The United States are beginning offshore wind deployment from a favorable position, with the ability to take advantage of substantial technology learning, economies of scale and cost reductions achieved in Europe, and especially in Germany during the last two decades. German policy makers and energy players have a successful history of developing, installing, operating, and maintaining offshore wind projects. With 6.4 GW of grid-connected offshore wind capacity (27% of global capacity) Germany has established itself as a leader in offshore wind development. While maritime spatial planning, offshore wind sites far from shore, environmental concerns and grid connectivity have posed many challenges to Germany’s ambitious offshore wind energy goals, technological innovation and constructive collaboration between the private sector and policy makers have made successful offshore wind deployment possible.

Germany’s policy framework for offshore wind has undergone significant changes over the past decades. Germany was able to achieve massive reductions in policy support costs for offshore wind, mainly driven by technological progress, economies of scale, competitive pressure through the auction system, and regulatory de-risking.

With the goal to better understand and navigate a constantly evolving landscape of offshore wind farm needs, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) invites you to participate in a transatlantic knowledge exchange. The trip is part of a broader scale effort to strengthen the energy cooperation between our countries, encourage the exchange of ideas, and promote energy transition policy expertise.
Planned Activities

The program entails a combination of:

- **Presentations** on the regulatory, technical, and economic issues facing the offshore wind market in Germany. The US delegation will visit relevant ministries and important stakeholders.
- **Meetings** and peer-to-peer exchange between offshore wind energy executives from the US and Germany. You will meet major offshore wind actors and energy experts from regulators, grid operators and industry.
- **Site visits**. The participants will visit large-scale offshore flagship projects along Germany’s wind-rich northern coast.
- **Identify actions** for continuing cooperation through workshops at the beginning and end of the trip.
- The trip aims to **deepen the dialogue** started during previous energy policy exchanges. Both new and previous participants are invited to join.

Trip Schedule

- Duration of the program is four days, from Monday, June 8 to Thursday, June 11, 2020. Travel to Berlin is planned for Sunday, June 7. Departure is planned from Hamburg on Thursday, June 11.
- A small group size of up to **15 participants** will ensure an individualized experience and an optimum group dynamic.
- The programming will be in English, with bilingual staff on-site for language support.
- Participants will receive short profiles about the visited institutions and sites prior to the trip.
- A preliminary **agenda is attached** to this invitation. For updates about the itinerary, please contact us.

Program Cost and Coverage

- The trip takes place by **invitation of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy**.
- This includes the **facilitation of all meetings, transportation** to all site visits, and **select meals** (all lunches and one welcome dinner) within the scope of the program.
- Participants are responsible for their own airfare to and from Germany (~$1,000.00), their accommodation (~$110/night incl. breakfast) and for meals that are not part of the official program.
- **There is no separate program fee**.

How do I register?

Participation is open to **executives** from regulatory agencies, legislators, system operators and other public institutions involved in the wind industry, as well as the entire offshore value-chain.

- Complete the following forms and submit via email attachment to jess@gaccmidwest.org.
- **Registration deadline: December 20, 2019**.
- Participation is limited to 15 individuals. Participants will be confirmed by **January 17, 2020**.