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MEDIA RELEASE

Blue Mackerel Offshore Wind Project awarded Major Project Status

JERA Nex bp's Blue Mackerel Offshore Wind Project has been awarded Major Project Status (MPS) by the Federal Government. The official recognition of the project's significance was announced by Australia's Minister for Industry and Innovation and Minister for Science, Tim Ayres. It acknowledges Blue Mackerel's key role in Australia's path to net zero.

The proposed 1GW project has passed another significant milestone with this recognition, which secures dedicated support from the Federal Major Projects Facilitation Agency (MPFA). This will help the Blue Mackerel project navigate the robust environmental and regulatory approvals process.

MPS recognises projects that are of economic significance to Australia. Subject to necessary approvals and the award of a commercial licence, construction of the Blue Mackerel project is expected to deliver lasting environmental, social and economic benefits.

Country Manager Australia, Anil Chanana, said the grant of MPS is:

'...a strong vote of confidence in Blue Mackerel and the critical role it would play in the emerging offshore wind sector and in Australia's energy transition. It recognises the project's scale, its contribution to energy security and emissions reduction, significant lasting benefits to the local community and the importance of getting complex approvals right and in-time.'

'As one of the first offshore wind projects to secure a feasibility licence - and the first with an approved Management Plan under the new offshore regulations - Blue Mackerel is ideally positioned to help replace retiring coal generation with large-scale, reliable renewable energy.'

'The offshore wind sector is at a critical inflection point, both globally and in Australia. In granting MPS to key renewable energy initiatives such as Blue Mackerel, the Australian Government is sending a strong signal of its commitment to offshore wind and a clean energy future.'

Project background

Located approximately 10km off the Gippsland coast on Brataualung and Tatungalung Country, between Seaspray and Woodside, Blue Mackerel has the potential to generate 1 GW of power. At full capacity, that's power into the grid for up to 750,000 Victorian homes a year by 2032. As Victoria's remaining coal-fired power stations retire, the project will help deliver new, clean, and reliable electricity into the grid.

Blue Mackerel is being developed by JERA Nex bp, a 50:50 joint venture between JERA Co. and bp. With more than 15 years' global experience in offshore wind, JERA Nex bp is one of the world's largest offshore wind companies and an end-to-end developer, owner and operator. The company's combined global portfolio includes approximately 13GW of net potential generating capacity: around 1GW of installed capacity, 7.5GW in development, and 4.5GW from secured leases.

For further information or enquiries, please contact:

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We acknowledge the Gunaikurnai people, the Traditional Owners of the land and waters where the proposed Blue Mackerel offshore wind project will be located. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

We aspire to a genuine partnership with the Gunaikurnai people that delivers mutual benefit and enhanced stewardship of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

We acknowledge the rights and responsibilities of all First Nations peoples for their lands and waters where we operate.