



# **Item 8: National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium**

September 10, 2025 Business Meeting

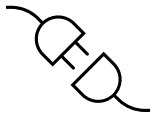
Katherine Greenwald, Renewable Generation Specialist  
Energy Research and Development Division, Renewable Generation Unit



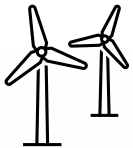
# Offshore Wind Benefits to Californians



Economic and environmental benefits



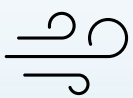
Improve grid reliability



Advance climate goals and diversify the energy portfolio



Stimulate state and local economic and workforce development



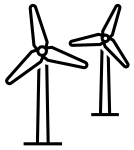
Serve electricity needs and improve air quality in disadvantaged communities



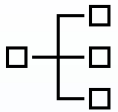
# Benefits to Californians



Leverage external funding to support California's offshore wind planning goals (2-5 GW by 2030, 25 GW by 2045).



Accelerate the deployment of floating offshore wind (FOSW) projects.



Ensure that as demand for FOSW power grows, the supporting infrastructure can evolve with lower costs.



Streamline permitting processes, lowering energy costs for ratepayers.



# CEC-NOWRDC Block Grant Overview



- \$5M grant agreement approved March 2023
- Co-develop a cost-share solicitation with the National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium (NOWRDC), a national non-profit
- Sub-award projects advance EPIC investment plan
- NOWRDC to administer sub-award agreements



# NOWRDC Solicitation 4.0 Overview



## Leadership Team



## Funding categories

- Feasibility study
- Product development
- Demonstration

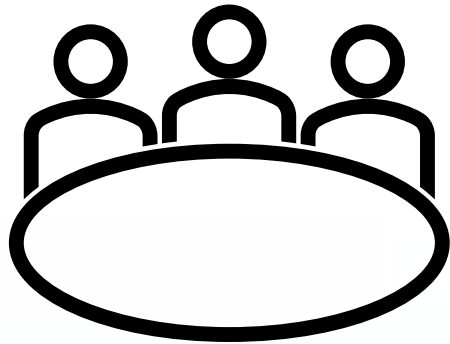
## Topic areas

- Installation innovation in ports and vessels
- Transmission technology advancement
- Autonomous environmental monitoring technologies



# NOWRDC Sub-award Process

Over 50 subject matter experts helped score 32 proposals



NOWRDC Leadership Team convened to establish award selections



7 awards selected to receive \$7.1M



# Sub-award Portfolio At a Glance

Awardee	CEC Funding
Sperra	\$850,000
Foss Maritime	\$332,500
Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute	\$673,609
Orpheus Ocean	\$1,125,000
Teledyne Marine	NOWRDC partner funded
Geo SubSea	\$1,125,000
The Candide Group	\$225,000

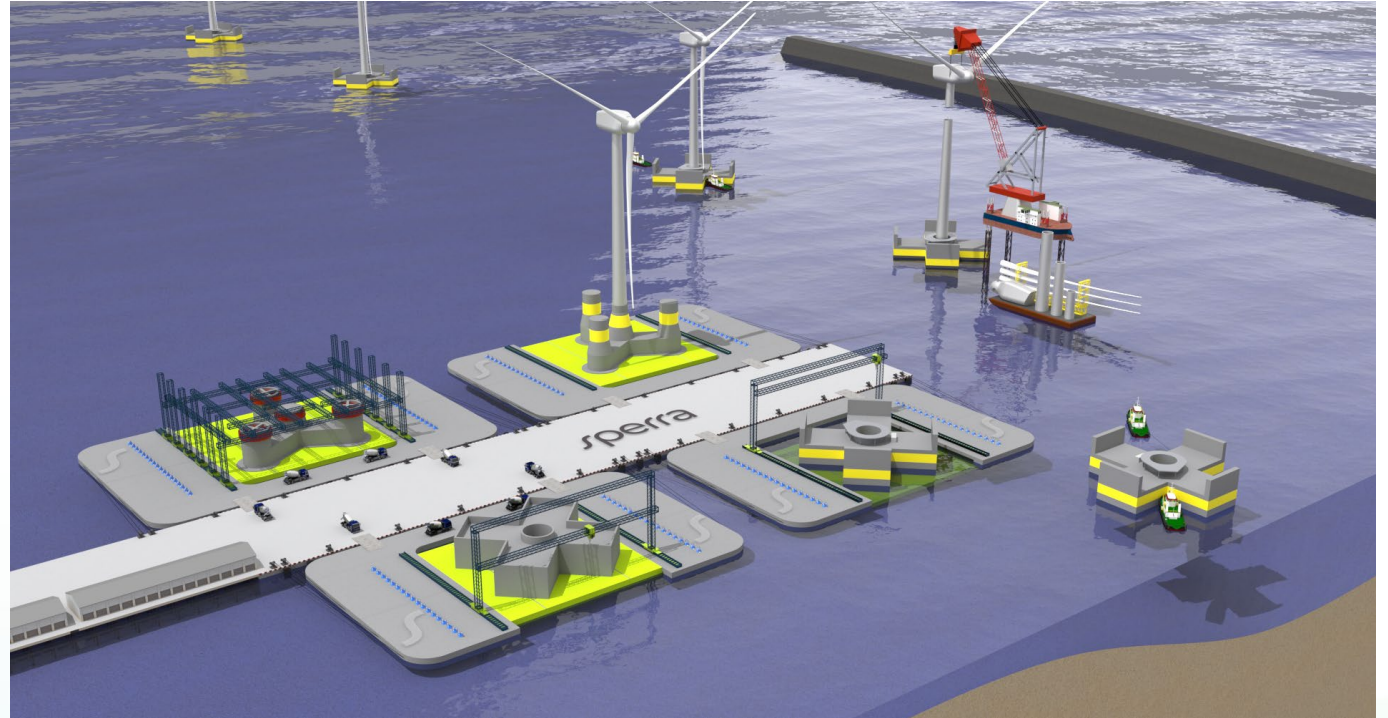
- Funding Category:
  - 4/7 are demonstration projects
- Topic Area:
  - 5/7 focus on environmental monitoring technologies





# Project Spotlight - Sperra

- RCAM Technologies, Inc. dba Sperra
- Modular, floating dock for manufacturing, assembling, and launching FOSW foundations
- Enables non-specialized ports to support deployment
- Prototype demonstration at the Port of Los Angeles



Source: Sperra





# Project Spotlight - MBARI

- Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI)
- Autonomous Underwater Vehicle platform
- Advisory board to select instrumentation and measurements for demonstration in Monterey Bay
- Inform monitoring requirements for permitting wind energy areas



Source: MBARI



# Staff Recommendation

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- Approve the 7 sub-awards from the CEC's Offshore Wind Block Grant Program with the National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium
- Adopt staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA