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## Virginia Offshore Wind Landing Celebrates Membership Growth

In May 2021, the Hampton Roads Alliance, Virginia Department of Energy, and ODU's OpenSeas Technology Innovation Hub opened the Virginia Offshore Wind Landing. The Landing is a collaborative space where offshore wind companies can plug in to the Hampton Roads maritime and growing offshore wind network. It provides access to local resources, as well as a platform for companies to work and connect. The Landing's purpose is to develop a cluster of offshore wind companies invested in cultivating Virginia as a supply chain and innovation hub of the industry. The Landing has distinguished Hampton Roads from other regions vying to become the hub of the U.S. offshore wind industry by offering companies a risk-free point of entry into the nation's largest maritime ecosystem.

The Landing celebrated its grand opening with eight founding members. At the end of 2021, membership reached 20 companies. The astonishing growth of the Landing in its first six months is a testament to the offshore wind industry's confidence in Hampton Roads to deliver as a mid-Atlantic supply chain hub. The members represent a cross section of companies that will be leading offshore wind energy and supply chain development in the U.S.

In 2022, the Alliance aims to increase membership in the Landing and conduct educational and networking events to connect members to each other and the local supply chain. For more information on the Virginia Offshore Wind Landing and membership, please visit <u>hamptonroadsalliance.com/vaoswlanding</u> or contact Matt Smith, Director of Offshore Wind for the Hampton Roads Alliance at <u>msmith@757alliance.com</u>.

The Hampton Roads Alliance is the leading regional economic development organization for Hampton Roads, VA. It is a nonprofit, public-private partnership representing 14 localities and nearly 70 private sector investors. With the support of its community and business partners, the Alliance serves as the region's single point of contact for regional economic development to assist domestic and international companies who are considering expansion or relocating to the Hampton Roads region. Its mission is to work collaboratively to lead the 757 region in attracting, growing and retaining companies and talent to create a more resilient, inclusive and equitable region of choice.

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