periods.

Geir Olav has extensive expertise in mooring and riser analysis.

He holds a PhD in Marine Technology from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).

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