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Role of MSP in Securing Investments in Offshore Wind: Application of Process Quality Management Tool

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For over a decade, a number of EU Member States have been striving to promote offshore wind energy deployment, while constant development of new technologies and guidance brings opportunities for deploying wind even deeper and further offshore. On the other hand, United States offshore wind energy industry is still in its infancy and has persistent difficulties to put “the steel into the water”. This research examines the ability of MSP to serve as an umbrella: integrating legal instruments, different branches of government and different sectoral interests and therefore, establishing an efficient platform for wind energy investment while ensuring environmental protection. Deployment flowchart, commonly used generic process mapping tool for process quality management in the public sector, has been first time used in MSP context for the purpose of this research. Semi-structured interviews with MSP practitioners have been conducted in case of two MSP examples where offshore wind was recognized as a driver for plan development. Research results are showing that key challenges to the development and deployment of offshore wind technology include unclear consenting procedures, and lack of integrated legal, government and sectoral processes. Furthermore, lack of experience with permitting of wind energy projects, brings high level of uncertainty, and holds back project developers and financiers. Finally, there is a constant challenge related to prioritization of uses and sustainable integration of new and emerging industries into existing planning context that needs to be studied further.

Keywords: process quality management, MSP, integration, offshore wind

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