



## Offshore Renewable Energy: Facing the challenges

Report on OSIGp Evening Event  
Melbourne Hotel, 12 September 2019  
By Laith Tapper, OSIGp Committee Member



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On 12 September 2019 at the Melbourne Hotel OSIGp held an Evening Technical Meeting: Offshore renewable energy – facing the challenges. The aim of the event was to showcase recent developments in renewable energy, including how challenges faced are being addressed both by industry and academia. All 80 tickets for the event had sold out, highlighting the ever-rising interest from the Perth community on the topic of renewable energy. The event was opened by the OSIGp Chair Damon Sunderland, who provided background on the activities of OSIGp and SUT, then introduced the theme of the evening and thanked the sponsor, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI).

The first presentation was from Tim Sawyer of Flotation Energy, whose presentation provided a developer's perspective on the global offshore wind industry, including Australia as an emerging market, with examples from both fixed and floating offshore wind.

Next up was Britta Bienen from UWA who provided an overview of UWA research activities focusing on offshore geotechnics for renewable energy developments. Britta touched on examples from a range of ongoing research projects related to offshore wind and wave energy generation.

Following this, Chris Meecham of Fugro discussed how the Asia Pacific Region is providing fresh challenges for renewable energy projects that stem from ground conditions, and how best addressing these challenges is dependent on geoscientists, geotechnical and design engineers working together.

Finally, Laith Tapper of NGI highlighted how the use of data science techniques and machine learning models is attracting increasing focus in the geo-sciences. Laith demonstrated how such techniques can be used to achieve efficiencies in offshore wind foundation design.

The technical presentations were followed by an extended period of networking over finger food and drinks. Thank you to all the presenters for making it a successful evening and to the sponsor NGI whose support made this event possible.



Photo: OSIGp Chair Damon Sunderland opening the event