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From the Baltimore Business Journal:

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Tradepoint Atlantic leases 50 acres to offshore wind energy center

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Tradepoint Atlantic is partnering with a global offshore wind farm developer to create the state's first offshore wind energy staging center in Baltimore County.

Orsted U.S. Offshore Wind will invest \$13.2 million to aid in the development of infrastructure and facilities at the 3,300-acre Sparrows

Point logistics center and its inner berth. There, hundreds of workers will receive, assemble and ship out parts used to construct offshore wind turbines and farms in Maryland, and likely other East Coast states.



CARLEY MILLIGAN

Officials with Tradepoint, Orsted, the state and county announced the partnership on Tuesday as a "first step of many to come." The hope is that Tradepoint Atlantic will develop into a hub and supply chain leader for an industry that doesn't yet have a large, physical footprint in the U.S.

In addition to advancing Maryland's place in the emerging and competitive industry, the partnership also promises to create thousands of manufacturing jobs. Many will be based out of Sparrows Point, once home to steel fabrication and ship building behemoth, Bethlehem Steel.

Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski Jr. noted how the new green energy jobs are the opposite of the old manufacturing jobs at the site, in part because they don't ask workers to "sacrifice their own health or the environment's health."

Olszewski expressed his excitement about the Sparrows Point peninsula once again becoming an "economic engine." The county will also hire its first sustainability director, he said, to oversee the growing green energy industry from a local perspective.

Through its partnership, Orsted and Tradepoint Atlantic will develop a 50-acre offshore wind staging center that includes five acres along the site's deep water inner berth. Special cranes will be used to lift wind turbine components — some weighing as much as 2,000 tons — off of the ships in the berth and place them in the staging area for assembly and other work.

The center will likely be complete and fully operational by this time next year, said Kerry Doyle, chief commercial officer at Tradepoint Atlantic.

Orsted will use the center in the development of its planned 15-turbine, 120-megawatt wind farm called Skipjack, which will be located nearly 20 miles off the Ocean City coastline and operational as early as 2022. The project will create 1,400 jobs in Maryland, which includes about 900 full-time jobs during development and construction and another 484 jobs for operation of the farm. It will also generate enough clean energy to power

35,000 homes.

Claus Møller, chief operating officer at Orsted U.S., said Skipjack will advance the company's position as a leader in the new "powerhouse" industry.

Skipjack is one of nine projects in seven states under development or operational on the East Coast by Orsted, which is jointly headquartered in Boston and Providence, Rhode Island, but also has an office in Annapolis. The developer is backed by a global power company of the same name in Denmark.

Orsted is also one of two developers approved by the state in 2017 to construct an offshore wind farm off the Ocean City coastline. Notably missing from Tuesday's announcement was the other developer, U.S. Wind.

Doyle declined to comment specifically on any talks between Tradepoint Atlantic and U.S. Wind, but said the company is talking with a variety of industry developers and suppliers.

U.S. Wind country manager Salvo Vitale said in an emailed statement Wednesday morning that the company is, "continuing to explore the best options for our eventual staging and assembly area and believe that the Baltimore harbor offers a number of attractive alternatives that will serve our purposes."

Both companies are required by the state to invest a total of \$39.6 million in port and infrastructure upgrades at Tradepoint Atlantic's shipyard. Orsted's \$13 million commitment to create the new wind energy staging area is the first piece of that investment.

The new partnership also comes months after the state passed the Clean Energy Jobs Act of 2019, which increases the state's offshore wind capacity by 1,200 megawatts, up from 370 megawatts. The bill went into effect in May without Gov. Larry Hogan's signature.

Lt. Gov. Boyd K. Rutherford spoke about the state's commitment to developing Tradepoint Atlantic Tuesday morning, saying that he and the governor want to ensure the site is "just as economically dominant in the 21st century as it was in the 20th."

Rutherford also described Orsted as the kind of global company he and Gov. Hogan want to bring to Maryland — one that comes with new technology, investments and good jobs.

The Sparrows Point site was purchased in 2014 for \$110 million in a joint venture between Redwood Capital Investments and Hilco Global. Tradepoint Atlantic began rebuilding it into a modernized industrial logistics hub, and the site has been touted for its size, proximity to major highways, access to waterways and a large and willing workforce nearby.

Already at Tradepoint Atlantic, FedEx Ground, Amazon Inc., Under Armour, Perdue Farms and more have opened or leased warehouses on the site.

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