

22.8.2024

## **Fingrid's response to statements on the stakeholder consultation on the report titled 'Preliminary possibilities to connect offshore wind power to Fingrid's main grid in the 2030s'**

### **1 General**

Fingrid published a report on the preliminary possibilities to connect offshore wind power to Fingrid's main grid in the 2030s on its website on 13 May 2024 for stakeholders to comment on. The deadline for comments was 23 June 2024. Nineteen statements were received, and some respondents were involved in more than one statement. Fingrid would like to thank everyone who gave feedback.

This document contains an anonymised summary of the consultation responses and Fingrid's responses to the feedback, categorised into questions.

Fingrid's report preliminarily identified six areas on the west coast where major offshore wind power projects could connect to the main grid in Mainland Finland in the 2030s. Fingrid's study was considered a welcome initiative in connecting offshore wind power to the main grid. Respondents hoped that Fingrid would keep the grid connection possibilities updated, taking into account the progress of offshore wind power projects and upcoming competitive tendering processes in sea areas. Respondents hoped that Fingrid would actively develop the main grid to ensure that grid connections would not become a bottleneck to green transition projects.

Most of the responses favoured altering the main grid connection procedures to enable connection agreements to be made earlier. Pre-connection agreements were considered to reduce the risks associated with developing offshore wind power. Conversely, respondents also identified the risks of pre-connection agreements, especially if connection capacity is reserved too early in the project development process.

Hybrid connections, which combine electricity production and consumption, were seen as potential solutions in the future, although the responses also highlighted the related challenges. Some respondents emphasised the need to connect offshore wind power in Åland to the grid in Mainland Finland. Fingrid was also praised for discussing the potential for offshore wind power in the southern sea areas of Åland.

We will update the report on connection possibilities for offshore wind power based on stakeholder feedback and additional studies underway at Fingrid. We will publish the updated report in the late autumn of 2024. The updated report will detail the preliminary connection possibilities at each substation. Based on the feedback we have received, we will examine new and alternative connection points for offshore wind power in the Bay of Bothnia and Southwest Finland.

22.8.2024

## Table of contents

|          |  |           |
|----------|--|-----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>General .....</b>   | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Respondents .....</b>   | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Insights on the background scenario.....</b>                      | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Land-use and environmental constraints .....</b>                  | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Reserving connection capacity .....</b>                           | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Hybrid connections combining consumption and production .....</b> | <b>12</b> |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Other feedback on the study.....</b>                              | <b>13</b> |

22.8.2024

## 2 Respondents

|    | <b>Organisations that responded to the consultation</b>  | <b>Organisation type</b>              |
|----|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1  | The Government of Åland  | Regional government                   |
| 2  | Continuum Industries   | Software company                      |
| 3  | Eolus Finland Oy   | Project developer                     |
| 4  | Ilmatar  | Project developer                     |
| 5  | Kraftnät Åland   | Transmission system operator          |
| 6  | Kristinestad, town planning division of the city council   | Municipality                          |
| 7  | Metsähallitus  | State-owned company                   |
| 8  | OX2 (Finland and Åland)  | Project developer                     |
| 9  | Port of Pietarsaari Ltd  | Port                                  |
| 10 | Pietarsaari region: city of Jakobstad, municipality of Larsmo, municipality of Pedersöre, municipality of Kronoby, city of Nykarleby, and Concordia, the regional development company of Jakobstad | Municipality                          |
| 11 | City of Raahе  | Municipality                          |
| 12 | Skyborn Renewables offshore Finland Ltd  | Project developer                     |
| 13 | Skyborn Renewables offshore Finland Oy; ports of Kemi and Oulu   | Project developer; port               |
| 14 | Skyborn Renewables offshore Finland Oy; port and city of Jakobstad   | Project developer; municipality; port |
| 15 | Suomen Hyötytuuli Oy   | Project developer                     |
| 16 | Finnish Wind Power Association   | Interest group                        |
| 17 | Vattenfall   | Project developer                     |
| 18 | Private individual   | Private individual                    |
| 19 | Ålandsbanken Offshore Wind I LP, OX2 Åland AB and Noatun Åland Norra KB  | Project developer                     |

22.8.2024

### 3 Insights on the background scenario

*Consultation question 1: What are your views on the background scenario emphasising offshore wind power, presented in section 3 of the report?*

This consultation question received 19 responses. Most of the answers commented on one or more of the following main themes: the number of connection points, the growth outlook for electricity consumption and offshore and onshore wind power, and the connection capacity for offshore wind power plants. Summaries of the statements and Fingrid's responses to them are presented below.

#### 1. Timetables and the number and locations of connection points

In general, developers of offshore wind power projects would like more connection points than presented in Fingrid's report and would prefer to have connection possibilities in the first half of the 2030s rather than the second half. New connection points were requested, especially in the Bay of Bothnia and Southwest Finland. Municipalities and ports in the region also mentioned the need for new connection points in the Bay of Bothnia, and the responses highlighted the lack of offshore wind power connection in the Kokkola region. The concern is that the lack of a potential connection point for offshore wind power could divert industrial investments in the green transition elsewhere.

The responses emphasised that grid connections must not become a bottleneck in developing offshore wind power projects and that the connection possibilities should consider both Finland's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone. Equally, projects in the Åland territorial waters would also like to connect to Mainland Finland. Some respondents emphasised how quickly a project in the exclusive economic zone can move forward after winning a competitive tender competition, as the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for some projects in the exclusive economic zone are already advanced. A few respondents would like Fingrid to offer connection points at sea for offshore wind power.

- The preliminary possibilities to connect offshore wind power were determined techno-economically from the perspective of the power system and its development, taking into consideration the offshore wind power projects that Fingrid is aware of, as well as other electricity production and consumption projects. Fingrid actively tracks the progress of offshore wind power projects and endeavours to plan and schedule network connection possibilities optimally according to customers' needs.
- The areas of preliminary connection possibilities were selected to maximise the number of offshore wind power connections. An offshore wind power project typically corresponds in scope to a large nuclear power plant. Consequently, significant system reinforcements are required to connect such projects to the main grid. Grid connections for offshore wind power can be accelerated by considering the existing grid and the system reinforcement projects in progress. Based on the feedback we have received, we will examine new and alternative connection points for offshore wind power, especially in the Bay of Bothnia and Southwest Finland.
- Fingrid considers it appropriate to keep the responsibilities for connecting offshore generation to the main grid similar as connecting onshore generation, so the project

22.8.2024

developer is responsible for building a connecting line to the grid on the mainland. Connections build offshore would be substantial investments which would limit or at least slow Fingrid's efforts to develop the main grid. In Fingrid's view, implementing main grid connections offshore instead of on the mainland would amount to a subsidy for one specific production technology. Deviating from current market-based, technology-neutral approach would require a political decision. Offshore connections build by the TSO would also reduce the autonomy of offshore wind power projects and increase the stranded asset risk for consumers if the connection lines and offshore wind power plants are not completed at the same time or the offshore wind power plants are not built at all.

- In Finland, projects to build new 400 kV transmission grid take an average of seven to eight years from planning to implementation. Due to certain issues of resourcing, only a limited number of grid projects can be ongoing at the same time. The duration of offshore wind power investments is also of the same magnitude. Large offshore wind power projects will likely be built and completed incrementally in the 2030s. Grid connections may also be implemented earlier on a case-by-case basis if the customer accepts certain constraints to their usability, such as in the event of a fault in the main grid (known as a flexible connection).
- In the 2030s, it may be possible to implement more offshore wind power connections and sooner than indicated in Fingrid's report and in other areas if the growth in electricity consumption is greater than assumed in the report or new consumption facilities are located closer to offshore wind power connections. Finland has significant potential as an offshore wind power producer. However, it is uncertain when offshore wind power will become more economically viable in Finland as at the same time, Finland has huge potential to increase the production of low-emission electricity by increasing the amount of onshore wind and solar power.
- Placing new electricity production and consumption facilities close to each other is very desirable because it relieves some of the pressure to reinforce the power system. However in Fingrid's view, investments in consumption facilities for the green transition do not necessary require offshore wind farms to be located nearby; such facilities can also use low-emission electricity from the grid. Consumption investments also typically require a full main grid connection due to the fluctuating output of offshore wind power plants.

## 2. Increase in electricity consumption

Most respondents shared Fingrid's outlook of a substantial increase in electricity consumption due to green industry. Several responses also emphasised the potential of Central and Northern Ostrobothnia as a green industry area.

- In the scenario of Fingrid's offshore study, electricity consumption is expected to rise sharply in the second half of the 2020s in line with Fingrid's prospects for future electricity production and consumption. Finland's total consumption is estimated at 166 TWh in 2035, which is approximately double today's level. Electricity consumption is expected to be concentrated in Southern Finland, as it is today. From the late 2020s, increasing amounts of consumption will appear on the west coast, based on planned consumption projects known to Fingrid.

22.8.2024

### 3. Growth prospects for offshore wind power

Fingrid's report outlined the growth prospects for offshore wind power. Some respondents considered the prospects realistic, while others found them too conservative. For example, some project developers gave estimates of 8–10 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2035. Some project developers also found the scenario's estimates of the availability of offshore wind power too optimistic, stating that equating 6.5 GW of offshore wind power production to 30 TWh of energy was an overestimate.

- Fingrid considers the 6.5 GW of offshore wind power production in the scenario (7.8 GW including the connection possibility in the Ingå region) justified. If offshore wind power production were much higher than this, it would require even higher electricity consumption than the assumed doubling over the next 10 years, new cross-border transmission capacity (growth of 70% is now assumed), or lower production capacity in other forms of electricity. We also consider the scenario's estimates of the increase in electricity consumption and offshore wind power to be ambitious, as the new offshore wind power production capacity arising within one decade would exceed today's nuclear power production, for example.
- When we update the report, we will examine offshore wind power with a lower utilisation rate in accordance with the views of project developers. In Fingrid's view, a higher utilisation rate should be the goal because it would ensure more stable availability of offshore wind power production and a higher grid utilisation rate. In practice, a higher utilisation rate could be achieved by selecting components that oversize the power production equipment in relation to the generator and other possible primary components. In such a case, the power generating facility's rated capacity is available for a larger part of the time.

### 4. Growth forecasts for onshore wind power

Some answers criticised the report's scenario for overestimating the growth of onshore wind power, while others supported Fingrid's estimates. Six respondents, three of which were offshore wind project developers, expected onshore wind power to become less acceptable in the future. This was expected to lead to an increase in offshore wind power, primarily in the 2030s.

- Fingrid considers the growth in onshore wind power forecast in the report to be a well-balanced choice. Fingrid had received about 385 GW of production connection enquiries by August 2024, half for onshore wind power, one quarter for offshore wind power, and one quarter for solar power. New connection enquiries for all forms of production are received regularly, and projects are actively promoted.
- The background scenario for the report on the connection possibilities for offshore wind power assumes that wind power investments in Finland will be weighted towards offshore wind power from the end of the 2020s and the start of the 2030s onwards due to either financial viability or acceptability. This assumption differs from Fingrid's baseline scenario, and in practice, the rate of onshore wind power construction remains lower than in Fingrid's baseline scenario. The prospects for onshore wind power are not so clear-cut. Large-scale onshore wind power construction may also become possible in Eastern Finland, although the scenario used in the report does

22.8.2024

not allow it. This would substantially boost the competitive position of onshore wind power, as new production areas and a different production profile would become available in Eastern Finland.

## 5. Connection capacity of offshore wind power plants

A few project developers considered the assumed 1.3 GW connection capacity of offshore wind farms to be a suboptimal use of sea areas.

- In Fingrid's report, the connection power for offshore wind power plants is set at 1.3 GW based on the maximum size of an individual power-generating facility and the maximum connection capacity in Finland in accordance with Fingrid's General Connection Terms (YLE2021). Offshore wind projects with an overall production capacity of more than 1.3 GW are also planned for construction in Finland. These must be separated into independent power-generating facilities according to Fingrid's instructions, [Maximum permitted power change in power-generating facility connections in Finland](#). The maximum connection capacity is limited by the constrained inertia, reserves, and cross-border connections in the Nordic power system.
- Fingrid is currently examining the possibility of a hybrid connection as an alternative to a traditional connection. A hybrid connection allows electricity production and consumption at the same main grid connection point or in the same section of the grid. This would reduce the need for system reinforcements. It would also enable a larger number or size of customer projects to be connected more quickly. The concept entails technical and system-security challenges due to the interdependence of production and consumption in this connection method. Furthermore, legislation currently limits the use of such a connection. The reform of the Electricity Market Act that began in spring 2024 will examine whether to enable the concept in legislation.

## 4 Land-use and environmental constraints

Consultation question 2: What land-use and environmental constraints should be considered when defining connection points in more detail? For example, the feasibility of connection lines for offshore wind parks.

This consultation question received 12 responses. Summaries of the key themes of the statements and Fingrid's responses to them are presented below.

### 1. Stakeholders and constraints to consider

The responses emphasised land-use and environmental constraints and the needs of different stakeholders as important factors limiting offshore wind power. Among other things, biodiversity, national parks, local populations, national defence, and cable landings were mentioned. Respondents called for cooperation with local municipalities. More specific views on the planning of connection points included the long distances from potential landing points in Raisio, the existing transmission infrastructure in the Eurajoki region, and resistance to the use of the Björnö harbour in Kristinestad as a landing point. Some respondents wanted Fingrid to consider the accessibility of the substations

22.8.2024

designated as connection points in terms of how connecting lines could be built from offshore wind power project areas to substations on the mainland.

- When a project developer builds an offshore wind power plant—or, indeed, any other project—the developer is responsible for connecting their plant to the main grid substation on the mainland, as specified in the connection agreement. The project developer must design the connecting line, obtain permits for it, and then build it. Fingrid does not design connecting lines for project developers, but it works closely with them as the design progresses. Fingrid endeavours to consider the general feasibility of connecting lines when determining the connection points.
- Fingrid is concerned about the viewpoint that submarine cables cannot be built in a national park area. With a length of nearly 130 kilometres, the Bothnian Sea National Park significantly limits the region's offshore wind power potential: building a submarine cable that goes around the national park is technically and economically infeasible. The Fennoskan 1 and 2 submarine cables between Finland and Central Sweden were built in the area before the Bothnian Sea National Park was established and are societally and economically important electricity transmission links. The older of the two Fennoskan transmission links will need to be modernised in the late 2030s. Fingrid hopes that it will continue to be possible to build submarine cables in the national park area.

## **2. Distances between offshore wind power connection points and the coast**

Three responses wanted Fingrid's connection points to be closer to the shore. This was expected to save on cables, reduce the number of overlapping EIAs by project developers, and decrease the environmental impact.

- The connection areas presented in the report were selected based on the current main grid and the development schedules for the main grid. Fingrid will publish an updated report in the autumn of 2024 to specify the connection points at the substation level. The connection point for a high-capacity offshore wind power project must have sufficiently robust connections to the rest of the main grid to ensure system security. If new connection points were built close to the coast, the main grid would need more extensive reinforcement in the coastal region, causing delays in connection possibilities. In addition, main grid reinforcements near the coast would not eliminate the need to develop the main grid inland. Comprehensively moving the main grid closer to the coast would be challenging due to the existing infrastructure and would not be a cost-effective solution.

## **3. Considering the planned hydrogen transmission infrastructure**

Two respondents suggested that the scenario should pay better consideration to Gasgrid's hydrogen transmission plans. One respondent urged Fingrid to consider north-south hydrogen transmission and examine how it could address the need for transmission in the electricity grid.

- Fingrid works closely with Gasgrid and considers its hydrogen network plans when planning the main grid. The report's scenario for 2035 considers the possibility of transmitting energy in the form of hydrogen between Northern Finland and Northern

22.8.2024

Sweden. High expectations surround the hydrogen business, and the growth of the hydrogen economy relies on a strong energy transmission infrastructure being used efficiently. The growth is expected to continue throughout the 2030s, driven by the production of hydrogen and hydrogen derivatives. Fingrid considers the scenario's estimate of high hydrogen potential and a hydrogen transmission connection in the north to be a justified assessment for the mid-2030s.

## 5 Reserving connection capacity

*Consultation question 3: According to Fingrid's current practices, connection capacity is reserved for individual projects at the signing of the connection agreement. The prerequisite for a connection agreement is that the project's permitting is legally valid, and the connection line's expropriation permit application has been submitted to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. We request answers and outlined thought-processes to the following questions:*

*a. Should the existing prerequisites for connection agreements be modified? If yes, we also seek answers to questions b-d.*

This consultation question received 13 responses. Most respondents favoured some changes to the connection agreement practices to enable preliminary agreements or design agreements to be concluded earlier. Among other things, these responses emphasised that earlier agreements would enable decisions on major investments in offshore wind power and ports, for example, and improve the investment environment in Finland as a whole. The responses identified the lack of a connection agreement as one of the greatest risk factors in offshore wind power projects.

One respondent pointed to a good practice used by some network operators, which offer design agreement models that provide for the network operator to begin designing the network in return for an agreed sum in compensation (paid in advance) while the production plant is in the design and permit application phase. Such a design agreement could include general planning by a third party, for example. The respondent asked Fingrid to examine the advantages and disadvantages of such a model for the main grid.

One project developer proposed that if it is impossible to reserve a designated connection point when the developer is granted exclusivity to a sea area, the connection point should be assured by signing a network reservation agreement no later than the plan proposal phase. To bring a reservation agreement into force, the project developer would be required to present evidence of the exclusivity granted to the project and the planning phase and pay a reservation fee.

Two respondents said that the current practice should not be changed. The respondents noted that if a connection agreement can only be signed once the project's permits have taken legal effect, it is a reliable indicator that the project planning and implementation have proceeded properly.

- Fingrid has identified the need to update its connection agreement practices, especially for large customer projects where the permit application process takes a long time, and the customer must make a significant financial commitment before

22.8.2024

securing a permit. This would ensure that different types of customer projects are treated fairly.

- When planning to change the connection agreements, it is important to consider the differences between the permit application practices in the territorial waters and the exclusive economic zone. The regulatory burden associated with operating in the exclusive economic zone is somewhat lighter: projects do not need a component master plan for wind power or a municipal building permit. However, the absence of a town plan and the fact that the current legislation does not allow exclusive use of an area during the initial phase of a project lead to uncertainty about who can be granted the right to use the area. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment has a project underway to resolve the following issues of legislation: (i) how operators are selected for sea areas in compliance with the EU regulations on state aid; (ii) which permits they need for their activities; and (iii) which legislation applies to offshore wind power projects in the exclusive economic zone.
- The challenge for Fingrid is that when such large connection capacities are reserved in advance, the main grid must be significantly reinforced before it is certain that the project will be executed. This could cost hundreds of millions of euros, and, in practice, it would not be possible to support many reservations at the same time. Consequently, reservations eat into the connection capacity available to other customers. Moreover, in practice, the reservation fee could not be high enough to cover more extensive system reinforcements or compensate for unnecessary network investments.

*b. At what stage of the project should grid connection be secured in the future?*

This consultation question received 11 responses. Four project developers emphasised that a grid connection should be reserved immediately for the winner of a sea area auction. Two respondents noted example models in Germany, the Netherlands, and Denmark. Two respondents favoured the existing practice whereby grid connections are reserved only once a project's permits take legal effect.

Three project developers highlighted Fingrid's role after signing a preliminary connection agreement. They said that Fingrid should start planning and applying for permits for system reinforcements and conduct competitive tendering processes for the construction contracts and the necessary components once preliminary agreements are signed. However, the expropriation of land and construction would begin after signing the actual connection agreement.

- Fingrid will study the possibility of making grid connection reservations at an earlier stage of project development. In Fingrid's view, committing to a connection during or immediately after the bidding process for a sea area would be too early. The feasibility of projects is not guaranteed at this stage, as surveys of the sea bed and permit applications are only just beginning. Furthermore, the scopes and timetables of projects can change substantially compared to the plans in the bidding phase. This practice would also give the winner of a bidding competition an unfair advantage over other projects under development in Finland, which can only reserve grid connections once their permits take legal effect.

22.8.2024

*c. How should the situation be resolved if multiple projects compete for the same connection, and it is not possible to provide it to all according to their desired schedules?*

This consultation question received 11 responses. Clear, equitable and transparent selection criteria were requested. Some respondents wanted reservations of connection capacity to be tied to bidding processes for sea areas to avoid operators competing in this way. It was also proposed that the policies for allocating connection points to offshore wind power could differ from those for onshore projects.

Two respondents suggested that Fingrid could compare projects and choose the most feasible option. The proposed criteria for comparison included the societal significance of the project, the credibility of the project and its developer, the trustworthiness of the financial plan, the planned timetable, the risk analysis, and the project's feasibility in general. One respondent suggested drawing lots in such a situation.

- Fingrid will continue studying potential solutions. Equal, predictable, objective, and transparent criteria should be used to allocate connection capacity. It is impossible for Fingrid to compare the credibility, financial plans, or risks of individual connecting parties.
- Connection capacity should be reserved on a project-by-project basis, taking into account the necessary permits and other milestones. One project developer cannot sell connection capacity to another project developer directly because the connection agreements are always between two specified parties and are not tradeable. In our view, it would be appropriate to allow an operator to assign their connection agreement to another operator if their permit is also assigned to that other operator.

*d. How should the project's progress be monitored to ensure that the connection reservation remains valid?*

This consultation question received 11 responses. The answers covered three main topics: potential checkpoints, when the agreement could be rescinded, and how the progress of projects should be monitored.

Some respondents proposed determining checkpoints to monitor the progress of projects. Proposed checkpoints included obtaining exclusive water area rights, permit applications, EIA phases, PPAs, and the building permit. Three respondents mentioned that project progress should be linked to Fingrid's system reinforcements and the related investment decisions.

The responses also covered the reasons for rescinding preliminary agreements. Three respondents said that delays in meeting checkpoint targets could result in financial sanctions or the capacity being released for allocation to other projects. One respondent mentioned that losing the grid connection could jeopardise an entire project. Two respondents emphasised that delays in meeting checkpoint targets due to appeals against planning decisions should not jeopardise the connection agreement. One respondent added that delays for reasons such as requests from the authorities for further information or a bad market situation should not jeopardise the connection agreement.

22.8.2024

Respondents suggested various models for monitoring the progress of projects. One proposed outsourcing the monitoring, and two proposed that Fingrid follow the progress of the projects as part of the monitoring group overseeing the bidding areas, rather than having separate monitoring.

- Fingrid will consider the optimal way to monitor project progress. In Fingrid's view, developing a model that promotes collaboration between Fingrid, project developers, and the bodies overseeing bidding areas is necessary. It is important to avoid overlapping monitoring groups. Fingrid will determine which checkpoints would provide an effective indication of the progress of projects and the consequences if projects fail to progress. It is important to avoid underutilising the main grid's limited connection capacity if projects are significantly delayed.

## 6 Hybrid connections combining consumption and production

*Consultation question 4: What considerations should Fingrid take into account in the design of hybrid connections that include both consumption and production? When do you foresee that hybrid connections could be in use in Finland?*

This consultation question received 14 responses, of which 13 took a positive view of the hybrid connection concept. Hybrid connections pose also many challenges. Respondents mentioned, for example, the financial implications of the interdependency between projects and the differing life cycles of projects.

Respondents would like clarity on the grid service fees for hybrid connections. The responses emphasised Fingrid's role in clarifying the rules for hybrid connections. In addition, respondents hoped that grid stability and the challenges arising from the interaction between production and consumption would be resolved with customers.

Fingrid was urged to prepare for the flexible integration of hybrid connections and real-time monitoring of consumption and production. In addition, respondents pointed to the role of smaller producers and consumers and expansions of projects.

- Fingrid believes that although the responses raised various challenges about hybrid connections, different parties have the possibility to resolve them. People are seeking solutions to these challenges in several other countries, and we can learn from them. In Fingrid's view, production and consumption should be coordinated between different parties on market terms. Fingrid is willing to discuss the requirements for hybrid connections. A reform of the Electricity Market Act that began in spring 2024 is examining whether to enable the concept in legislation.

Opinions differ about the timetables for hybrid connections. Some believe that hybrid connections will become more commonplace in the 2030s and will be relevant to the first offshore wind farms in the early 2030s. On the other hand, some people think that hybrid connections could happen quickly, possibly by the end of the 2020s. However, it was considered difficult to forecast when hybrid connections would be adopted before the law is amended to enable them.

22.8.2024

- Fingrid believes that the estimated timetables for hybrid connections will become more accurate if the law is amended. Fingrid wants to enable and prepare for hybrid connections.

## 7 Other feedback on the study

### *Consultation question 5: Other feedback on the study*

This consultation question received 12 responses. The responses covered many topics, including offshore wind power in the territorial waters of Åland and the locations and timetables for connection points in Raisio.

Four responses demanded offshore wind power in Åland to be connected to Fingrid's network, but the need to amend the legislation was taken into account. The reasoning for this included a different wind power profile compared with onshore wind power in Ostrobothnia, the proximity to demand facilities in Southern Finland, low ice loads, and improving Åland's energy security.

- According to the Electricity Market Act, Fingrid is the transmission system operator in Finland, except in the self-governing province of Åland, which also includes the Åland territorial waters. The transmission system operator responsible for the Åland province is Kraftnät Åland. Fingrid is not responsible for connecting offshore wind power projects in Åland unless it is legally stipulated otherwise. In Fingrid's view, it would be appropriate to clarify the Electricity Market Act concerning connecting offshore wind power in Åland to Fingrid's network.

Several project developers would like the connection possibility in Raisio to be moved and/or enabled sooner. They suggested that Rauma or Uusikaupunki would be better connection points, especially for projects in Åland. The respondents emphasised the benefits of the region being in Southern Finland, which is largely consumption-weighted, and having better wind conditions than project areas further north.

- Fingrid is re-examining the possibility of connections in Southwest Finland. In addition, Fingrid proposes flexible solutions to accelerate connections: <https://www.fingrid.fi/en/news/news/2024/fingrid-proposes-reforms-to-the-structure-of-grid-service-fees/>.

Respondents would like the connection timetables to be coordinated with upcoming sea area bidding competitions. Fingrid was also praised for discussing the potential for offshore wind power in the southern sea areas of Åland.