



Questions and Answers

Draft Ministerial Order for granting the permit for IJmuiden Ver Wind Farm Site Alpha Version 13-10-2023

Note: These are questions and answers based on the draft Ministerial Order. Answers may be adjusted depending on the final regulation adopted.

If there are imperfections or inaccuracies or if different interpretations are possible, the final Ministerial Order is leading.

Organisation		
No.	Question	Answer
1.	Can the applicant be a BV or NV in formation and is this allowed without a Chamber of Commerce number?	The company that applies may be a BV or NV in formation, provided it is registered in the trade register. A Chamber of Commerce number is therefore mandatory. It is also mandatory to establish the BV or NV immediately after any permit has been granted (the deed of incorporation must then be notarised and the registration in the commercial register must be complete).
2.	Can a company participate in multiple consortia?	No, an applicant may only submit one application. Affiliated legal entities are seen as one applicant.
3.	Where a parent company has multiple subsidiaries, can they each submit an application?	No, an applicant may only submit one application. Affiliated legal entities are seen as one applicant.
4.	My organisation, together with another party (unaffiliated company), is currently developing a wind farm within the EU. Can we both submit a separate application for IJmuiden Ver Wind Farm Site Alpha?	Yes, that is allowed.
5.	I am wind turbine manufacturer. I fulfill this role for multiple applicants. Is this allowed this?	Yes, that is allowed as long as you are not connected (legally affiliated) to more than one applicant.

Communication		
No.	Question	Answer
1.	What does RVO make public about the ranking and the winner?	RVO will, of course, announce the winner. It will be decided afterwards whether and what information about the ranking(s) and the winner will be announced publicly.
2.	Are the investment amounts that must be included in the operating calculation model made public?	The investment amounts mentioned in the operating calculation model will not be made public through RVO, as this is business-sensitive information. However, RVO may be obliged to disclose the information on the basis of an Open Government Act (WOO) request and/or judicial decision.
3.	How can interested parties stay informed about current information?	At www.rvo.nl/windenergie-op-zee you will find the most current information about the Ministerial Order and all information for submitting your application. You will find all available data about the site surveys at offshore.wind.rvo.nl . You can sign up for the Offshore Wind newsletter. It provides



information about meetings, research and the like. You can register by sending an email to: woz@rvo.nl. You can also find this information at offshorewind.rvo.nl.

Application form and attachments		
No.	Question	Answer
1.	In which language must the application become submitted?	The application must be in Dutch or English. RVO requests that the following appendices be provided in English: - Appendix 11 (IRBC) - Appendix 13 (Ecology or System Integration) - Appendix 14 (Reduction of harbour porpoise disturbance days)
2.	Is It application form also available in English?	The application form is only available in Dutch and you can you submit the application with that form. An English translation of the application form will be published at a later stage. The English translation of the application form is not an official document for making an application.
3.	Can RVO confirm that no other information must be submitted except the application form with all attachments/appendices mentioned therein?	Indeed, an applicant must complete the application form in full and submit all applicable appendices with the application form to RVO at Zwolle. No other information required.
4.	Which appendices must there be included with the application?	The following appendices must be included with the application: Appendix 1 Summary description of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the wind farm Appendix 2 Wind report Appendix 3 Operating calculation Appendix 4 Annual accounts Appendix 5 Organisation chart by the legal entities associated with the applicant Appendix 6 Financing plan Appendix 7 Table of wind turbine data and locations Appendix 8 Overview of the knowledge and experience of the parties involved The following appendices may be required: Appendix 9 Overview of partnership with a declaration of participation in the partnership signed by each participant Appendix 10 Declaration for non-certified turbines mentioned in the application Appendix 11 Description of the degree of compliance with the principles of the International Responsible Business Conduct (IRBC) Agreement for the Renewable Energy Sector Appendix 12: Description of the level of insight into raw material consumption, environmental impact and value retention during the design, construction, operation and removal of the wind farm Appendix 13: Description of the contribution of the wind farm to the ecosystem of the Dutch North Sea Appendix 14 Description of the contribution to reducing harbour porpoise disturbance days in the construction phase of the wind farm Optional attachment: Appendix 15 Press release

Application form and attachments		
5.	Has a maximum number of pages per attachment (appendix) been set?	<p>A maximum number of pages has only been set for Appendix 13. Here, this means that the first 75 pages are handed over to the expert committee. This excludes Section 1.7 of Table 6 of the Appendix to the Ministerial Order (Reducing harbour porpoise disturbance days during the construction phase of the wind farm compared to the EIA for the IJVVFS Alpha Wind Farm Site Decision). This information is requested in Appendix 14.</p> <p>The maximum limit of 75 pages is inclusive of the cover page, table of contents, illustrations, tables, etc.</p> <p>There is no maximum cap on the number pages for the other appendices.</p>
6.	Must the application form and associated attachments be original documents or can a copy or scan be submitted?	A copy or scan of the original(s) can be submitted. This applies to both the application form and the attachments (appendices).
7.	In 4.2 of the application form, it asks for the intended date for awarding orders to manufacturers, suppliers and installers. Can I enter the expected date that all contracts are signed (financial close) here?	Yes, you can enter the expected date that all contracts will be signed.
8.	Is a estimated date again set in the application form for when the permit becomes irrevocable?	The same methodology will be applied to the application forms as in previous tenders. The tender closes on Thursday 28 March 2024. The estimated date for irrevocability of the permit has been set as 1 September 2024.
9.	Is there a separate appendix for the description of the contribution to reducing harbour porpoise disturbance days in the construction phase of the wind farm?	Yes, Appendix 14 is for this purpose.

Wind report		
No.	Question	Answer
1.	What are the requirements for the wind report?	Article 3(1a and 2) of the Ministerial Order contain the requirements the wind report must meet. These requirements are further explained in the application form. RVO will assess the wind report with the help of experts.
2.	Can the applicant produce a wind report itself and then have it approved by an independent party?	No. The wind report must be drawn up by an independent organisation with expertise in the field of wind energy yield calculations (Article 3 (1a) of the Ministerial Order) and may not be done by the applicant itself.
3.	Wind turbines with a booster are available. Does a booster count in the calculation of the P50 value for net electricity production?	The additional yield from the booster does count in the calculation of the P50 value for net electricity production.
4.	What type of certification must a wind turbine meet?	Article 7.34 of the Environmental Activities Decree (as will apply on 1 January 2024) stipulates that, at least four weeks before the start of the construction period, a statement from an independent expert must be provided, stating that the design of the wind turbines and other installations that form part of the wind farm meets the requirements set out in Article 7:39 of the Environmental Activities Decree (as will apply on 1 January 2024).



Wind report		
5.	If an applicant chooses a non-certified wind turbine, must it also demonstrate in Appendix 10 that the foundations and infield cables will comply, in a timely manner, with Article 7:39 of the Environmental Activities Decree?	Yes, these installations are part of the wind farm. The applicant must demonstrate that, no later than 4 weeks before the start of the construction period, it will have a statement by an independent expert certifying that the turbines, foundations and infield cables will comply with Article 7:39 of the Environmental Activities Decree (as will apply on 1 January 2024) in a timely manner.
6.	Does RVO publish a list of organisations that it has approved for producing wind reports?	No. RVO does not publish a list of approved organisations to produce a wind report. An independent organisation should be used (see also Question 2).
7.	Which power curve should be used to calculate the P50 for the wind report?	The wind report is drawn up by an independent organisation with expertise in the field of wind energy yield calculations. This organisation will use the power curve provided by a certification agency. If this is not yet available, the supplier of the wind turbine can make a power curve available.
8.	In the Ministerial Order stipulates that when calculating the P50 value for the net electricity production of the wind farm on an annual basis, availability, wake effects, electricity losses and curtailment (adjustment) losses must be taken into account. What is meant by curtailment losses?	Curtailment (adjustment) losses arise if more than 2 GW is produced at the site, as TenneT can transport a maximum of 2 GW. Curtailment (adjustment) losses also occur as a result of the measures as described in Regulation 4(3 and 4) of the (draft) Wind Farm Site Decision (WFSD), to prevent collisions with birds and bats during migration periods near the wind farm. In addition, the wind report must also include curtailment (adjustment) losses that result from turbine downtime that the applicant may implement (in addition to requirements in the regulations in the WFSD) for ecological protection of the local area.
9.	The manufacturer of an innovative, not yet certified, wind turbine initially assumes a conservative power curve. However, according to the manufacturer, it is highly likely that the power curve will be better (steeper) later in the development process. Which power curve may be used for calculating the net P50?	The power curve the turbine manufacturer says is most likely may be taken into account. After all, it concerns the determination of the net P50 value, which means there is a 50% chance that this production can be achieved. If a power curve has been estimated too conservatively by the turbine manufacturer, the author of the wind report may use the most likely power curve to calculate the net P50 value.
10.	Should the wind report also take account of small losses such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possibly maintenance of 5 days per year by TenneT on the export cable - High wind speed hysteresis - Sub-optimal production in the first year - Turbine degradation - So-called 'wind farm blocking' effects - Mandatory standstill during helicopter flights 	No, you do not have to take these losses into account in the wind report. Article 3(2) of the Ministerial Order specifies which losses should be taken into account. These elements are explained in more detail in the Explanatory Appendices to the application form.
11.	Should wake effects from neighboring wind farms be taken into account for the energy yield calculation?	No. The energy yield calculation does not need to take into account the wake effects of nearby wind farms, including the wind farm that will be developed at IJVVFS Beta. Only wake effects caused by turbines <i>within IJVVFS Alpha itself</i> need to be taken into account.
12.	Does RVO have a list of renowned calculation models that are suitable for large wind farms when it comes to wake effect?	RVO does not have an exhaustive list, but the most well-known, renowned calculation models for calculating the wake effect for large wind farms are Ainslie IBL, Ainslie LWF, Ainslie DAWM, PARK, FUGA and Wakeblaster.



Wind report		
13.	When calculating the P50 value for net electricity production, availability and electricity losses must be taken into account. What does that mean?	As far as availability is concerned, only turbine availability needs to be taken into account. The availability losses of the infield cables do not have to be included in the calculation. As for electricity losses, the losses of the infield cables must be taken into account.
14.	PARK is a renowned calculation model for calculating the wake effect of large offshore wind farms. However, PARK can be divided into the PARK1 and PARK2 models. Are those two models independent of each other?	In some cases, PARK1 and PARK2 are independent of each other, and, in other cases, they are not. Internationally, the following guideline is used: If PARK1 is implemented with a modified wake decay constantly adjusted to the wind farm layout, or with an IBL approach, or with a LWFM or DAWM approach, it can be considered being independent from PARK2. If the wake superposition of PARK1 is adjusted, it cannot be seen as an independent model.
15.	Is it mandatory to calculate an availability of a maximum 96% for the turbines in the wind report?	Yes, it is mandatory to calculate with a turbine availability that does not exceed 96% about the entire lifespan.
16.	Is the turbine availability that must be taken into account for the wind report an availability based on time or energy yield?	The annual turbine availability (which must be a maximum of 96%) must be used as factor for the energy yield.

Terms		
No.	Question	Answer
1.	When can the wind farm be removed?	The permit states that the removal period can start from year 35 and last until year 40 (Section 4.4.1 of the explanatory notes (Part II) of the WFSD). The removal will start no later than two years after operation of the wind farm has ceased and will be completed no later than within the term of the permit (WFSD Regulation 8).
2.	Article 5(2) of the Ministerial Order states that a permit can only be granted if, based on the application, it is sufficiently plausible that the construction and operation of the wind farm can start within 56 months after the date on which the permit has become irrevocable. Does this period relate to the start of construction and (including) operation, or (just) construction of the wind farm can start within 56 months?	The application must make it sufficiently plausible that the construction and operation can start within 56 months after the date that the permit irrevocable is become. Start of operation, in this case, refers to the first supply of electricity from the wind farm to the electricity grid.

Operating calculation model		
No.	Question	Answer
1.	What is the minimal value the project return must meet?	There is no minimum project return prescribed in advance. Ultimately, the financial feasibility will be fully tested.
2.	Can my own operating calculation model be used?	No, you may not use your own operating calculation model. You must use the operating calculation model made available by RVO and attach it to your application.
3.	Should the interest during construction also be included in the overview of the investment costs?	The operating calculation model automatically calculates interest during construction, so these costs should therefore not be included in the investment costs. Otherwise these would be included twice. Cost of taking out loans must be included in the investment costs.

Operating calculation model



4.	Should a reservation also be made in the operating calculation model for the removal of the wind farm or are the bank guarantee costs sufficient for this?	The cost for the removal of the wind farm must be included in the operating calculation model.
5.	The published operating calculation model has been prepared in the Dutch language. Can a submitting party translate the operating calculation model into English itself or will RVO make an English version available?	No, an English version of the operating calculation model will not be made available. You must use the operating calculation model on mijn.rvo.nl. An applicant is free to complete the text fields of the operating calculation model in English.
6.	Can I choose my own repayment method in the RVO operating calculation model?	No, the model does not offer that option.
7.	If my electricity is sold through Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), do I also have to include these values in the operating calculation model?	If you use PPAs, you must also include this income in the operating calculation model. If you sell part of the proceeds through PPAs and some through, for example, the APX, you must include this in the operating calculation model using a weighted average.
8.	Should the additional cost associated with ecological innovation and investments be included in the operating calculation model?	Yes, the extra costs involved with ecological innovation and investments must also be included in the operating calculation model.
9.	If I want to use a different electricity price in the operating calculation model to that prescribed by RVO, is this allowed?	You can also use other electricity prices, but you must indicate what these prices are based on.
10.	Will RVO provide a price forecast for the Guarantees of Origin (GvOs)?	No. The applicant may use its own price expectations for future Guarantees of Origin.
11.	Does RVO appreciate that the costs for the turbines and infield cables are separated in the investment overview?	Yes, RVO appreciates that.
12.	Can I adjust and/or supplement the cost specification completed by RVO for Capex and Opex?	Yes, you can make your own breakdown of costs. Please note there are 2 mandatory cost items: the annual financial bid and the costs included in Article 9(1) of the Ministerial Order. Also, Article 3(4 a and b) of the Ministerial Order must be complied with.
13.	Do I have to take indexation into account when entering the amounts for Capex, Opex and GvO?	Yes, you must include indexation in the amounts you enter in the model.
14.	What is meant by the 'Disposal' cost item as included in the Opex tab of the operating model?	This concerns disposal of the components that have been replaced.

Wind Farm Site Decision

No.	Question	Answer
1.	Is it true that I do not have to include a cable plan with the coordinates of the infield cables with the application?	Correct, you do not have to include a cable plan with the application.
2.	What exactly is meant by maximum input power of 2 GW?	Tennet's (substation) platform and the export cable can transport a maximum of 2 GW of power, so no more than 2 GW can be supplied to Tennet's platform at any time. An amount of 2 GW is guaranteed by TenneT. The capacity installed in the wind farm site can be more than 2 GW, namely 2.3 GW (so-called 'overplanting').

Wind Farm Site Decision



3.	Should we add a Jack-up buffer zone if magnetic anomalies are found that have not been identified in the magnetometer survey?	There are no specific requirements for Jack up procedures, but it is recommended that you avoid contact with obstacles or residues on or in the seabed and maintain sufficient distance between the outriggers of the legs and objects, pipelines, cables and rubble that is above or below the seabed.
4.	Do the owners or amanagers of the existing cables and pipelines in the wind farm site have the right to reject or change our proposed (inter-array) cable plan?	No, they do not have the right to reject or change the wind farm cabling. However, it is advisable to inform the organisations involved. The WFSD does not impose any requirements on the design of the internal inter-array wind farm cabling. The only condition is that the cables must be laid within the site boundaries. We would like to point out that in the Dutch North Sea, there is no obligation to enter into proximity and intersection (crossing) agreements if there are existing cables or pipelines that need to be crossed.
5.	Are existing conditions applicable to crossing agreements with existing cable/pipeline operators or are the organisations involved obliged to negotiate them? Does it make any difference whether the cables/pipelines in question lie in territorial waters or in the exclusive economic zone of the North Sea?	No terms and conditions apply to proximity and intersection agreements. Proximity and intersection agreements fall under private law and we would like to point out that in the Dutch North Sea, both inside and outside the 12-mile zone, there is no obligation to enter into crossing and proximity agreements.
6.	Do the authorities have a mandatory requirement for the (trench) depth or extent of burial cover for the wind farm's cabling?	The draft WFSD does not include specific requirements for trench and burial depths for the (wind farm's) cabling. The permit holder is free to determine the channel depth or degree of cover.
7.	The draft WFSD states that the total installed capacity of the wind farm must be at least 1,900 MW. Does a 'booster' also fall within this installed capacity?	No, the installed capacity is described in Regulation 1 of the draft WFSD. The booster is no part of the installed capacity.

Financial		
No.	Question	Answer
1.	Compliance with the requirement that the applicant has capital of at least 20% of the investment costs for the wind farm may be demonstrated in the annual accounts of the parent company. Can this also be the annual accounts of the mother's parent company the so-called grandmother (group parent company)?	Yes. An applicant may also use the annual accounts of the parent of the mother company (i.e. group company parent) to demonstrate that the amount of equity is equal to or greater than 20% of the investment costs for the wind farm.
2.	In a group with multiple legal entities, one consolidated annual account is often drawn up at group level. Can these consolidated annual accounts be used to meet the requirement that the applicant has capital of at least 20% of the total investment costs?	Yes. Consolidated annual accounts for multiple legal entities can be used to demonstrate that the equity requirement of at least 20% of the total investment costs has been met.
3.	Is the pro-rata share of the various parties taken into account in the case of a consortium? Or is it possible that one of the parties guarantees this for the other parties in the same consortium?	No, the ownership share is not taken into account. So equity needs to be seen in the broadest sense and the assets by the (grand)mothers can therefore also count, regardless of the ownership share. This is clarified in the Regulation explanatory notes.
4.	If the financing plan attached to the application assumes 20% equity, can this be deviated from later?	In the financing plan you indicate how you <u>intend</u> to finance the wind farm.



Financial		
5.	If the applicant uses of a so-called Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV); can each parent company of all the participants in this SPV count towards the requirement that the applicant has capital of at least 20% of the total investment costs?	When using a SPV, the parent company of every participant in this SPV may count towards the requirement that the applicant has capital of at least 20% of the total investment costs (Article 6(2) of the Ministerial Order).
6.	Are there requirements for the annual accounts to demonstrate you have sufficient equity?	Requirements have been imposed for the annual accounts. You must include the most recently adopted annual accounts, but these may not be older than three years (Article 6(2) of the Ministerial Order). The explanatory notes to Appendix 4 of the application form further describe the requirements.
7.	When, at the latest, must the bank guarantee for removal/disposal be issued?	The bank guarantee for removal of the wind farm must be issued no later than before the first supply of electricity from the wind farm.
8.	Can the applicant draw up the bank guarantee for the decommissioning of the wind farm itself or will a concept be provided for this?	No, RVO provides a template for this.
9.	Should a bank guarantee or deposit be added to every application?	No, only the winner must ensure that the bank guarantee or deposit is provided (to RVO) within 4 weeks after the permit is issued.

Process and Procedures		
No.	Question	Answer
1.	Is there a limit on the number of applications that can be submitted by the same party?	Yes, the number of applications an applicant can submit for this tender is 1. Affiliated legal entities are regarded as one applicant.
2.	If, in addition to the applicant, one of the applicant's affiliated legal entities also submits an application, will both applications be rejected?	We will only assess the content of 1 application. The other application(s) will be rejected.
3.	Are applications only assessed by RVO employees or will they also be assessed by experts hired who have specific knowledge about offshore wind projects and the ecology of the North Sea?	The applications are assessed by RVO employees and by specialists with specific knowledge about offshore wind projects and the ecology of the North Sea.
4.	What is the procedure regarding additions and amendments to the permit application and how will RVO request additions or adjustments?	After the request for tenders under the Ministerial Order has closed, an application can no longer be supplemented or amended of information that influences the assessment of the application.
5.	Can the winner of the tender still change the application after the permit has been issued?	The permit holder is obliged to carry out the project as submitted and RVO will enforce this with penalty payments if necessary. The yet to be published Policy Rule for amending the permit for IJWFS Alpha will explain the conditions under which the permit may be amended. The basic principle here is that all ranking scores remain the same or improve as a result the change. There is also no 'exchange' of points between different criteria.
6.	If RVO does not understand something in the application, will RVO ask additional questions?	It is the responsibility of the applicant to complete the application form as clearly and completely as possible and to ensure the information in the attachments is clear and understandable. RVO can ask clarifying questions, if it is unclear how something should be interpreted, but RVO will not request nor accept additional information if something is insufficiently substantiated.



7.	Will more information be provided about the experts who will (jointly) assess the applications? For example, about the number of committee members or the division between university vs industry?	No, information is not provided in advance about the experts. The names of the experts will be announced after the tender winner has been announced.
8.	Must all changes from the original plan be reported to RVO?	Yes. You are obliged to carry out the project in accordance with the information submitted with the application. All changes from the original plan must therefore also be reported. RVO then assesses whether the conditions as included in the yet to be published Policy Rule on changes to offshore wind energy permits for IJVVWFS Alpha and IJVVWFS Beta are met and whether the permit can be amended.
9.	Can RVO or Rijkswaterstaat provide clarity (in advance) about the eligibility of investments/innovations in IJVVWFS Alpha?	No, RVO is not the competent authority in this area and therefore cannot say anything here about this. Rijkswaterstaat does not make any statements about the possible feasibility or eligibility of the measures to be taken at IJVVWFS Alpha.
10.	Is it correct that the permit is only irrevocable once (possible) objections and appeals against the permit have been resolved (and no further objection and appeal is possible) and once the WFSD has also become irrevocable?	Yes, that is correct.
11.	Committee members may have worked within the past two years or may do work in the coming 9 months for parties that participate in the tender. Is this allowed?	RVO checks whether the committee members are independent of the parties that that have submitted an application in this tender.
12.	Will the expert committee receive additional guidelines from RVO regarding the extent to which criteria should be interpreted strictly or broadly?	No, the expert committee receives no additional guidelines from RVO.
13.	Does the expert committee receive information from other appendices to the application?	No, the expert committee does not receive information about the other appendices in the application. The expert committee only receives Appendix 13 (max. first 75 pages).

Ranking criteria (excluding ecology-specific questions)		
No.	Question	Answer
1.	A number of applicants will participant in the tender. How should they complete the list of producers (manufacturers) and installers as referred to in the ranking criterion "Knowledge and experience of the parties involved" such as included in Section 12a (4 e) of the Offshore Wind Energy Act and Article 3(6) of the Ministerial Order?	Applicants which tender have two options for completing the list. The applicant can name a preferred supplier and then explain the experience of this party. This preferred supplier can be changed at a later stage, as long as that meets the conditions laid down in the yet to be published Policy Rule on amendments to offshore wind energy permits for IJVVWFS Alpha and IJVVWFS Beta. The others option is for the applicant to list multiple suppliers, explaining the experience for each supplier. The supplier and installer which receives the least number of points will be selected in the ranking score for this section.
2.	If you are asked about the experience of the manufacturer of the foundations, does this concern the production of offshore foundations in general, or does it specifically concern to the experience in the production of the specific type foundation to be used for IJVVWFS Alpha?	It is about general experience in the construction of offshore foundations, not the specific foundation type.



3.	How can the knowledge and experience of the organisations involved (as referred to in Article 3 (6) of the Ministerial Order) best be described?	You can describe the knowledge and experience of the organisations involved by indicating the contribution the party involved has made to the construction and operation of offshore wind farms, addressing the points included in Article 3 (6a to h) of the Ministerial Order. It is not necessary to provide support letters or the like from the relevant parties for this.
4.	Will the amount of the financial bid that a party makes in the application be made known to the expert committee?	No, the expert committee will only see and assess Appendix 13, regarding the description of the contribution of the wind farm to the ecosystem by the Dutch North Sea.
5.	Does the assessment of the applications also take into account the CO2 and NOx emissions of the installation ships and the possible use of refurbished ships?	No. The emissions of ships used during the installation phase, operation and maintenance phase or removal phase do not play a role in the ranking of the applications. However, the project description must briefly describe how the applicant intends to comply with the nitrogen provisions during construction, operations and maintenance and removal work, as described in Regulation 4(5) of the WFSD. After the permit has been granted, the permit holder must demonstrate in the work plans that the intended use of the ships complies with the best efforts obligation with regard to nitrogen deposition in Natura 2000 areas as laid down in Regulation 4(5) of WFSD.

Ranking criterion 'Contribution of the wind farm to the ecosystem of the Dutch North Sea'		
No.	Question	Answer
1.	Can measures to benefit the ecosystem of the Dutch North Sea be implemented anywhere on IJVVFS Alpha? And can they possibly be outside the site too?	Measures for the benefit of the ecosystem of the Dutch North Sea may only be carried out within the maintenance zones of the turbines and infield cables. A radius of 500 m around turbines has been designated as a zone required for maintenance, while on both sides of the infield cables, a zone of 250 m (total width 500 m) applies. Ecological measures in others places within IJVVFS Alpha will not be included in the assessment. Also investments or innovations outside the site do not score points in the assessment. Preparatory activities, such as laboratory research, that are necessary for implementation of the investment/innovation can take place outside the site.
2.	The scour protection of the wind turbines can provide habitat for species living in the North Sea . If the wind farm is removed completely after operation, this habitat will be damaged. To what extent is the term "removal" flexible?	Regulation 8 of the draft WFSD only contains a period after the end of operation within which a wind farm must be removed. The principle obligation, as such, to remove a wind farm is laid down in a general rule, namely Article 6.16l of the Water Decree, which is also an implementation of the London Protocol and the OSPAR Convention. It follows from the explanatory memorandum to the Water Decree that the Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management can limit the removal obligation by means of tailor-made regulations if the environment will suffer more damage from complete removal than partial removal whereby part of the foundation remains in the seabed.
3.	How is the knowledge and experience of any ecological agencies involved in an application for IJVVFS Alpha included in the assessment?	The knowledge and experience of ecological agencies that may be involved in an application are not specifically taken into account in the assessment by the application. This knowledge and experience will have to be evident in from the quality of Appendix 13 in the application.



<p>4. What is the maximum number of pages regarding the description of investments and innovations for the benefit of ecology in the Dutch North Sea (Appendix 13) that will be forwarded to the expert committee?</p>	<p>The first 75 pages by Appendix 13 are handed over to the expert committee. This excludes Section 1.7 of Table 6 of the Appendix to the Ministerial Order (Reduce harbour porpoise disturbance days during the construction phase of the wind farm compared to the EIA for the IJVVFS Alpha WFSD). This information is requested in Appendix 14.</p> <p>It maximum limit of 75 pages includes the cover page, table of contents, illustrations, tables, etc.</p>
<p>5. Have regulations been established regarding what the appendix for measures that contribute to the ecosystem of It Dutch North Sea (Appendix 13) should look like/include?</p>	<p>No regulations have been established on what the appendix for ecology measures (Appendix 13) should look like. You are free to complete this appendix how you like. The Appendix must be independent and readable. References to other documents or websites, etc., will not be included in the assessment. The first 75 pages of Appendix 13 are submitted to the experts.</p>
<p>6. Table 6, general requirements I.D (substantiation) – Is it possible to carry out to pilot projects before the start of the measures?</p>	<p>Yes, carrying out by pilot projects before the start of implementation of the measures is permitted.</p>
<p>7. Please clarify what is expected of which party in the implementation of the proposed research. Is this only done by WOZEP researchers or can it also be done (independently) by the tender bid consortium, or is it expected to be done in collaboration with WOZEP?</p>	<p>It is the responsibility of the final permit holder to ensure the research described in the application is carried out. The research investigations are also at the expense and risk of the permit holder. In accordance with Table 6, general requirements (0), it is up to the applicant to complete the research and monitoring design. As described there, alignment with the working methods of MONS, WOZEP and the MIVSP is important, as is seeking active connections/collaboration with government programmes such as MONS and WOZEP.</p>
<p>8. For criterion 1.1 in Table 6, the aim is to reduce collision casualties. Can RVO confirm that this reduction must only be achieved through adjustments to the layout of the wind farm and wind turbine design choice and not through the adjustments in criteria 1.2 to 1.6 of Table 6?</p>	<p>The adjustments concern the wind farm and turbine design and not the measures mentioned under 1.2 to 1.6.</p>
<p>9. The great black-backed gull should be monitored according to the Ministerial Order (Table 6, criterion 1.1). However, the EIA does not expect any collisions (for this species). Can we ignore the great black-backed gull as a species in the measures and monitoring?</p>	<p>The EIA does expect collisions for the great black-backed gull (see, for example, Table 6.24 EIA IJVVFS Alpha and Table 8.10 EIA IJVVFS Beta). The great black-backed gull cannot be ignored in the measures and monitoring.</p>
<p>10. Criterion 1.1 in Table 6 of the Ministerial Order for IJVVFS Alpha indicates that when calculating the number collision victims, the number of bird victims in the EIA should be used as a reference. The EIA outlines 2 scenarios, one based on 15 MW turbines, and one based on 20 MW turbines. Is the assumption correct that for the reference scenario is based on the "worst case", i.e the scenario with 15MW turbines?</p>	<p>The reference scenario concerns the maximum number of collision victims in accordance with Table 6.14 of the EIA for IJVVFS Alpha. The characteristics of the turbines are described in Table 6.1. It reference scenario is alternative 1; 67 turbines of 15MW, with a rotor diameter of 236 m and a tip depth of 25 m. This means a total of 134 turbines of 15 MW.</p>
<p>11. One of the target species in goal 1.1 (Table 6 tender criteria) is the gannett. The tender criteria refers to Chapter 6 and Appendix 4 of the EIA. In these parts of the EIA, another maximum collision mortality figure is given for the gannett. The maximum mortality in Chapter 6 is from an additional calculation based on recently modeled bird densities. (Waggit et al. 2020)</p>	<p>The maximum mortality of the gannett as calculated by Waggit et already. (2020) should be used. This corresponds to the mortality in Table 6.14 of the EIA.</p>



	and recently collected data for location-specific avoidance probabilities of the gannet (cf. Leemans & Gyimesi 2022). At the same time, the maximum mortality in Appendix 4 is based on the original calculations from KEC 4.0 (Potiek et al., 2022). What calculations regarding the maximum mortality of the gannet should be used as a starting point for goal 1.1?	
12.	Is there a minimum required reduction in bird casualties due to habitat loss (Table 6, criterion 1.2) to qualify for points, or is any expected reduction sufficient?	Any expected reduction in habitat loss that is shown to be sufficiently plausible will qualify for the maximum number points.
13.	Does criterion 1.5 in Table 6, with the aim of “reducing collision victims in the operational phase of the wind farm compared to the EIA for the IJWFS Alpha WFSD”, also include a measure such as the use of a black blade?	Yes. Applying a black blade to a wind turbine is an example of a measure that could increase the visibility of a wind turbine. However, permission for this, as well as the environmental/ecological effectiveness and efficiency of the measure, still needs to be assessed and established. It is therefore possible to reserve financial resources for this measure.
14.	Criterion 1.5 in Table 6 also includes acoustic measures to improve observability to bats?	No. Bats are not (now) among the target species for this criterion.
15.	Table 6, criterion 1.5: it is possible to use multiple measures to increase the visibility of wind turbines and apply it to one turbine?	Yes, the application of multiple measures to one turbine is permitted, provided that this promotes the efficiency and effectiveness of the individual measures. However, applying multiple measures to one turbine does not affect the application percentages in this assessment measure criterion.
16.	Are the points awarded for criterion 2.1 in Table 6 based on the percentage of turbines where measures are taken for both target species, or for one of the two target species?	The points for this criterion are awarded based on the percentage of turbines where measures are taken for both target types. However, it does not have to be the case that every individual measure has added value for both target species.
17.	Table 6, criterion 3.1: Do the measures only apply to measuring electromagnetic field ('EMF') emissions from the cables; or does this also apply to measures regarding the target species mentioned? Why are the target species mentioned in this sub-criterion, but not mentioned in the measures? Is there a relation regarding the mentioned target species and the intended (low) levels of EMF?	Implementing the measures and monitoring them only focuses on the EMF levels of certain cable configurations, because there is currently a large knowledge gap about this. Research into the effects on the target species mentioned for this criterion does not have to be carried out by the wind farm developer. The target species are only mentioned to place the criterion in its (expected) context.
18.	Criterion 3.1 in Table 6: How many different cable configurations should be used?	The number of cable configurations to which the study applies must be determined by the applicant itself. As described in the conditions, the applicant must substantiate, among other things, why the size of the test locations has been chosen and why they are large enough to conduct studies and feed into research on electromagnetic fields.
19.	Table 6, criterion 3.2: A investment of €11 million can be achieved by an increase in development costs (DEVEX), investment costs (CAPEX), or operational costs (OPEX) or by a reduction in income. Can RVO indicate how the investment of €11 million should be achieved?	Any method to make the investment is in permitted in principle, as long as there is sufficient substantiation of how this is done.



20.	Table 6, criterion 3.2: The innovative measure should not be mentioned in any of the other criteria. Is it permitted to apply an innovative measure that fulfills one of the aforementioned objectives?	Yes, that is allowed.
21.	Criterion 1.4 in Table 6 of the tender Ministerial Order awards points for the "use of ADLS on wind turbines throughout the wind farm". Can you confirm that this does NOT mean that ADLS should be applied to every turbine, as the effectiveness of the measure then cannot be further investigated?	To monitor and validate the operation of ADLS, it may be desirable to deliberately not operate ADLS on some of the turbines for a portion of their lifespan. The intention is that all turbines in the wind farm are, at all times, involved in the implementation of this criterion, either by actively activating ADLS or in its monitoring and validation. In the monitoring plan, it should be substantiated which one of the two functions and for which period the turbines will fulfil.
22.	For criterion 2.1 in Table 6, with the aim of "enhancing underwater nature in addition to nature-inclusive building regulations and Section 7.8.8 'promotion of biodiversity' in the IJVVFS Alpha WFSD: Should the three different measures (under 'applying and mutually comparing three different measures) be applied in equally (in percentage terms)?	No, the three measures do not have to be applied in exactly equal percentages, but they must be in balance with each other. See the conditions under A to D.
23.	Is it permitted to use a combination of the measures to be implemented under criterion 1.8 in Table 6, which has the aim of "Reducing pressure factors during the day the operational phase"?	Yes. It is permitted to apply a combination of described measures to meet the assessment criteria for this criterion.
24.	If criterion 1.5 in Table 6 opts for the reservation of financial resources, and the measure is not yet legally permitted 60 months after the permit has become irrevocable, how is the enforcement of the general condition I.D dealt with?	The term for actually implementing this measure is an exception to the general implementation period under point I.D of the general conditions. As described in this criterion, the reserved financial resources must be available to be used up to 10 years after the permit becomes irrevocable to carry out the proposed measure.
25.	For criterion 1.5 in Table 6, do measures other than increasing visibility (e.g auditory or electromagnetic stimuli) also qualify for points within this criterion?	Only visual measures to increase the visibility of rotor blades for birds are assessed under criterion 1.5 by Table 6.
26.	The general terms and conditions state that active connection must be sought with government programmes such as MONS and WOZEP. Must this active connection already be established at the time of submitting the bid? Or does this only have to be initiated after the permit has been won?	The intention is for an applicant to describe and substantiate as well as possible (in its application) how collaboration with MONS and WOZEP will take place. There is no need to make an active connection yet.
27.	Which sources of possible disruption should be included in the calculation of the harbour porpoise disturbance days?	Only the disruption resulting from the installation of the wind turbine foundations count for the calculation of the number of harbour porpoise disturbance days.
28.	For criterion 1.5 in Table 6: What is meant by the National Research Programme, and when are the results expected with regard to the ecological effectiveness and efficiency of the visibility measures? And how is the possibility of applying the visibility measures communicated?	The National Research Programme refers to WOZEP and MONS. From here, it will be determined whether the use of the visual measures is ecologically effective and efficient. Results of this National Research Programme are expected after the tender phase and after the financial investment decision (FID) for the wind farm has been made. In the same period, the competent authority will decide whether the measure can be legally permitted. The relevant parties will be informed about the results.



29.	According to general condition 0.II.A in Table 6, a T-0 measurement is required for research and monitoring. In our estimation, T-0 measurements are not possible for all activities. Can we substantiate under which criteria T-0 measurements are useful or does the Ministry of Economic Affairs (EZK) intend to adjust this in the final Ministerial Order?	The usefulness and added value of a T-0 measurement, or the alleged lack thereof, can be explained in the substantiation. The assessment is done by the independent expert committee. EZK does not intend to adjust the Ministerial Order accordingly.
30.	When should the T-0 measurement be executed? Must this always be completed within 60 months after the permit becomes irrevocable, so that the measure in question can be put into use? For some measures, a T-0 measurement can only start after the entire wind farm is ready, so then the 60-month period would be unfeasible.	For some measures, the wind farm must indeed be ready before a good basic situation can be measured against which the operation of the measure can be tested, which conflicts with the timely implementation of the measure. To be able to make a good comparison with a basic situation, in these cases, two or more comparisons are made with other relevant situations (outside the wind farm at IJWFS Alpha), with a conclusive motivation and substantiation.
31.	Regarding criterion 2.1 in Table 6: can we also test erosion protection for cable crossings at locations where there is no cable crossing, but only a single cable or no cable at all?	No. Erosion protection for cable crossings may only be tested at locations where a cable crossing actually exists.
32.	With regard to general condition 0.III.A in Table 6: Is it sufficient that only results data are made publicly available and that these results data and reports are digitally available in a user-friendly form and are up-to-date and actively disseminated to increase knowledge dissemination (0.III.B) in a format and design used for Wozep (0.III.A)? If not, what other data should be made available? Is it sufficient that that other data is made available on first request?	No, the underlying research data must also be actively made publicly available by the permit holder.
33.	With regard to general condition 0.IB in Table 6: Is it correct that there is deliberately no room for innovative measures?	Innovative measures are not necessarily excluded by this general condition.
34.	With regard to criterion 1.8 in Table 6: How is 'the average sound pressure of conventional ships' quantified (in dBs)?	To meet this criterion, it must be plausibly substantiated (qualitatively or quantitatively) how the proposed measures reduce the noise pressure of the ships used compared to conventional ships.
35.	Where can basic ecological data be found?	Basic ecological data for the permits for IJWFS Alpha and IJWFS Beta is publicly accessible on the Wozep website (Offshore Wind Ecological Programme): https://wozep.nl/git/wozep/06_kec_update .
36.	Can you start the stochastic Collision Risk Model?	To calculate the number of bird casualties due to collisions, you can use the stochastic Collision Risk Model (sCRM). This script can be downloaded from the Marine Scotland Data website: https://data.marine.gov.scot/dataset/developing-avian-collision-risk-model-incorporate-variability-and-uncertainty-r-code



Other		
No.	Question	Answer
1.	Does the permit qualify as a 'works concession agreement', so that both for the Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate and the tender winner are subject to the procurement obligations arising from the Public Procurement Act 2012?	No. The Ministerial Order does not fall under the Public Procurement Act 2012.
2.	Does the winner of the tender have to pay for the site surveys for the site in question?	Yes. According to Section 10.1 of the Offshore Wind Energy Act, the costs for the site surveys and environmental impact assessment (EIA) carried out must be reimbursed by the winner of the tender. The cost for these site surveys and EIA have been set at €21,840,000 and must be paid no later than four weeks after the day the Minister announces that the has granted a permit. An applicant must take this amount into account in its operating calculation.
3.	How can previous winners of a permit for offshore wind energy be prevented from having more information regarding the connection to the grid compared to other participants in the tender?	TenneT will make new information regarding connection to the grid available to everyone on its website.
4.	Can RVO provide an update on the costs TenneT will pass on to the permit holder?	<p>The Electricity Act states that no network rates apply to the permit holder for the offshore network. There is therefore no feed-in network tariff and no sales transport tariff applicable. Therefore, only the commodity price for electricity (including taxes and levies where applicable) must be paid for those times when electricity is purchased by the permit holder.</p> <p>If the permit holder so wishes, and as long as the connection to the wind farm is not available for electricity supply by an electricity supplier, TenneT will provide the required electricity and pass on the actual generation costs to the permit holder. The amount of energy used will be measured or estimated in consultation with the permit holder. Once the connection is available for electricity supply (particularly when a reliable electricity meter is installed), the permit holder will have to enter into an agreement with an electricity company. No rates apply for the realisation and maintenance of the connection. The permit holder does not have to pay anything for this.</p> <p>Appendix 6 of the Connection and Transport Agreement, Section 3.1 ("Access to the platform"), describes that supervision from TenneT is required when entering the platform. TenneT will also charge the permit holder costs for other activities carried out at the request of the permit holder and that require the presence of TenneT.</p> <p>TenneT and the permit holder will discuss and agree on the costs regarding compliance within the Project Working Group ("PWG") as referred to in Article 6 of the Realisation Agreement before TenneT incurs these costs. The previously mentioned (2016) figures can be used: approx. € 60,000 per lot.</p>



5. What is the definition of 'construction period'?

The construction period is the period between the start of construction and the full commissioning by the wind farm.