

An academia-industry-government effort to extend energy-life and maximize commercial value of abandoned/aging offshore infrastructure

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## ROICE : A Framework for Repurposing Offshore Infrastructure

April 2025

## **University of Houston ROICE Program**



The ROICE Program at UH and its advisory group, the ROICE Program Collaborative (RPC), form an academia-industry-government effort

to extend energy-life and maximize commercial value of abandoned/aging offshore infrastructure facing billions of dollars in decommissioning costs

### **ROICE-TE**

Techno-Economic Analysis of ROICE Installations

### **ROICE-PIF**

Project Implementation Framework for ROICE Installations

- Funded by research grants from state and federal agencies
- Advised by ROICE Project Collaborative (RPC) industry & academic experts & business leaders
- Phase Gate approach to implementing and operating a demonstration project

### **ROICE Vision**

To implement a **ROICE H2 Pilot Project** - a wind to H2 project on a

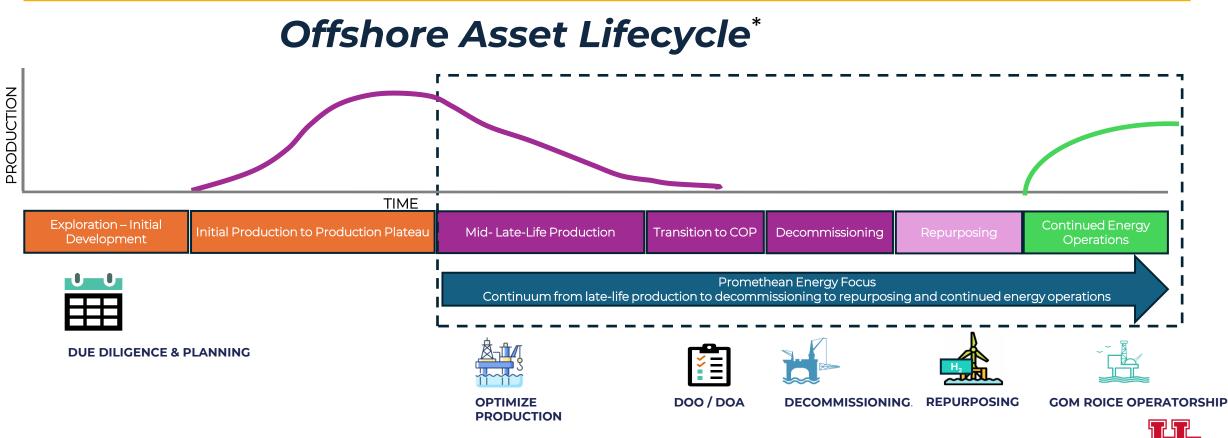
repurposed oil & gas facility



## The ROICE Phase of Asset Life



ROICE focuses on maximizing value across late-life and decommissioned assets by repurposing infrastructure



\* Courtesy: Promethean Energy

## **ROICE** As An Alternative to Decommissioning

**RPC** 

# Multiple options are being explored for repurposing offshore infrastructure

#### Low-carbon & Sub-surface

- Stranded Gas Monetization
- CO<sub>2</sub> Sequestration
- CO<sub>2</sub> EOR
- Geothermal
- Gas Hydrates



ROICE

#### **Other Options**

- Offshore Data Centers
- Sport Fishing / Diving
- Aquaculture
- Desalination

#### **Alternate Energy**

- Wind Power
- Wind to Hydrogen
- Wind to Hydrogen to X (e.g., methanol, ammonia)
- Wave Energy
- Tidal Energy
- Ocean Thermal





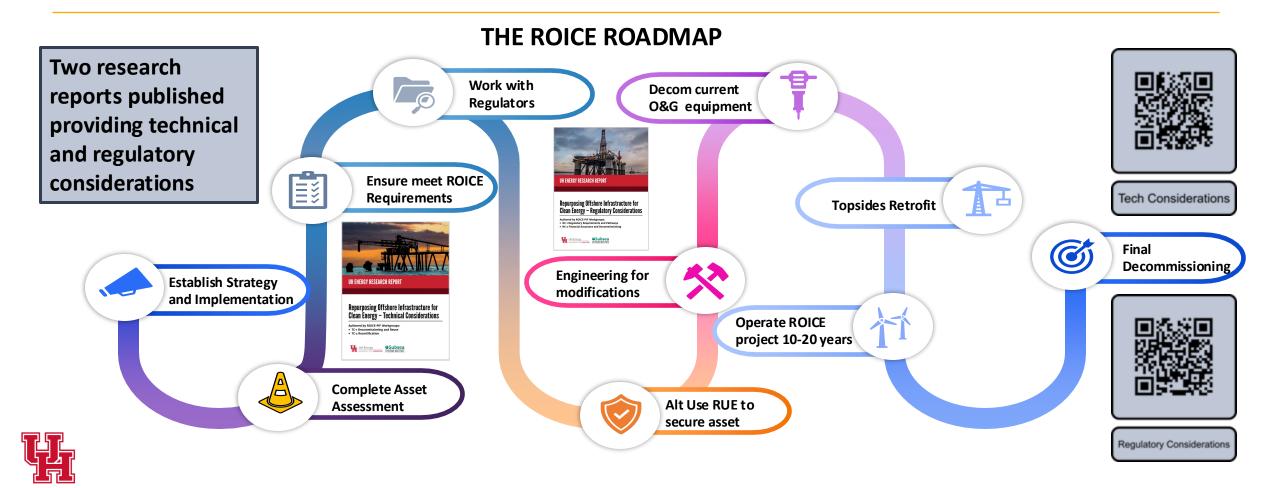




## The ROICE Roadmap



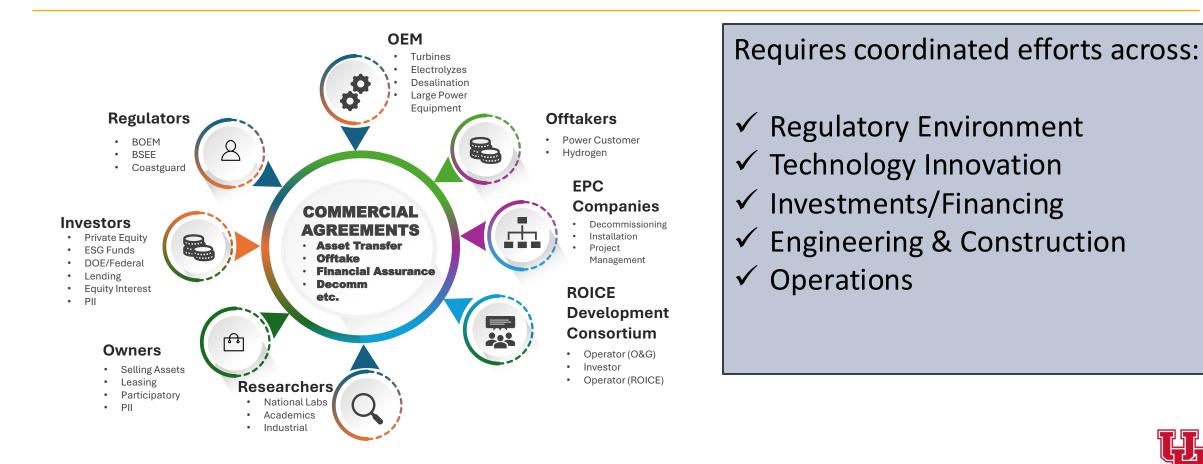
ROICE and the RPC are developing a structured roadmap & commercial templates to accelerate the developments



## **ROICE** Stakeholders



### Multiple stakeholder groups are involved across the ROICE lifecycle ...

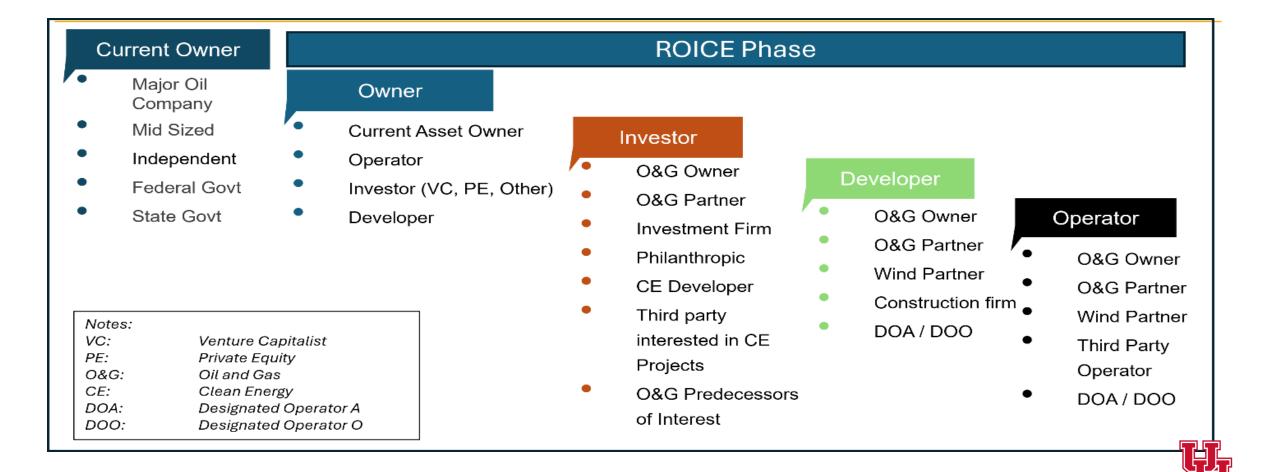




## **ROICE** Stakeholders



### ...with different roles and commercial interests



## **ROICE** Program Collaborative (RPC)



- The ROICE Program is advised by the RPC made up of experts from over 40 organizations – engineering and OEM companies, operators, national labs, associations
- Three categories of RPC members with increasing influence on project direction
  - □ Participant All are welcome
    - □ Invitation to monthly RPC meetings
  - □ Associate Members
    - Sign an Association Agreement
    - Agree to provide experts' time and data as needed
    - Invited to join select funding opportunities and collaboration with UH faculty
  - □ Sponsors
    - Sign an MOU; serve on the planning group influencing direction of the project
    - □ Agree to devote self-funded staff to carry out work scope
    - First right of refusal on funding opportunities, collaboration and demonstration project
- No funding expectation currently but reserve the right to ask in the future; program funded through research grants

### Sample of Current RPC Members

### **OEM Companies**

NEL, IMI, Rodi Systems, Hatenboer Water, Power2Hydrogen, GE, GTA H2

### **Operators & O&G Service Companies**

Promethean Energy, Technip FMC, Subsea 7, Noble Corp, Technip Energies, Baker Hughes, Neuman-Esser, Siemens Hess, Talos, BP, Shell, Walter Oil

### **National Labs**

Argonne, NREL

### Advisory and Consulting Companies

**Endeavor Management, Elena Keen Consulting**, Grid Advisors, WSP, ABS, *DNV, Gulf Offshore Research Institute*, Centre for Houston's Future, XODUS Group, AquaTerra

#### **Sponsors**

Associate Members Participants



## **UH ROICE Program Focus**



### Phased Stage-Gate Approach to Demonstration Project

- □ Phase 1 Screening Studies (complete)
  - ✓ Levelized Cost (LC) Model and LC Heat Maps developed for Wind and Hydrogen ROICE projects in the GOM
  - Chartered Regulatory and Technical workgroups to develop project implementation framework
- □ Phase 2 Feasibility Studies by 2Q24
  - ✓ Screened offshore GOM assets for ROICE potential; refined ROICE designs
  - ✓ Defined path to profitability of ROICE projects
  - Develop ROICE Project Implementation Framework Regulatory and Technical
- □ Phase 3 Demonstration Project Design by YE25
- □ Future Phases (Demonstration Project)
  - □ '26 '29: Detailed design and execution
  - □ '30 '32: Start up Window

### **ROICE Phase 3 Scope Elements**

- 1. Develop ROICE Potential Evaluation Workflow for Wind and Wind to Hydrogen
  - Establish the evaluation of ROICE potential prior to decommissioning structures as industry best practice
- 2. Additional details for ROICE design
  - Floating Structures
  - Pipeline Solutions
  - Safety Considerations
  - Decommissioning and Installation Strategies
- 3. Assemble stakeholder group and proceed with plans for a demonstration project
- 4. Expand offshore clean energy (OCE) Options
  - CO2 Sequestration
  - Wave Energy
  - Subsea Hydrogen Generation
  - OTEC
  - Offshore Data Centers
- 5. Evaluate ROICE for other regions North Sea; Brazil
- 6. Establish a network and provide a demonstration platform for OCE technologies





Repurposing Offshore Infrastructure for Continued Energy

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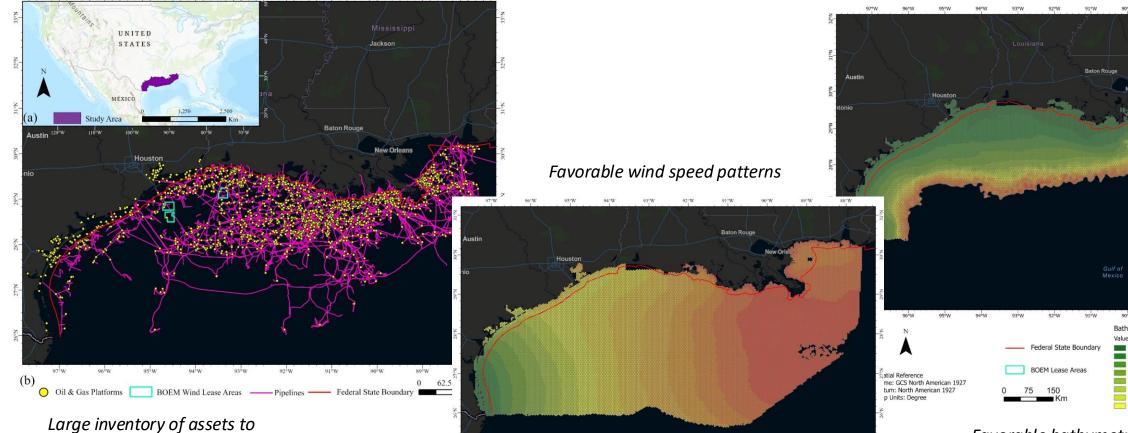
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## Framework for Evaluating ROICE Potential in the Gulf of Mexico

10

## **ROICE** Potential in the Gulf of Mexico





explore potential to repurpose

#### Favorable bathymetry

Wind Speed (m/s)

738-746

7.47 - 7.55

Spatial Reference

Name: GCS North American 1927 Datum: North American 1927 Map Units: Degree

Federal State Boundary

66 - 7.75

76 - 7.8

8 27 - 8 43

8.43 - 8.6

... and well-established infrastructure and workforce to leverage



73 - -770

80 - -874

## **ROICE-PIF – Regulatory Considerations Report**





**UH ENERGY RESEARCH REPORT** 

### Repurposing Offshore Infrastructure for Clean Energy – Regulatory Considerations

Authored by ROICE-PIF Workgroups:

- RC-1 Regulatory Requirements and Pathways
- RC-2 Financial Assurance and Decommissioning



**ROICE-PIF Workgroups** made up of RPC Members develop detailed guidance for stakeholders of ROICE projects in the GOM:

- Regulatory compliance requirements
- Liability transfer pathways
- Financial assurance mechanisms
- Commercial and operational frameworks
- Technical certification of structures
- Pre- and post-ROICE decommissioning requirements

The **Regulatory Considerations Research Report** guides stakeholders in a ROICE project to focus on the following pillars of success:

- . **Communication:** Being transparent and holding proactive discussions with all regulators, agencies, communities and investors
- **2. Regulatory Compliance:** Consider using 30 CFR Part 285 to obtain permits; stay up to date with regulatory changes from BOEM and BSEE

**3. Financial Assurance:** Straightforward and comprehensive transition of decommissioning and regulatory liability and responsibilities from current oil and gas operator to ROICE operator



## **ROICE-PIF – Technical Considerations Report**



**UH ENERGY RESEARCH REPORT** 

### Repurposing Offshore Infrastructure for Clean Energy – Technical Considerations

Authored by ROICE-PIF Workgroups:

- TC-1 Decommissioning and Reuse
- TC-2 Recertification



The **Technical Considerations Research Report** guides stakeholders in a ROICE project in the GOM to focus on the following key elements to ensure the structure is suitable for repurposing:

### **Risk Assessments**

Assessments should be performed to help determine an existing asset's suitability. Consequence scenarios(life safety, environment, business disruption) are identified

### Decommissioning

Required decommissioning must be completed; existing wells must be plugged and abandoned; oil and gas processing equipment and risers and conductors removed prior to commencing a ROICE project

### **Platform Recertification**

Structural inspections, a life extension study, and a structural integrity management plan to validate the existing condition

### **Regulatory Compliance**

Ensure compliance with BOEM and BSEE mandates – engage early.

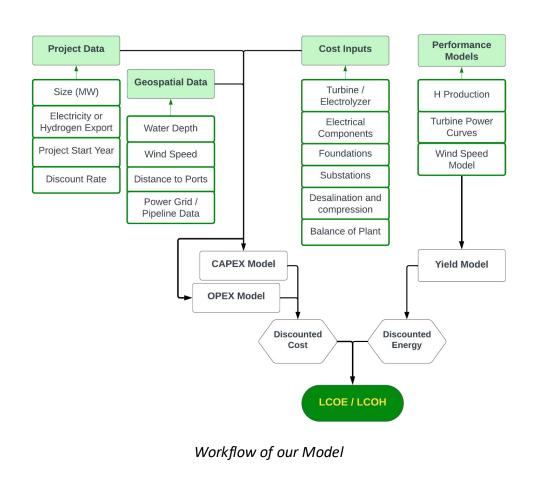


## **ROICE** Levelized Cost Model





Contents lists available at ScienceDirect





Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews

Levelized cost of repurposing oil and gas infrastructure for clean energy in the Gulf of Mexico

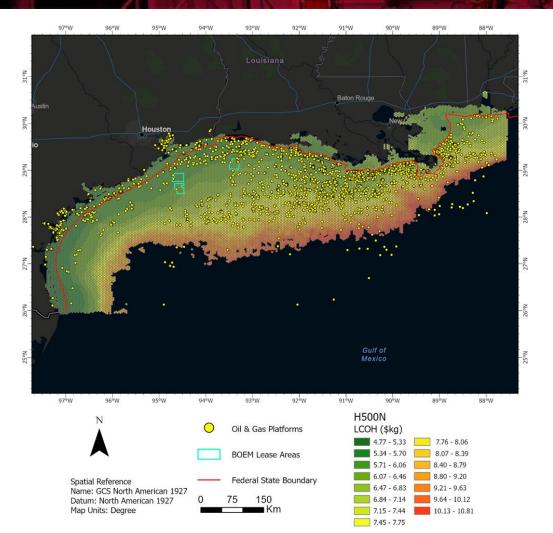
Yugbhai Patel, Muhammad Younas, Paulo Liu, Ram Seetharam

- ROICE projects (Repurposing Offshore Infrastructure for Clean Energy) have the potential to transition significant fraction of offshore infrastructure in the GOM and other areas into clean energy projects
- ROICE Levelized Cost (LC) model built for wind or wind to hydrogen projects; LC values estimated for all locations in the GOM
- Levelized costs for ROICE projects are a complex function of various variables – wind speed, water depth, distance to shore, project size, new build vs. repurposed



### Levelized Cost Maps





Geospatial LC Map for 435 MW New Build Hydrogen Export Project

#### Challenges and opportunities for repurposing oil and gas infrastructure for clean energy in the Gulf of Mexico

Muhammad Younas, Yugbhai Patel, Paulo Liu, Ram Seetharam Submitted to *Journal of Cleaner Production* for review

### Ratios of Repurposed CAPEX to New Build CAPEX

Power	Shallow	Deep
435 MW	99%	93%
105 MW	98%	81%

Hydrogen	Shallow	Deep
435 MW	97%	85%
105 MW	88%	61%

Capex Reduction from repurposing existing structures

- 1 to 12% for shallow water locations

- 7 to 39% for deeper water locations



## **Economic Challenges**



#### Challenges remain:



Levelized Costs (LC) range is higher than equivalent lowcarbon renewables-based onshore projects, and even more challenged versus high-carbon alternatives.



Even where the impact of repurposing is high, The overall cost remains a challenge

#### However:



Capex reductions and technology improvements can make these competitive. 10% improvement in costs and performance can reduce LC's by 15%

Federal and state incentives (up to \$3 / kg of hydrogen; Up to 50% Wind Capex write-off) could make projects at the lower end of LC range competitive

### LC Ranges (2023 Capex, No Government Incentives)



Repurposed wind projects in the GOM: \$82 to \$231 per MWh. Equivalent new build projects: \$82 to \$437.

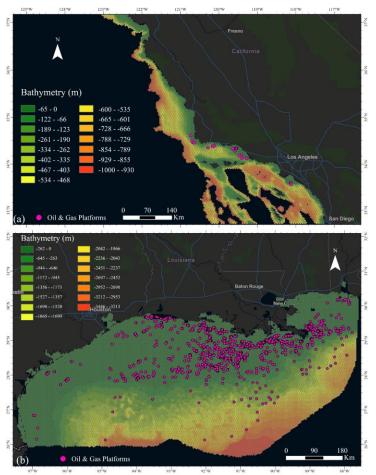


Repurposed hydrogen projects in the GOM: \$4.76 to \$8.44 per kg of hydrogen. Equivalent new build projects: \$4.77 to \$19.64.

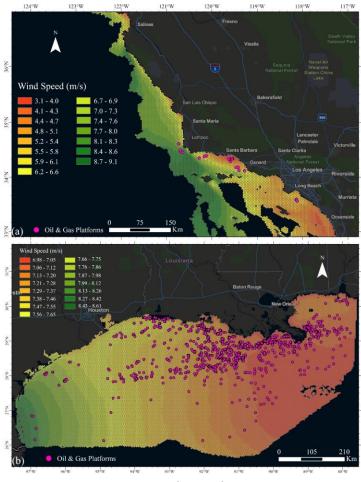


## **ROICE LC Methodology Applied to California**

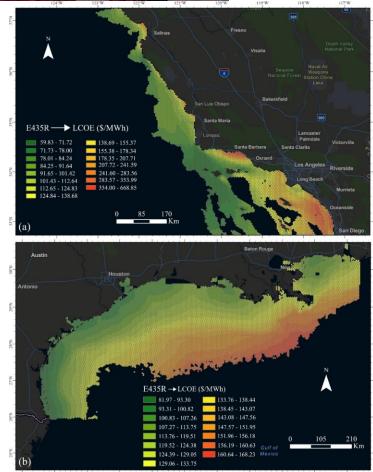




Water Depth



Wind Speed



Levelized Cost 435 MW ROICE Wind Project

Comparison of levelized costs for repurposing offshore infrastructure for

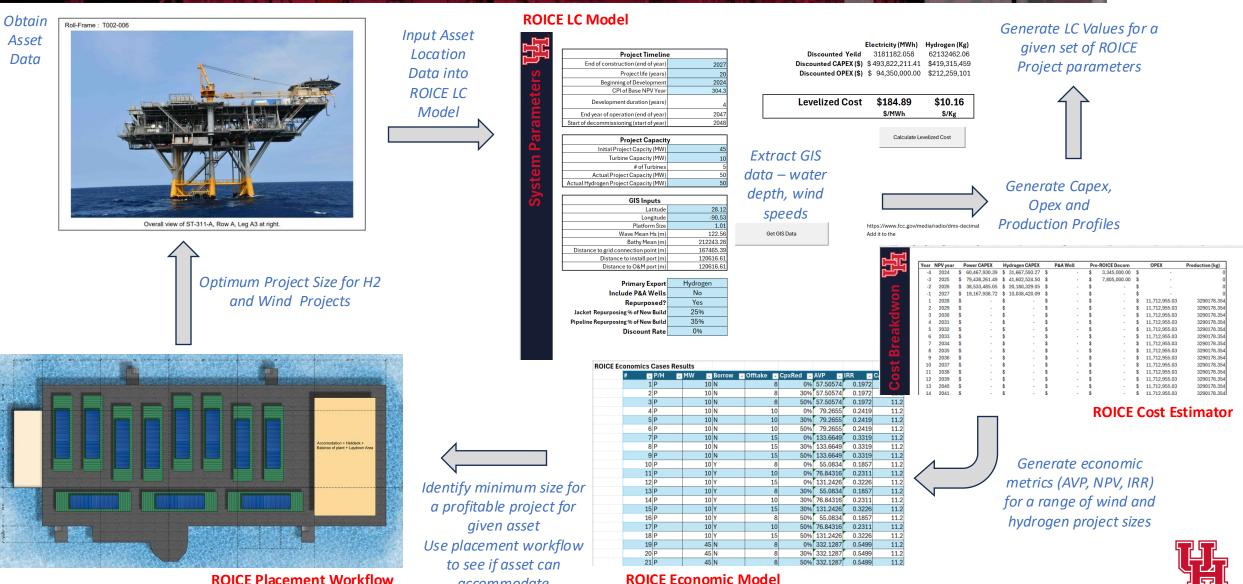
clean energy - Offshore California vs. Gulf of Mexico

Authors: Muhammad Younas, Yugbhai Patel, Paulo Liu, Ram Seetharam Submitted to *Renewable Energy* for review



### The ROICE Workflow





**ROICE Placement Workflow** 

accommodate

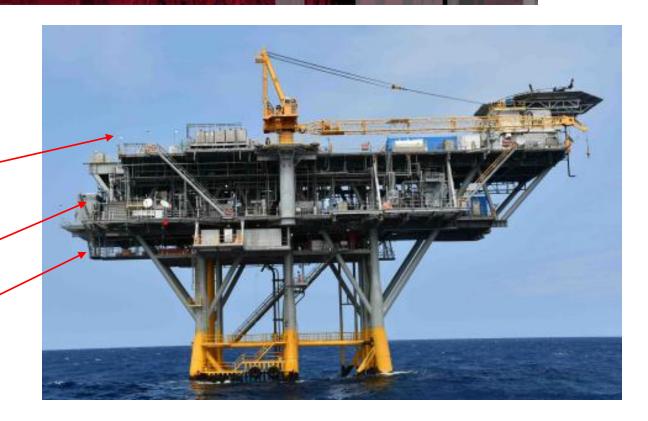
## **ROICE** Workflow Case Study - ST-311-A



- Walter Oil and Gas Asset is an operating oil and gas fixed platform installed in the year 2015.
- 400 ft of water; 6-leg platform; 100 miles offshore

### **Production Equipment Distribution**

- Drilling Deck (El. +99' 9")
  - 11 x 5MW Process Containers
  - 11 X Dry Cooler Assemblies (stacked)
- Production Deck (El. +70' 6")
  - 11 x Transformers
  - 11 x Rectifiers
- Cellar Deck (+57' 0")
  - 6 x Seawater Desal Modules
  - [?] x Seawater Lift Pumps
  - ST-311 data sets received with thanks from Walter Oil
  - To be used purely for research purposes







Electrolyzer designs received with thanks from IMI

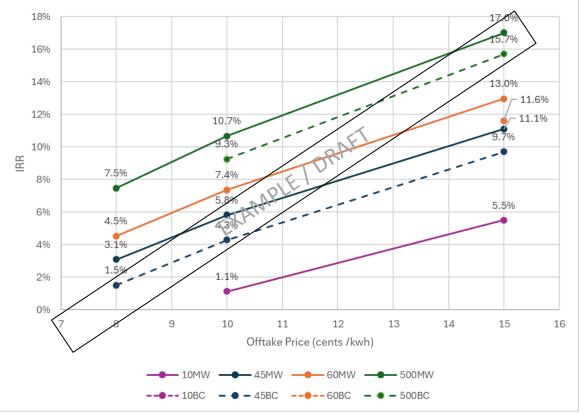
Desalination designs received with thanks from RODI Systems



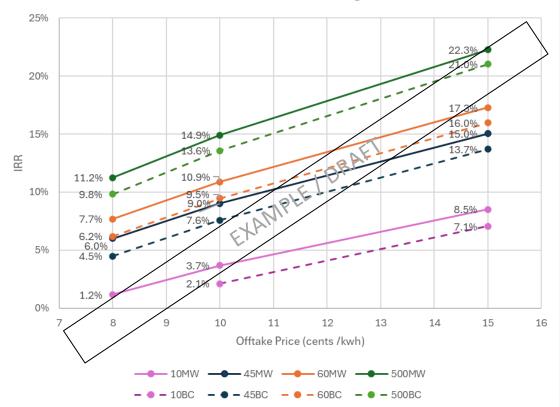


## ST-311-A: Wind Power Project Economics

ROICE Power Projects Capex Reduced to 30% of 2023 Estimate Solid Lines - Without Borrowing Costs Dashed Lines - 5% Borrowing Cost



ROICE Power Projects Capex Reduced to 50% of 2023 Estimate Solid Lines - Without Borrowing Costs Dashed Lines - 5% Borrowing Cost

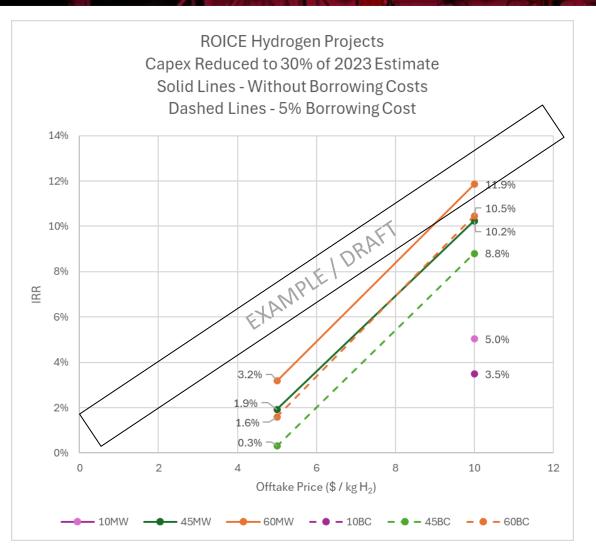


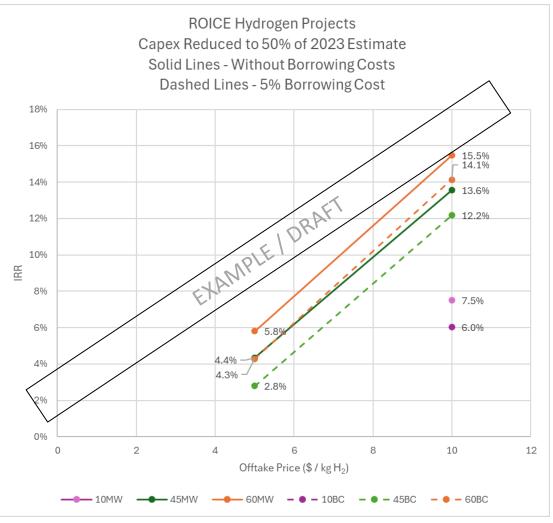
Offshore Technology Conference 2025 OTC-35964-MS Repurposing Typical GOM Platforms for Wind Power and Hydrogen Generation -Design and Economics Paulo Liu<sup>1</sup>, Yugbhai Patel<sup>1</sup>, Muhammad Younas<sup>1</sup>, and Ram Seetharam<sup>1\*</sup>



## ST-311-A: Hydrogen Project Economics









## **Topsides** Changeout

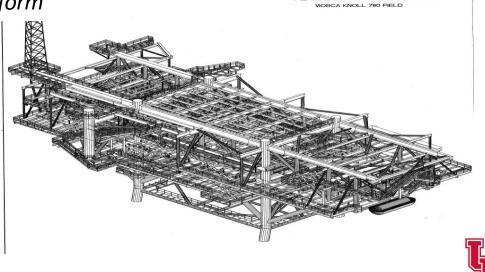


> Critical Engineering



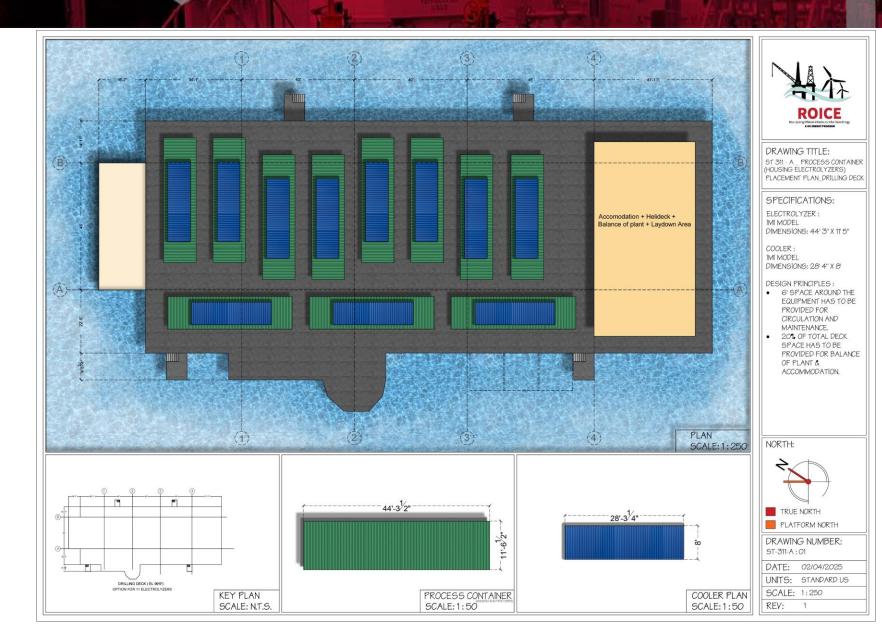
PLATFORM VK-780 "A" (SPIRIT)

Wind Turbines installed around the platform – not on the platform



### ST-311-A: Drilling Deck H2 Production Layout





Total: 11 x 5 MW Process Containers on drilling deck

Requires 1 Cooling unit to 1 Process Container

### **Project Size: 55 MW**

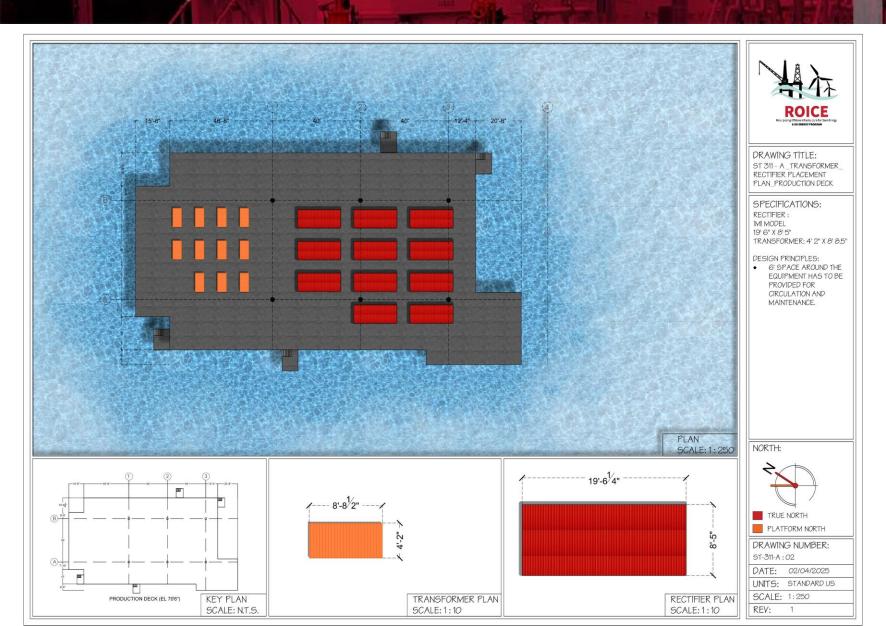
Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) Electrolyser





### ST-311-A: Production Deck Power Supply Layout





Total:

- 11 X Transformers
- 11 X Rectifiers
- (1:1 ratio with Process Containers)

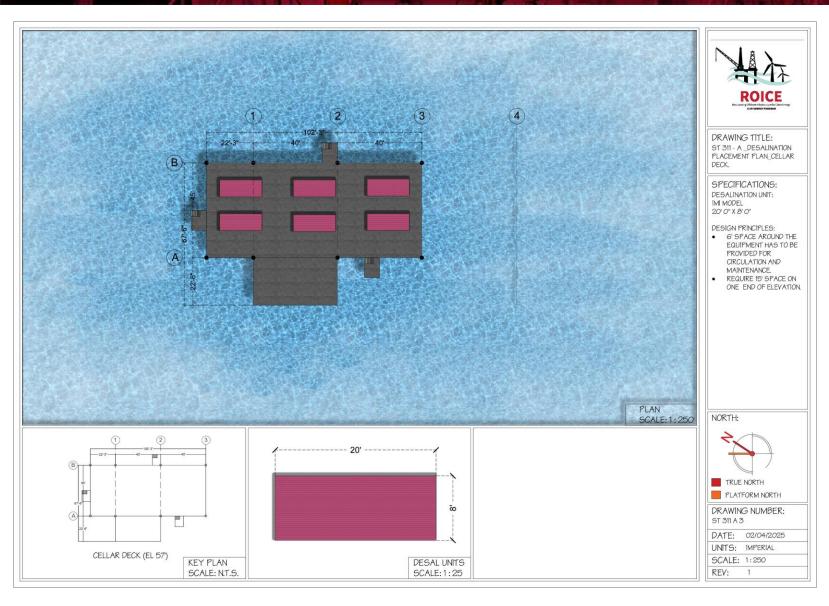
**Note:** Power supply for utilities not included

**Project Size: 55 MW** 



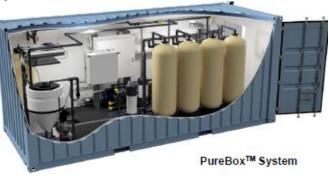
### ST-311-A: Cellar Seawater Desalination Layout





- 6 x 2,500 L/H desal units
  - 5 provide 100% water demand
  - 1 on rotation for maintenance
- Total working capacity = 12,500 L/Hr
- For maintenance, need to allow 15 ft access space on one end of the container





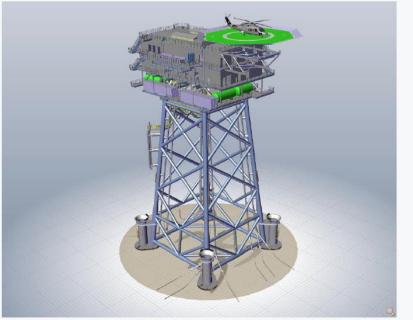
## Wind Power Export Projects



- Power Export projects will require significantly lower footprint than equivalent MW hydrogen export projects
- Repurposed decks can house larger power projects than hydrogen projects
- Offshore Power Export Project examples from literature:
  332 MW uses three decks 32 x 16 m (~15 K Sq Ft)\*
  400 MW uses three decks 20 x 20 m (~13 K Sq Ft)\*\*
- Based on size of current power export projects, a 500MW power export project could potentially fit on a West Delta 16 Leg Platform
- Caveat: Offshore support components may need to be divided into smaller modules for placement on ROICE repurposed platforms

#### Dimensions:

32 x 16 x 18 Meter
51 Meter
28 Meter
2,293 tons full operational
1,683 tons excl. piles
4 incl. Roof Deck with helicopter landing deck



Courtesy: Nordsee One GmbH



\*https://www.nordseeone.com/engineering-construction/offshore-substation.html

\*\* https://www.windpowerengineering.com/making-modern-offshore-substation/



# ROICE

Repurposing Offshore Infrastructure for Continued Energy

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#### **SPONSORS**







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## **Backup Slides**

## Levelized Cost Results



Shallow Water / Near shore locations appear to have the lowest LC for all cases

• New Build or Repurposed, Power or Hydrogen

Repurposing improves the LC by 1 to 10%

In deeper waters (Further away from shore), repurposing can reduce the LC by

- up to 15% for larger scale projects
- up to 40% for smaller scale projects.

Incremental economics on additional CAPEX for hydrogen generation is likely to be promising, with healthier federal incentives for hydrogen production.\*

Unlike power projects, hydrogen projects maintain their economic feasibility in deeper waters and over a range of project sizes.\*

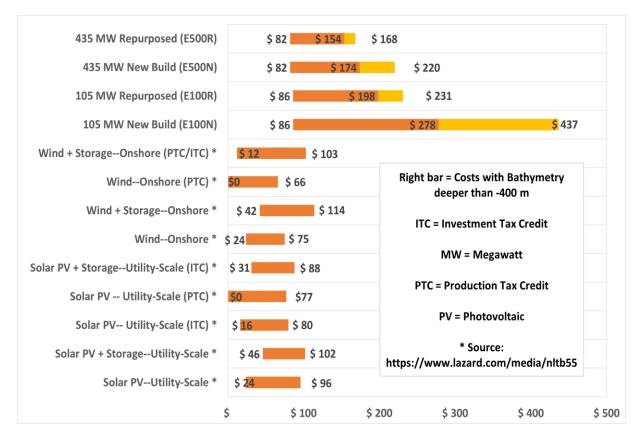
\* Later proved to be challenging after more detailed work in Phase 2

## As-Is Case - Economic Challenges



#### NOTE:

- LC's based on 2023 CAPEX no cost reduction trends assumed
- No incentive credits applied





#### LC Comparison for Power Projects

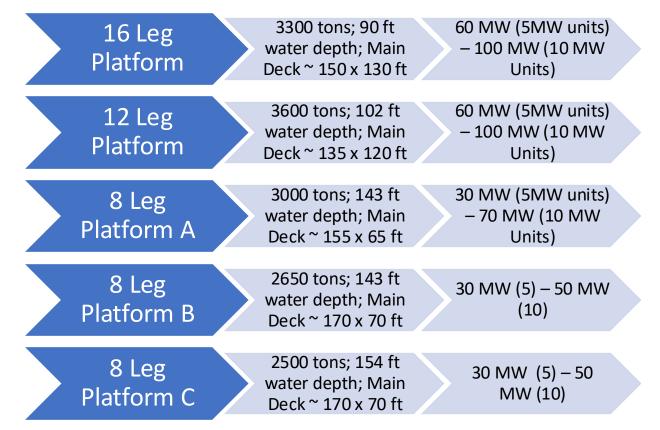
#### LC Comparison for Hydrogen Projects

## Wind Power to Hydrogen Projects



### **Project Sizes for Typical Structures from a West Delta Complex**

> 5MW IMI Design and 10 MW NEL Design used to estimate footprint



Pathways to larger H2 Projects

- Subsea hydrogen gen
- Adding decks and footprint
- Efficient footprint designs
- Stick build design



Hydrogen projects likely limited to max 100 MW per platform; multiple platforms needed for larger projects

## ROICE Phase 2 – CAPEX Refinement ROICE Cost Estimator



- CAPEX estimates refinements built into ROICE Cost Estimator; also models power and hydrogen generation
- Major CAPEX components for key project cases shown below
- Existing pipelines assumed to be repurposed for low pressure (<30 bar) hydrogen transport to shore; onshore compression costs included
- Pre-ROICE Decommissioning costs ~10% of ROICE project
   capex for small projects and 1
   to 3% for larger projects

CAPEX PARAMETERS \$K	1	0 MW H	60	MW H	10	MW E	60	) MW E	50	DO MW E
Fixed Project Development Cost	\$	8,640	\$	51,840	\$	8,640	\$	51,840	\$	432,000
WTG Costs	\$	31,401	\$	160,624	\$	31,401	\$	160,624	\$	1,125,900
Foundations & Installation	\$	9,146	\$	15,097	\$	10,721	\$	15 <i>,</i> 860	\$	67,457
Cable Cost	\$	220	\$	786	\$	28 <i>,</i> 670	\$	29,243	\$	35,382
Onshore Substation	\$	-	\$	-	\$	1,430	\$	6,073	\$	46,929
Offshore Substation Topside	\$	-	\$	-	\$	2,861	\$	12,146	\$	93,857
Hydrogen Production	\$	16,079	\$	80,872	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Repousrposing Pipelines for H2	\$	26,194	\$	26,194	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Pre-ROICE Decommissioning	\$	7,625	\$	11,150	\$	7,625	\$	11,150	\$	11,150
Total	\$	99,306	\$	346,563	\$	91,349	\$	286,937	\$	1,812,676
OPEX PARAMETERS										
Power OPEX (\$/year)	\$	1,164	\$	6,981	\$	1,164	\$	6,981	\$	58,175
H2 OPEX (\$/year)	\$	1,152	\$	6,864	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-

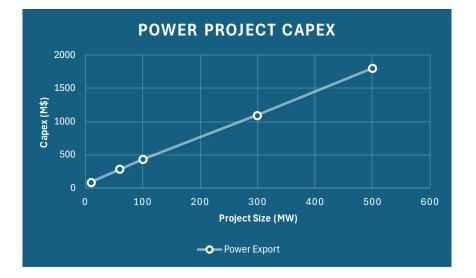
Nomenclature: [Project Capacity] MW [Primary Export] \*Only array cable cost included for Hydrogen projects

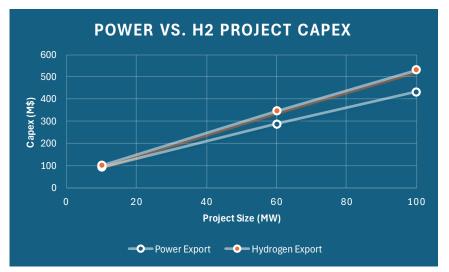


Division of Energy and Innovation UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON 31

## **ROICE** Project Capex Estimation







Hydrogen projects only require 10 to 20% additional CAPEX over equivalent power export projects

• Projects further from shore may even see capex reductions

AVP from ROICE projects more than sufficient to cover pre- and post-ROICE decommissioning

• Example: For a 60 MW Project with Incentive Offtake Pricing, AVP is 2 to 30 times decommissioning costs



### ST-311-A: Deck Loading Calculations



### Drilling Deck:

- **20% of area and capacity** set aside for accommodation, stores, balance of plant
- Additional deck above drilling deck: Install a lightweight deck to accommodate an additional 11 process containers
- Redesign process container cooling system 1 cooler per 1 upper and 1 lower deck

### **Production Deck**

 Revise transformer & rectifier designs to be more space efficient – we may be space (not weight) constrained if doubling H2 production capacity

### Cellar Deck

 Would may to keep conductor bay area clear if this space is used by seawater lift pumps

Deck Capacity Summary (US Tons)					
Deck	Allowable Calculated		Percent		
Drilling	2,431	454	19%		
Production	1,416	170	12%		
Cellar	500	24	5%		
TOTAL	4,347	648	15%		