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A Qair Project

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Industry support

CCI Aude · Wind'Occ

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ArchiMed · Vestas · Port La Nouvelle

Certification

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Financing

ADEME · Banque européenne d'investissement · Crédit Agricole Languedoc · bpifrance · La Banque Postale · Banque Populaire du Sud · Natixis Beyond Banking · BPCE Energeco : le partenaire de vos projets énergétiques · enerfip

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS 2

EOLMED'S MISSIONS 3

THE PROJECT 4

United for local energy transition and economic development 4

Innovation serving a regional industrial sector 4

1. Origins 4
2. Timeline 5
3. Industrial plan 5

A STRATEGIC PROJECT FOR FRANCE'S INDUSTRIAL SOVEREIGNTY 7

TIMELINE: HEADING TOWARD COMMISSIONING 9

Step 1: Design & Permits 9

Step 2: From Pre-construction to Construction 10

Step 3: Commissioning and Operation 10

THE PLAYERS: A TEAM SPIRIT 11

A partnership of industrial and regional stakeholders 11

FOCUS: GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY 12

FOCUS: ARRIVAL OF THE FEH 14

FOCUS: CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS 15

Reception and Assembly of the Blocks 15

Grid Connection by RTE 16

Reception of the Blades 16

Reception of the Nacelles 17

Launching (Floating Off) 17

FOCUS: ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING 19

OUR LATEST PRESS RELEASES 22

PHOTOS 23

EOLMED'S MISSIONS

1

Test floating offshore technology with a pilot project

2

Shape the future of locally made floating wind industries

3

Reindustrialize France and, by extension, Europe

THE PROJECT

United for local energy transition and economic development

With Eolmed, located off the coast of Gruissan and Port-La Nouvelle in Occitanie, France, Qair and its public and private local partners embody the ambition of an entire region committed to the transition toward renewable energy. As one of France's first three floating wind projects, Eolmed stands out as the **most powerful and the only project with 80% of its components made in France** (and 100% in Europe), setting a new benchmark for industrial sovereignty and sustainable energy. By establishing a fully integrated local supply chain, Eolmed is **paving the way for complete local industries dedicated to future commercial wind farms**.

Innovation serving a regional industrial sector

Built here, for the people here

Eolmed innovates and commits to Occitanie's energy future, offering:

- Reduced environmental impact and limited visual presence
- Increased energy production
- Local manufacturing prioritized in Occitanie

Discover the project's key points:

1. Origins

Launched as part of France's renewable energy innovation program in 2015, Eolmed is a pre-commercial wind farm **comprising 3 floating turbines** designed to produce nearly **110 million kWh/year**.

As part of France's Investments for the Future Program (PIA), - a national initiative supporting innovation and ecological transition, the project has a dual goal:

- Validate the economic model for future commercial development
- Contribute to the creation of a French offshore wind industry

2. Timeline

Following public consultation, the Eolmed project entered its final phase in late August 2025 with the start of maritime operations. **Commissioning is scheduled for the first half of 2026.**

Photo : MPA

3. Industrial plan

To maximize local economic benefits, Eolmed leverages Occitanie's deep-rooted industrial expertise, partnering with established French manufacturers to

revitalize traditional sectors and create sustainable jobs: the construction of the 3 turbines generating 600 direct jobs and 600,000 work hours for float manufacturing alone.

Located 18 km off the coast, near Gruissan and Port-La Nouvelle in the Aude department, each turbine will have a unit capacity of 10 MW.

From Design to Commissioning: Continuous Dialogue with local communities

The Eolmed project has been continuously improved since its initial design in 2016. Ongoing consultation has been conducted with all local stakeholders throughout the construction phase and up to its commissioning. Territorial dialogue will continue during the 20-year operational period.

Following the public consultation led by the French government between 2014 and 2015, four suitable zones for floating wind farms were identified in the Mediterranean and Atlantic. The Environmental Authority reviewed studies conducted by Qair to determine the optimal location for the pilot farm. In its February 6, 2019 opinion, the Authority described the impact study as "*complete and of excellent quality*" and emphasized "*the importance of expanding knowledge about seabird, migratory bird, and bat populations*."

PORT-LA NOUVELLE, A HUB FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION

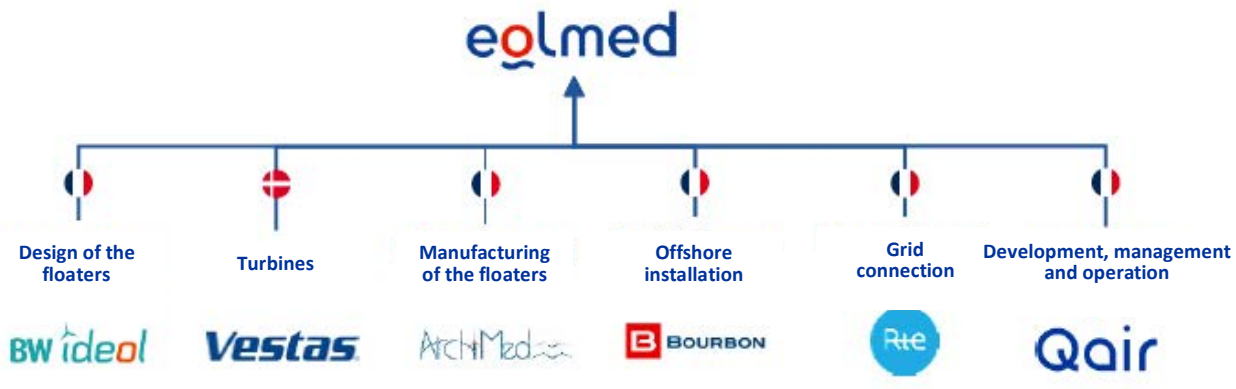
With the ambition to become Europe's first positive-energy territory, Occitanie is positioning floating offshore wind as a cornerstone of its renewable energy mix, targeting 40% of its wind energy goals. The construction of Eolmed and another 30 MW pilot farm will pave the way for a 250 MW commercial wind farm planned for 2028.

Backed by €800 million in investments, Port-La Nouvelle now hosts state-of-the-art infrastructure for the construction, assembly, and maintenance of floating wind turbines. By 2026, the port will expand to include a 40-hectare dedicated terminal, two 200-meter quays, and a deep-water basin for floaters, solidifying its role as a strategic hub for renewable marine energy in the Mediterranean and beyond.

A STRATEGIC PROJECT FOR FRANCE'S INDUSTRIAL SOVEREIGNTY

To date, Eolmed is the only floating wind project whose construction and installation are 80% carried out by French companies and 100% European. The manufacturing of the three floaters has been entrusted to Matière — a historic French steel manufacturer founded in 1932, renowned for its expertise in modular steel bridges and large-scale infrastructure across five continents — and Ponticelli, an independent family-owned group with over a century of experience in industrial assembly and maintenance.

This collaboration ensures that critical sectors, such as steel and heavy engineering, remain at the forefront of innovation, while Bourbon handles offshore installation, deploying the largest vessels ever used in the Mediterranean. Together, these partners demonstrate how homegrown expertise can drive both the energy transition and the long-term competitiveness of French and European industry.

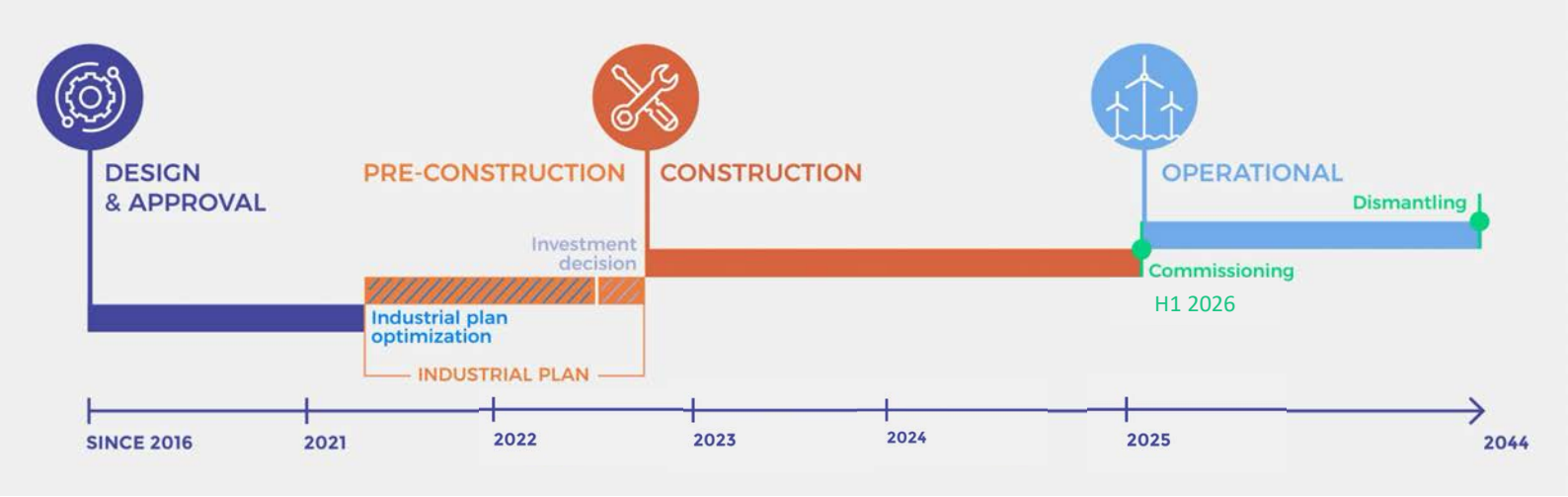


The project aims to build national expertise and technological mastery in floating wind energy production. Eolmed aligns with France's national strategy for industrial sovereignty, as advocated by public authorities.

ARCHIMED: THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN FRENCH COMPANIES MATIÈRE AND PONTICELLI

Archimed acts as a subcontractor for various aspects of the EOLMED project. The steel floating foundations were prefabricated in Matière's factories in Bagnac-sur-Célé and Le Creusot in block form, while the transition pieces were manufactured by Navacel in Bilbao. The blocks were then transported to Port-La Nouvelle, where Ponticelli's teams handled the assembly. Each floater consists of a total of 99 blocks.

TIMELINE: HEADING TOWARD COMMISSIONING



Step 1: Design & Permits

To involve the public in the project and gather their feedback, a public consultation was conducted in 2017 by the French National Public Debate Commission (CNDP).

Placed under the oversight of a guarantor appointed by the CNDP, Mr. Jacques Rouderi, the process ensured the quality of information and expression, enabling the project to be better understood, shared, and co-constructed with all stakeholders.

An Environmental Impact Study Praised by the General Commission for Sustainable Development

"The impact study is comprehensive and of excellent quality. Despite its length, it is easy to read. The Environmental Authority highlights the importance of expanding knowledge about seabird, migratory bird, and bat populations, which the pilot farms should help achieve and which is essential for a potential transition to industrial scale."

To learn more about the CGDD opinion, click here

Step 2: From Pre-construction to Construction

The Eolmed pilot farm project brings together industrial leaders from across Occitanie, each excelling in their field.

Financing for the project began in late 2021 and was finalized in April 2022. Construction has been underway since May 1, 2022.

Step 3: Commissioning and Operation

Eolmed is scheduled to be commissioned in the first half of 2026, with a minimum operational lifespan of 20 years.

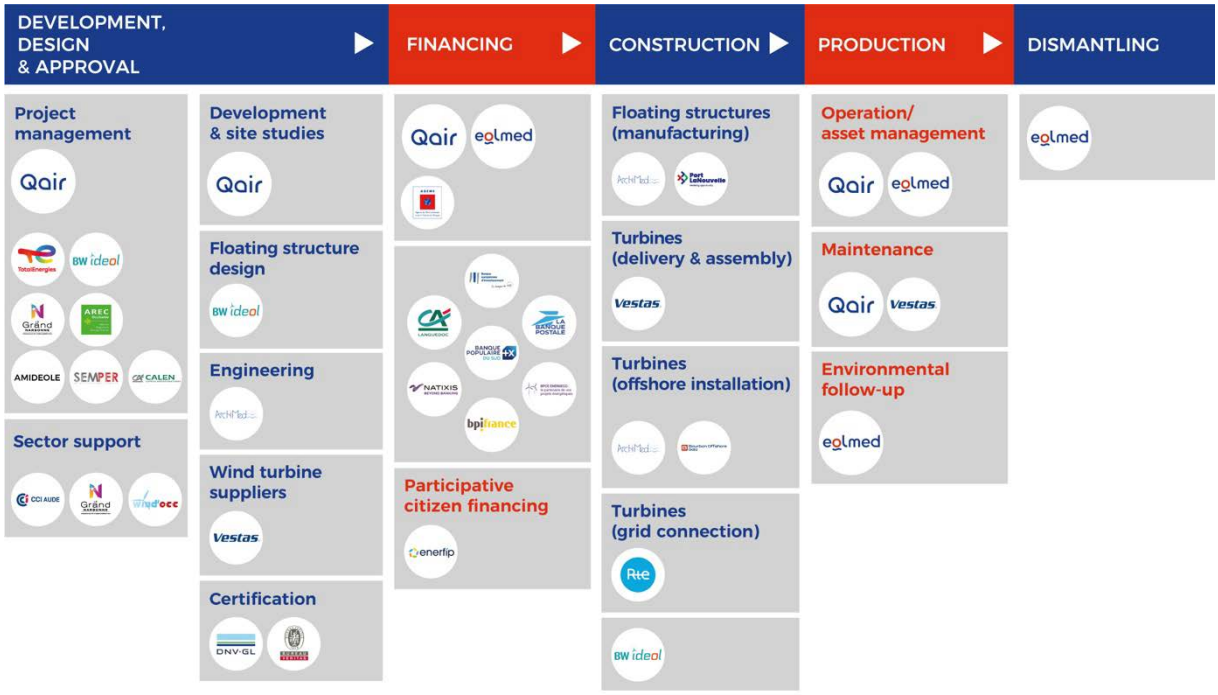
KEY FIGURES

- **3 turbines of 10 MW** each, with the closest located 18 km from the coast
- Towers standing **116 meters tall**, each weighing over **600 tons** (966 tons including the base)
- Steel floaters: **45 meters long, 45 meters wide, and 17 meters high,** each weighing **3,500 tons**
- Each floater has the same proportions as the **Arc de Triomphe** in Paris
- The combined weight of the three floaters is equivalent to **the weight of the Eiffel Tower**
- **110 million kWh** of electricity production, equivalent to the annual residential consumption of a city of **50,000 people**

THE PLAYERS: A TEAM SPIRIT

A partnership of industrial and regional stakeholders

Eolmed brings together industrial leaders from across the Occitanie region, each a leader in their field:



KEY FIGURES

- Over **15 companies mobilized** throughout all phases of the project, along with around ten financiers, including France's public investment bank Bpifrance;
- **600 000 hours** of construction work dedicated to the project;
- **600 jobs** positively impacted by the project.

FOCUS: GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

On April 25, 2023, the construction site was officially launched with the site inauguration.

This "Made in Europe" project marks the first milestone in the deployment of a genuine French offshore industry and paves the way for commercial tenders in the Mediterranean.

Laurent Vergnet, General Manager at Eolmed

In the presence of over 200 attendees, including national and local officials, project partners, and socio-economic stakeholders, the construction site at the Port of Port-La Nouvelle was officially inaugurated. Key addresses were given by:

- **Jean-Marc Bouchet**, Founder of Qair and President of EOLMED
- **Philippe Matière**, President of Archimed
- and representatives from the **Occitanie Region** and the **French state**, reaffirming the project's alignment with regional and national energy transition goals.

The speeches were symbolically concluded by the traditional coin ceremony, during which each speaker placed a coin engraved with the Occitan cross into a designated receptacle. In shipyards, it was customary to embed gold coins under the mast of ships to bring good luck to the construction of the vessel, as well as to its crew and passengers. Over time, this tradition has endured. The receptacle containing the coins was then welded to the base of floater No. 1.

« The Eolmed project is a major advancement for the renewable energy sector in France, and particularly for the Occitanie Region. It aligns with the goal of establishing an offshore wind industry in France and positions itself as a

reference project for future commercial tenders in the Mediterranean" **said Laurent Vergnet, CEO of Eolmed**

« This project, which combines local development, energy sovereignty, and national reindustrialization, was envisioned fifteen years ago. Now, we are assembling floating wind turbines built right here in France, in Occitanie," **highlighted Jean-Marc Bouchet, President of Eolmed.**

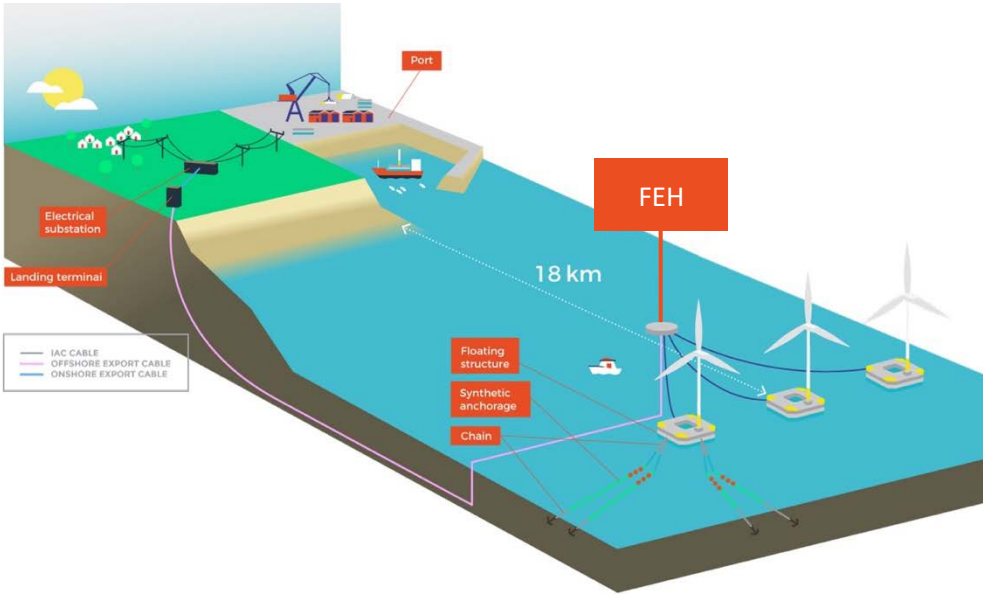
Photo: Qair

FOCUS: ARRIVAL OF THE FEH

The Floating Electrical Hub (FEH) plays a critical role in the Eolmed project.

Positioned alongside the three floating wind turbines in deep waters, which generate electricity, the FEH centralizes the energy produced by the turbines at a single point. This enables the electricity to be injected into the grid. This "floating power strip" is a world first and paves the way for future floating connection hubs currently being developed by RTE (Réseau de Transport d'Électricité).

This contribution is crucial for ensuring a stable and reliable electricity supply. Indeed, one wind turbine can be temporarily disconnected from this "Hub" without interrupting the other turbines from continuing to produce electricity.



Manufactured by the Bourbon and Pine teams in Limassol (Cyprus), the buoy was towed across the Mediterranean Sea and installed in October 2023 off the coast of Port-La Nouvelle and Gruissan.

FOCUS: CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Reception and Assembly of the Blocks


Photo : MPA

The construction of Eolmed began on site in Port-La Nouvelle with the receipt and assembly of the steel blocks that make up the three floating foundations. In total, 297 blocks were unloaded onto the dedicated platform at the marine energies terminal. Originally planned with 92 blocks per floater, the design was adjusted, and each unit is now built from 99 blocks.

These blocks are distributed across several levels on each floater—a lower belt, an intermediate belt, and an upper belt with anchoring blocks. Lifting was carried out using a Liebherr LR1600 crawler crane, specifically designed for installing large-scale wind turbines and capable of reaching lifting heights exceeding 150 meters.

Installation of the transition pieces

Each of the three Eolmed floaters received its transition piece: massive steel tubes weighing over **300 tons each**, which ensure the connection between the floating foundation and the wind turbine tower. Their installation marked the completion of a key phase in the construction process and prepared the floaters to receive the turbines.


Photo : Euroports

Grid Connection by RTE

Photo : Qair

In parallel with onshore operations, RTE finalized the project's electrical connection. The submarine and underground cables linking the pilot farm to the national grid have been commissioned. At sea, a **24-kilometer cable** was buried two meters deep to ensure a secure connection while preserving fishing activities. On land, an 860-meter directional drill connected the cable to the substation. This connection ensures that the electricity generated by the floating wind turbines can be directly injected into the grid as soon as they begin production.

Reception of the Blades

Measuring **82 meters in length**, the blades highlight the technological and logistical scale of the project. Their arrival required exceptional transport and handling resources, tailored to these oversized components, before installation.

Photo : Qair

Reception of the Nacelles

The nacelles, the technological core of the wind turbines, house the **generator and energy conversion systems**. Their reception marked a decisive step before final assembly: they are installed at the top of the towers, which are themselves secured to the transition pieces.

Photo : Qair

Launching (Floating Off)

The project reached a major milestone with the reception of the anchors manufactured by Mooreast and the arrival of the semi-submersible barge *BOA Barge 35*, capable of carrying up to 17,500 tons. After weighing, the **3,500-ton floaters** were moved to the quay and loaded onto the barge before being transported to the launch site for float-off. The barge was then submerged, allowing the floaters to stabilize and gradually float.


Photo : Qair

In parallel, the assembly of the 18 anchors was carried out at the EMR terminal in preparation for their offshore installation to ensure the final stabilization of the floating foundations.

Final assembly

The final stage before offshore installation involved **assembling the wind turbines onto the floats**. The mast sections were joined and secured to form the vertical structure supporting the nacelle and blades. The nacelle, which contains the critical components for converting wind energy into electricity, was then hoisted and fixed at the top of the mast. Meanwhile, the 18 anchors, designed to **secure the three floating turbines in position**, were prepared at the quay and loaded onto the vessel *Horizon Arctic* for offshore installation.

Towing

One by one, the wind turbines departed the port, bound for their **installation site 18 km off the coast of Port-La Nouvelle and Gruissan**. This complex logistical and maritime operation set the stage for the connection of the three turbines to the Floating Electrical Hub (FEH) buoy, the last step before the wind farm's commissioning.

FOCUS: ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

Conservatoire d'espaces naturels Occitanie

As part of the accompanying measures for the Eolmed floating wind pilot farm, 16 sandwich terns were fitted with GPS tags to track their movements in the Gulf of Lion during their breeding period.

Photo : Olivier Scher, CEN Occitanie

Monitoring these terns, both before and after the installation of the wind farm, will help highlight any potential impact of the turbines on the species' behavior. The collected data provide valuable insights into their migratory and feeding habits, as well as their breeding behavior.

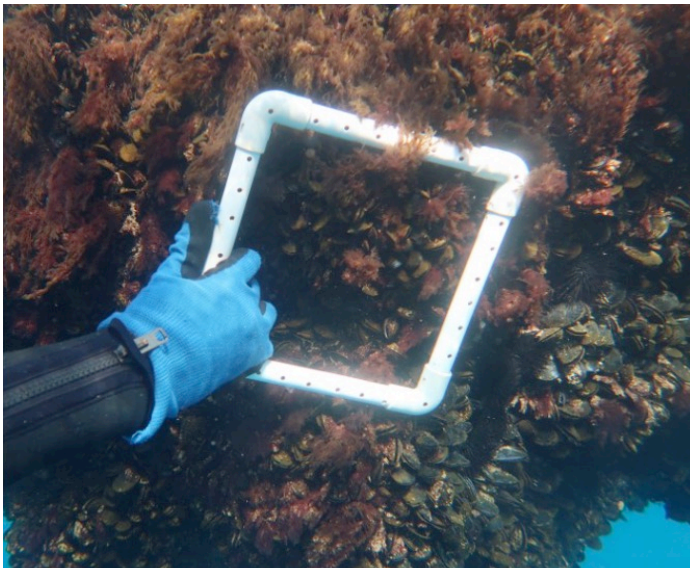
One of these terns, tracked since May 26, 2022, has returned to the coast of Sète after a journey of over 10,000 km across Italy, Morocco, Mauritania, and beyond…

These observations were made possible through collaborative efforts with the *Conservatoire d'espaces naturels d'Occitanie*, in partnership with the *Éoliennes Flottantes du Golfe du Lion* (EFGL), one of the three other floating wind pilot projects in the Mediterranean. The goal is to balance the development of renewable energy projects with the preservation of marine biodiversity.

As part of the Eolmed project in Port-La Nouvelle, Qair, in collaboration with the *Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels d'Occitanie (CEN)*, plans to build four islets (or, exceptionally, rafts) to boost the population of larid and wader species by encouraging nesting. The first islet was constructed in 2022 in the municipality of Le Barcarès (Pyrénées-Orientales) at Pointe de la Coudalère. In 2023, the first signs of bird settlement were observed.

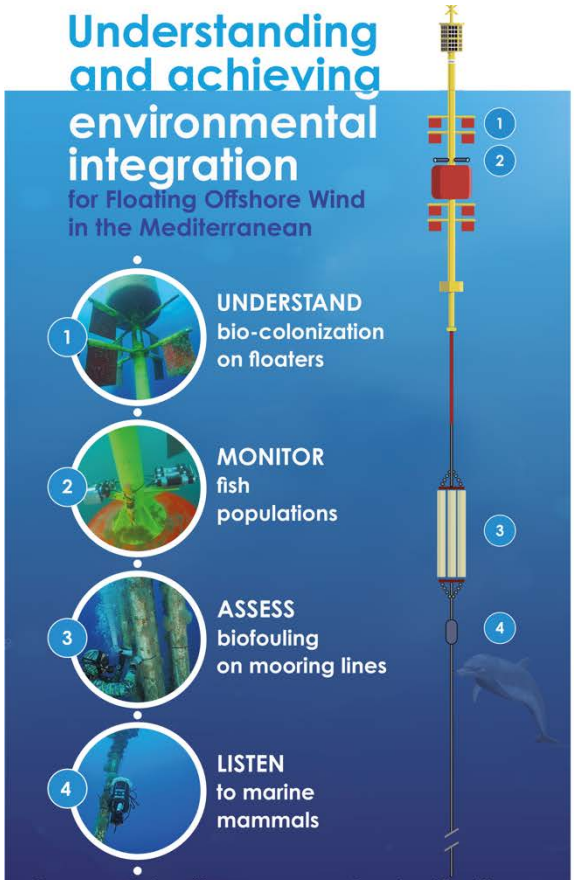
Restoration of a Breeding Islet for Little Terns (French)

As part of the EolBio project, Qair is collaborating with a consortium of scientific and environmental experts to monitor and model the environmental and socio-economic impacts of floating wind farms in the Mediterranean. The project is supported by ADEME (the French Environment and Energy Management Agency), alongside Criobe (a CNRS/University of Perpignan research center specializing in marine biodiversity), Marepolis (a consultancy focused on coastal and marine ecosystem management), and LIS (a CNRS/University of Toulon laboratory expert in information and systems sciences). Together, they are advancing the understanding of how floating wind infrastructure interacts with marine ecosystems and local communities.



EolBio is an instrumented buoy designed to observe the effects of introducing a floating structure on the environment and the socio-economic activities of the Gulf of Lion. It enables the monitoring of bio-colonization on hard substrates on wind turbine floaters, fish populations via cameras, and marine mammals through passive acoustics.

Similar monitoring (of bio-colonization, fish, and marine mammals) will be conducted by the same partners for the environmental monitorings of the future EolMed pilot farm.



Qair is collaborating with CEFE (CNRS/University of Montpellier) and CEBC (CNRS/University of La Rochelle) as part of the telemetric monitoring of the yelkouan shearwater using GPS tags.

This monitoring is conducted before and after the installation of the wind turbines to understand the effects of a wind farm on this vulnerable species.

OUR LATEST PRESS RELEASES

19 December 2025

Eolmed: all three floaters launched, project enters final stretch before commissioning

21 April 2023

Floating offshore: Launch of the construction site of Eolmed, France's biggest floating offshore wind turbines

18 May 2022

Eolmed: Launch of new crowdfunding campaign for the floating wind farm project

9 May 2022

Floating wind: Eolmed announces the FID of its 30MW French Mediterranean pilot project

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