

# Uruguay targets GH2

Uruguay is poised to become South America's green hydrogen pioneer powered by offshore wind, although the sector's development remains some way off.

The country – already a green energy leader, having almost all of its power supplied from renewables – has a technical 300GW potential for offshore wind, according to research.

The state-owned oil and gas company Ancap is leading the way on Power-to-X projects by pledging to

work with foreign investors to develop offshore wind sites.

Ancap has already identified 10 preliminary areas with a combined capacity of 1.25GW, which would produce at least 100 tonnes of green hydrogen per annum.

Uruguayan Renewable Energy Association president Marcelo Mula said the country has long-term ambitions to become the region's leading green hydrogen player but said there are various challenges.

"If Ancap is going to move into this new market there needs to be a legal adjustment in its mandate," Felipe Bastarrica, an analyst at the Uruguayan Catholic University's energy observatory, told reNEWS.

The government then needs to define the tender process and the roles played by various stakeholders.

Mula estimates that Uruguay will produce its first offshore wind and green hydrogen by 2040 at the earliest. ■



**AMBITIONS: Marcelo Mula**  
Photo: Uruguayan Renewable Energy Association



**MANDATE CHANGE: Felipe Bastarrica**  
Photo: Catholic University Uruguay

## Potential lies untapped in Argentina and Chile

Offshore wind development remains dormant in other South American countries, such as Argentina and Chile, despite their significant potential and early market interest.

Argentina has the eighth highest technical potential for offshore wind globally, at almost 2000GW. However, there are no projects in development and none likely in the near future.

"At the moment, offshore wind projects are not on the minds of energy [officials]," Argentine Wind

Energy Association spokeswoman Muriel De Pietro told reNEWS.

The deteriorating macroeconomic situation, insufficient transmission infrastructure near the prime offshore locations, and a lack of policy have created an uncertain environment for developers and investors.

On the other side of the Andes, the World Bank estimates that Chile has the thirteenth highest technical potential globally for offshore wind development. However, the Ministry of Energy confirmed to reNEWS that

no projects are being proposed or developed.

While Chile's central and southern shores have ample wind resources, the Ministry said fixed-bottom turbine installation would be technically very difficult due to near-shore coastal depths exceeding 100 metres.

It is open to working with developers, however, adding that Chile already has a well-defined process for identifying sites, applying for permits and receiving a concession. ■



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