

November 15, 2024

**Japan Marine United and AMRC Cymru signed a Memorandum of Understanding
for joint research on floating wind power generation**

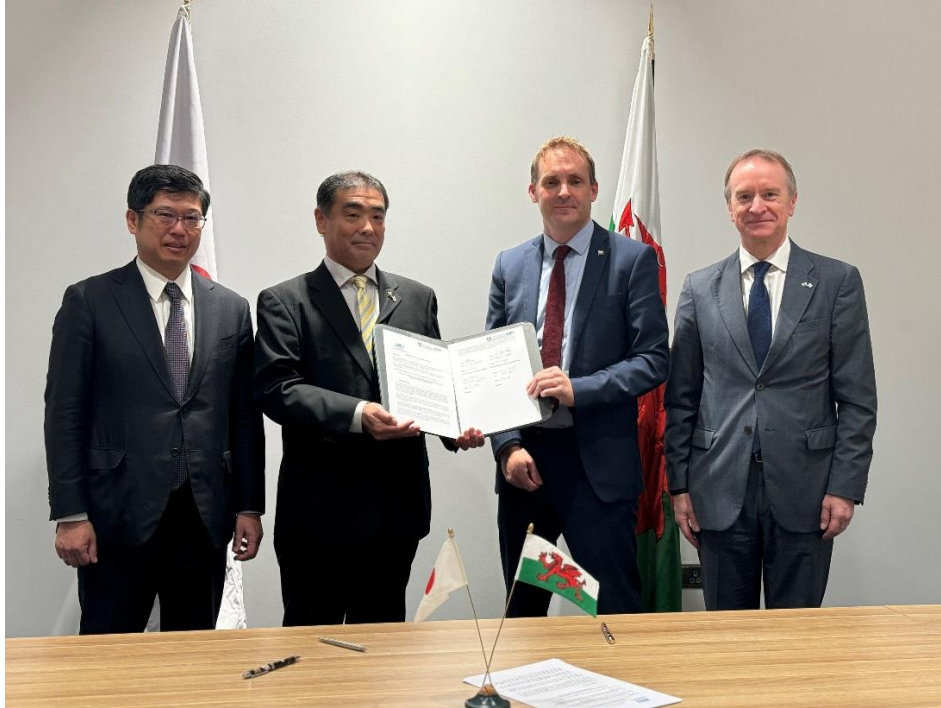
Japan Marine United Corporation (hereinafter referred to as “JMU”) and AMRC Cymru, part of the University of Sheffield Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (hereinafter referred to as “AMRC Cymru”) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at establishing a strategic partnership for floating offshore wind power in the UK at a signing ceremony. Both parties will collaborate on research and development in floating offshore wind power and support the development of floating offshore wind power in the UK.

JMU is developing semi-submersible floater for offshore wind power based on its experience in the Fukushima Floating Offshore Wind Farm Demonstration Project and is developing floating offshore wind power generation projects overseas, including in the UK, through a licensing business, while advancing the establishment of a supply chain abroad. Also, through the Green Innovation Fund (*1) project by the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), JMU has conducted research and development for the mass production and cost reductions for offshore power generation and participate in a floating offshore wind power demonstration project aimed at overseas expansion through low- cost reductions for offshore wind power generation.

The University of Sheffield Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) aims to contribute to the development of the Welsh economy, supporting the wider UK economy by building a cost-competitive supply chain for offshore wind power in Wales and the UK, and creating jobs in the market. JMU will collaborate with AMRC Cymru, which was established with a full investment of £20 million from the Welsh Government, to promote common goals in project development in the Celtic Sea and other areas of the UK. They aim to conduct joint research by integrating advanced technologies and expertise in their respective fields, providing solutions for the supply chain of floating offshore wind power in the UK.

Through this joint research, JMU and AMRC Cymru will promote technological innovation in floating offshore wind power and contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG) and the realisation of a sustainable society.

[Photo of signing Ceremony]



From left:

Kyoichiro Kawakami, Minister (Economy) for the Embassy of Japan in the UK
Kazuhiro Okawara, GM of Offshore and New Energy Sales Department at JMU
Andrew Silcox, Research director at AMRC Cymru
Andrew Gwatkin, Director, International Relations and Trade Department

Rebecca Evans, the Welsh Government’s Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning, said: “It recognises the significant capabilities that exist in Wales in sustainable energy solutions for a greener future. The MoU also ensures we strengthen ties with our Japanese friends with whom distance has never proved a barrier between us when collaborating in all things research, innovation and business.”

Andrew Silcox, research director at AMRC Cymru, said: “We are delighted to embark on this partnership with JMU to develop the floating offshore wind technologies that will accelerate the UK's transition to fossil fuel- free power.

“We believe that FLOW also provides an outstanding opportunity for the Welsh manufacturing sector, and our ambition is that the projects with JMU act as a catalyst to create supply chain opportunities for Welsh industry that will transform the industrial landscape, particularly here in south Wales.”

Kazuhiro Okawara, GM of Offshore and New Energy Sales Department at JMU, said: “We are very honored to have signed the MOU with AMRC Cymru today. “

“We believe that the joint research and development outcomes of this partnership will contribute to the advancement of floating offshore wind in Wales and to the further development of Welsh industry and economy.”

Kyoichiro Kawakami, Minister (Economy) for the Embassy of Japan in the UK who witnessed the MoU Signing said: “We are hopeful that this partnership between JMU and AMRC will eventually lead to the creation of a robust supply chain for future assembly and manufacturing in the UK, especially in Wales.”

“Notably, this partnership builds on the longstanding economic relationship between Japan and Wales, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2022. Looking ahead to 2025 as a commemorative year for “Wales and Japan” as well as the World Expo in Osaka, I believe this MOU is an important step forward in our mutual journey of cooperation and friendship.”

*1 Green Innovation Fund Project:

A fund established by NEDO to provide continuous support for companies committed to ambitious targets for the realization of carbon neutrality by 2050 for up to 10 years, from R&D and demonstration to social implementation.