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Virginia Offshore Wind Landing Celebrates First Anniversary with New Women of Offshore Wind Group

(NORFOLK – June 13, 2022) Last spring, the Hampton Roads Alliance partnered with the Virginia Department of Energy and Old Dominion University’s OpenSeas Technology Innovation Hub to launch the Virginia Offshore Wind Landing. The Landing was designed to offer companies around the globe a risk-free point of entry into our nation’s largest maritime ecosystem and a pre-assembled network of world-class businesses involved in offshore wind.

In its first year, the Landing has lived up to its mission. Twenty-five of the top offshore wind companies from all over the world have chosen to join the Landing and take advantage of the burgeoning offshore wind ecosystem in Hampton Roads and Virginia. In addition to growing its membership, the Virginia Offshore Wind Landing has hosted numerous events, including meetings with government officials, company matchmaking sessions, and webinars such as OpenSeas Innovation Series.

The latest initiative taking place at the Landing is the founding of Women of Offshore Wind (WOW). WOW is a collaborative organization of women who are part of the offshore wind industry in Virginia. The group will concentrate on networking and community service, with a focus on connecting and empowering women currently in, or interested in entering, the industry. The ability to include and support women in the rapidly growing offshore wind industry will strengthen local communities, attract additional investment, and expand opportunities for the local workforce.

The inaugural WOW gathering was attended by women representing key players in the offshore wind and maritime industries, including the Hampton Roads Alliance, Avangrid Renewables, the Business Network for Offshore Wind, the City of Chesapeake, Crowley, Dominion Energy, the Hampton Roads Workforce Council, MI Technical Solutions, Seajacks, the US Coast Guard, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, Williams Mullen, and WM Jordan.

“As the Women of Offshore Wind chair, I’m honored for the opportunity to serve alongside trusted friends and colleagues whom I value as some of the state’s most talented and impactful business leaders. I view this as a significant opportunity to further cultivate a brain trust that will provide thought leadership to the state to maximize the economic footprint and quality of life improvements that offshore wind will bring to Virginia,” remarked Arketa Howard, Chair of Women of Offshore Wind and Mid-Atlantic Regional Director of Business & Policy Affairs with Crowley Wind Services.

Ashley McLeod, Lead for Offshore Wind Public Affairs with Avangrid Renewables’ Kitty Hawk Wind Project, and former Vice President of Communications & Membership with the Virginia Maritime Association, said of the group “As a longtime advocate for women in the maritime community, I was thrilled to see so many women in the offshore wind field. Hampton Roads - WOW provides an excellent platform for those women already leading in offshore wind to influence and mentor the women who will join us as the industry grows. Not only are we committed to supporting the economic and environmental benefits offshore wind

brings to Hampton Roads and Virginia, this is also a commitment to growing an inclusive workforce. We are excited to gather, promote and serve the community.”

The Virginia Offshore Wind Landing is located at 101 W. Main St. Norfolk, VA 23510. Membership in the Landing provides access to the services and programs of the Alliance, OpenSeas, and their partners in offshore wind energy, supply chain, and workforce development in Virginia, including: a collaborative work area with Wi-Fi and video conferencing equipment; facilitated access to a regional network of companies, trade associations, governments agencies, universities, and business leaders; participation in OpenSeas innovation, entrepreneurship, and business opportunity development programs; and the opportunity to collaborate with other Landing member companies.

For more information on the Virginia Offshore Wind Landing and membership, please visit hamptonroadsalliance.com/vaoswlanding or contact Matt Smith, Director of Offshore Wind for the Hampton Roads Alliance at msmith@757alliance.com.



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.