Annex to the guarantee request form									
Sustainability Proofing Summary <sup>1</sup>									
The summary <sup>2</sup> is in line with the sustainability proofing guidance and should be presented only for direct financing.									
Identification of the project									
Project total cost	□ below EUR 10 million								
(exclusive of VAT):	□ equal to or higher than EUR 10 million								
If the project is exempted from scr	eening/proofing based on the threshold, please mention this								
together with a short confirmation	of legal compliance								
EIA Directive									
	☐ Annex I projects (EIA required)								
	□ Annex II projects (screening)								
	☐ EIA required (project screened in)								
	☑ EIA not required (project screened out)								
	2014 EIA Directive applicable								
	2014 EIA Directive applicable  ☐ Yes								
	□ No								
Sustainability proofing process	□ Climate								
Sustainability proofing process	□ Environmental								
	⊠ Social								
Climate Dimension	2 00101								
	The agreeting data and fall and another 2014 FIA Direction and								
	The operation does not fall under the 2014 EIA Directive, and								
	the project implementation does not need permits related to								
	the EIA-regime. The assessment of climate adaptation aspects was carried out according to the Technical guidance on								
	sustainability proofing for the InvestEU Fund, using due								
	diligence materials and NIB in-house expertise.								
	The investment will be made into two Commissioning Service								
	Operation Vessels (CSOVs) that will commission and service the								
	offshore wind sector. The vessels are hybrid diesel-electric with								
	2.2 MWh battery package. Engines are designed to be able to								
	run on zero/low carbon fuels. The SPS focuses on the phase of								
	operations for the two vessels for servicing offshore wind								
	farms.								
	The vessels are purpose built to service the offshore wind								
	sector and are constructed to host crew while they are								
	operating at the offshore wind parks. They are according to the								
	client 20% more fuel efficient than its competitors (other Tier 1								
	vessels that are purpose built to service the offshore wind								
	sector), and have 60-75% lower emissions than Tier 2 and Tier								

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In line with Article 8 (5) of the InvestEU Regulation and the sustainability proofing guidance (<u>C(201)2632 final</u>).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In line with section 3.2 of the Investment Guidelines, the sustainability proofing summary shall be made public after the Investment Committee has approved the use of the EU Guarantee for a specific operation (with due regard to rules and practices regarding confidential and commercially sensitive information)

3 CSOVs (converted oil and gas vessels). The vessels efficiency is due to hull design, the use of variable speed engines, and double ended propulsion sets for efficient movement in the offshore wind parks. The vessels have also installed solar power.

IWS has identified increasingly harsh weather as the key physical climate risk, and acute weather events could lead to suspended operations. Therefore, the vessels have been designed and equipped to handle harsh weather events. The remaining risk is considered low, and no further analysis is considered needed.

Absolute emissions are estimated to 6 621 tons of CO2. According to the client the GHG-emissions are calculated according to the GHG protocol. No third-party verification is available. The estimated combined CO2-emissions are 13 242 tonn CO2 per year when in operation. According to the 'Technical guidance on sustainability proofing for the InvestEU Fund', this is below the threshold for a carbon footprint analysis. The emissions savings calculations are based on IWS' own estimated emissions and based on an operational profile developed together with Kongsberg Shipdesign.

The project is compatible with EU climate neutrality targets, as it would help to avoid GHG emissions and enable the offshore wind sector. The ships are 20% more efficient than its competitors, and the engines are compatible with low/zero carbon fuels. Maritime transport is a hard-to-abate sector, therefore investments along with shipping decarbonization strategies and green requirements are essential for the transformation of maritime sector in line with net-zero targets and EU climate neutrality targets. Typical asset lifespan is around 30 years, meaning that the infrastructure might also operate beyond 2050.

The Company will operate in full compliance with IMO's 'Guidelines on Vessel Recycling', as well as any recommendations from the Flag Administration. The planning of a new building program shall include the design, construction, operation and preparation of the vessel(s) so as to facilitate safe and environmentally sound recycling, without compromising safety and operational efficiency.

### **Environmental Dimension**

The assessment of environmental impacts was carried out according to the Technical guidance on sustainability proofing for the InvestEU Fund, using due diligence materials and NIB inhouse expertise. No EIA is required for this type of investment. Other applicable environmental legislation includes among others the IMO MARPOL Convention. The

client has stated that they are operating in line with the Convention.

# Furthermore

- The vessels are operated according to the MARPOL-standard.
- Vessels will run on low sulphur diesel and are built according to IMO Tier III regulations with regard to NOx emissions.
- The vessels are fitted with a ballast water treatment system in accordance with IMO standards.
- Anti-fouling paints will be compliant with the IMO Antifouling System Convention.
- To reduce the impact of noise on marine life below water, the vessels will be equipped with super silent azimuth thrusters and are the first vessels in the industry to achieve the DNV silent notation.
- The batteries used are 99% recyclable by weight.
- The Company shall operate in full compliance with IMO's
   'Guidelines on Vessel Recycling', as well as any
   recommendations from the Flag Administration. The
   planning of a new building program shall include the
   design, construction, operation and preparation of the
   vessel(s) so as to facilitate safe and environmentally sound
   recycling, without compromising safety and operational
   efficiency.

Based on the above, there are no potentially (medium or high) residual risks warranting further detailed analysis as per the Technical guidance on sustainability proofing for the InvestEU Fund.

#### **Social Dimension**

Relevant labour legislation includes the Working Environment Act (ACT-2005-06-17-62) and several regulations that expand the requirements in the regulations with more detailed provisions, including the Transparency Act (LOV-2021-06-18-99), as well as the Ship Labour Act (Skipsarbeidsloven).

For a highly specialised company like IWS the two most material topics from a social point of view are health and security, of both its own employees and clients, as well as risks related to the supply chain of the ship building.

<u>Labour and working conditions, and occupational and public</u> health, safety and security

Given that the company is a start-up, the injury track record does not provide a lot of insight – formally in 2023 there have been no injuries, but also there were no ships in operation. However, the company has already obtained ISO 45001

certification for the ship operations which sets out the high level of ambitions for the future.

# Supply chain

Although, the direct risks of vessel operations are limited, the project carries some supply chain risks. (i) The ships are built in Chinese shipyards, that in general have been in the spotlight of various NGOs especially regarding labour conditions. (ii) The ships in question have installed batteries. Sourcing of minerals in the supply chain of battery production are often linked to human and labour right violations.

These aspects are rated as medium risk as per the Technical guidance on sustainability proofing for the InvestEU Fund and therefore the topics and mitigation approaches are described below.

## Shipyard

The group has in total 6 CSOVs under construction at the same shipyard in China (3 of them already completed). Construction of the vessels is a multi-year project involving multiple designers, suppliers and sub-suppliers, and a high level of manpower supplied by the shipyard and its subcontractors. IWS is conducting a programme to ensure compliance with labour regulations. The programme consists of external on-site audits to identify any potential breaches of labour requirements and includes interviews with the workers and follow-up meetings with the yard. According to IWS, management of the shipyard is supportive and cooperative of the audit and committed to take corrective action where noncompliance is identified. This programme has been in place since 2021 and will continue until completion of the newbuilding programme or until all mitigating actions are completed.

The shipyard has been audited by Eksportfinansiering Norge one of the lenders in the existing bank syndicate financing the first four vessels. The audit conclusions have been made available to NIB. There were some findings, mostly related to fact that workers have been working without the mandatory day-off and working more overtime than formally allowed. The representatives of the company however mention that most of the workers do that voluntarily, since they travel from other parts of China to specifically work as many hours as possible. In addition, the company recognises that they are a smaller client of the shipyard, and therefore it is not easy for them to insist on changes. The company has been continuously addressing the findings to the extent possible. In addition, the company has voluntarily been investing into improving the living conditions of the on-site workers.

In order to ensure safety and human right enforcement, during the construction period an IWS team of 12 people is present at the shipyard to oversee the process. In addition, a third-party controller is overseeing the operation.

### **Batteries**

The company acknowledges potential risks relating to the use of various minerals (e.g. Cobalt, Lithium). The company reports on supply chain management practices, as required by the Transparency Act. The latest report can be found here: link

The batteries are supplied by Corvus Energy. Originally founded in Canada, the company now has its headquarters in Norway and has major Norwegian shareholders, such as Hydro and Equinor. Their lithium batteries are 99% recyclable by weight. Corvus Energy have firm policies in place, ensuring that environmental aspects are considered in all decisions and actions they take. Corvus Energy also report on their supply chain under the Norwegian Transparency Act.

In the report the company claims that they "include requirements for performing basic human rights assessment for all new procurements" and "supplier audits and site visits are regularly performed by Corvus personnel". The company has identified that most of the human right risks stem from the possible extraction and processing of Conflict minerals used in lithium batteries and electrical components. Within the supply chain of cobalt, gold and tin for the battery industry at large the risk of child labour and modern slavery is of especially high concern. Corvus energy applies the reporting templates of Responsible Minerals Initiative and seeks traceability of down to the refiners of conflict minerals.

In 2022, Corvus Energy performed 6 supplier qualification audits, including 1 for a key battery cell manufacturer from China. Out of the 6 audits no Human Right related violations were found, but one non-conformity identified towards Health & Safety conditions for workers at one of the production sites. The finding was addressed and corrected by the supplier. For 2023, a total of 36 audits were scheduled, whereof 17 audits are related to suppliers of battery cells and electrical components. Corvus Energy has stated to IWS that they are in the midst of a comprehensive environmental / third-party assessment done on their supply chain. This is reportedly due in Q2'24.

Overall, IWS are aware of risks inherent and stemming from supply chains related to batteries and takes adequate steps in addressing them. At the same time, a certain residual risk is

pr	esent	considering	the	supply	chain	sector	at	large	for
ba	tterie	S.							