Mike Blanch, BEng, MSc, MPhil, CEng FIMechE

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Profile

Senior level director with over 30 years' experience in renewable energy. Deliver solutions incorporating interactions between technology, business and economics. Direct policy and strategy, programme and project management, shape and undertake bid evaluation. Excellent collaborator and facilitator and use emotional intelligence to build relationships and motivate people. Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. Once managed a wind test site. Seeking opportunities to leverage my leadership expertise and passion for renewables to build the net zero future.

Key skills

- Expert offshore and onshore wind industries.
- Author of market roadmaps and visions, technology, innovation and supply chain strategies, and jobs and local economic benefit impacts.
- Developer of energy policy and strategy.
- Provider of education on skills needs and author and present courses.
- Developer of market entry strategies and competitor analysis.
- Expert in levelized cost of energy modelling.
- Builder of teams by selecting the right people to do the right things with the right resources.
- Pioneer of community energy.
- Communicator of complexity as simply as possible.
- Driven by how best to achieve net zero.

Current roles

Director, Blanch Renewables (February 2025 to present)

Just formed this to help organisations of all sizes globally respond to the energy challenges of climate change.

Founder and Chair, Westmill Sustainable Trust (WeSET) (2009 to present)

I lead a team of about 20 volunteers including 7 Trustees, and 3 paid consultants: the Education Officer, Assistant Education Officer, and Visits and Volunteers Coordinator. I have enabled WeSET to promote sustainable energy and welcome over 16,000 visitors to the Westmill Wind and Solar Farms.

Founder and member of the Board of Westmill Wind Farm Cooperative (2004 to present)

I am part of the team that developed the Westmill Wind Farm and now directs its management - a successful 100% community-owned project. I provide key input on the wider wind industry perspective, technology and the project's history.

Qualifications

- CEng FIMechE
- MPhil on Aerodynamics of Horizontal Axis Wind Turbines (HAWTS), Cranfield University
- MSc Energy Conservation and the Environment, Cranfield University
- BSc (Hons) Engineering Warwick University
- NEBS Management Introductory Award at Certificate Level

Previous experience

Operations Director and Business Consulting lead, BVG Associates (2009 to 2025)

I was part of the senior management team and helped grow the company from 4 to 30 staff. Responsible for operations including elements of financial reporting and human resources, I actively listened and dealt constructively with performance.

I also led the business consulting team helping clients understand and interface with markets, supply chain, technology, O&M, education, and market intelligence. I advised on wind turbine technology, supply chain development, and delivered due diligence, levelised cost of energy modelling, and programme support. I shaped and undertook bid evaluations including for offtake and transmission assets.

Across the business, including economics and industry building, I directed teams including checking and approving work for over 250 projects (see Recent key BVGA projects below).

Department of Business Innovation and Skills (2012 – 2014). Seconded to represent the UK wind industry where I developed the first UK Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy and supported its initial implementation.

Principal Consultant, Atmos Consulting (2009). Delivered due diligence and consultancy services, including technical aspects of environmental impact assessments, such as noise policy assessment, feasibility assessments and business development.

Wind Energy Manager, Atkins, Carbon Management and Renewables (2007-2009). Developed wind farms for a utility company, advised financial institutions on wind farm portfolios, and supervised wind feasibility and energy yield studies. Led the development of a GIS wind site selection tool for a large public body and reviewed health and safety at wind turbine sites for a wind turbine supplier.

Business Consultant (2006 – 2007) **and Senior Consultant** (2004 – 2006) **Future Energy Solutions (now Ricardo).** Led the wind team, managing and conducting wind energy feasibility studies, wind resource and energy yield assessments, renewable energy technology assessments, contract reviews, construction monitoring, turbine supply negotiations, and alternative energy elements of carbon management programmes. Certificated Scroby Sands Offshore Wind Farm's build progress, programme managed large Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) innovation projects, secretariat to DTI's Renewables Advisory Board subgroup, wind proposal assessor, negotiated £6 million grant to Beatrice Offshore Demonstrator.

Wind Test Site Manager and Research Engineer (1998-2004) **and Wind Test Site Engineer** (1993-1998) **Energy Research Unit (ERU), CCLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory.** Project Engineer on research projects, managing the site and test activities. Rebuilt the Windharvester wind turbine and checked the mechanical design of experimental turbines. Coordinator of the joint industry and academia Offshore Wind Energy Network.

I am a member of the Prospect Union and I was the Chair of the 600 strong branch of The Central Laboratory of the Research Councils from 2002 to 2004.

Research Assistant in Wind Turbine Group, School of Mechanical Engineering, Cranfield University (1991-1992). Recommissioned and ran the Horizontal Axis Wind Turbine (HAWTS) test facility for the "Aerodynamics of HAWTS" project, and produced the final report.

Recent key BVG Associates projects

Client confidential: Bid evaluation. I have shaped metrics and evaluated over 10 offtake bids for onshore renewables, offshore wind and transmission including HVDC links.

NYSERDA: New York offshore wind solicitation inflation adjustment design. I led the team to develop formulas via an RFI process to accurately and predictably adjust strike prices to reflect changing market conditions between bid submission and project construction. I also established the use of a milestone nearer to construction to get the most benefit from price adjustment.

North Carolina Department of Commerce: Building North Carolina's offshore wind supply chain, The roadmap for leveraging manufacturing and infrastructure advantages. I led this study that set the foundation for enabling Governor Cooper to commit to 8 GW of offshore wind by 2040. The study formed the agenda for the North Carolina Taskforce for Offshore Wind Economic Resource Strategies. Downloadable from: https://bvgassociates.com/publications/.

The Crown Estate: Technical advisory for Round 5 Celtic Sea Floating Wind Leasing Programme. I led a team to identify factors that could affect the 4+ GW first Celtic Sea offshore wind leasing round design. This included advice on the technical design envelope, likely innovations, energy take-off for electricity and hydrogen, levelized cost of energy and its spatial distribution, supply chain potential, test and demonstration needs, and array losses impacts.

Offshore Wind Industry Council (OWIC) via ORE Catapult: OWIC innovation gap analysis. I provided a wider view of research innovation areas in need of most intervention from OWIC, and the form of intervention required. I shaped priorities by researching and engaging with industry over the current activity in 15 priority innovation areas under six key research objectives.

Global leading EPCI in oil and gas sector: Business plan support for market entry into the offshore wind industry. I led business plan work including market forecasting, describing demand drivers, identifying stepping-stone projects, exploring market entry options, estimating revenues and margins, and competitor analysis. I identified alliances and acquisitions, target clients, start-up budgets, variations related to EBIT margin, and recommended team structure.

ORE Catapult: Design of UK-India ORE innovation accelerator. I designed a UK-India Offshore Renewable Energy innovation accelerator programme, assisted by my subcontractor Carbon Limiting Technologies (CLT). I identified the areas of the supply chain and specific companies that would most likely benefit from and add most value to the industry.

Airborne Wind Europe: White paper "Getting airborne - the need to realise the benefits of airborne wind energy for net zero". I provided this independent white paper that assessed the case for investment into airborne wind energy (AWE). It was used as a key part of the campaign about the benefits of AWE adoption. This led to AWE being included in the April 2024 German Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG) making German AWE projects eligible for a feed-in tariff. Downloadable from: https://bvgassociates.com/publications/.

Multiple offshore wind developers: Supply Chain Plans, Supply Chain Development Statements and Conceptual Strategies for Bidding Credits. I have supported developers to produce and sharpen competitive plans including Supply Chain Plans for UK CfD Allocation Rounds, Development Statements for ScotWind leasing and Conceptual Strategies for Bidding Credits for US BOEM lease auctions.

UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Asia-Pacific team offshore wind education. I led the preparation of material and the delivery of five two-hour online workshops for civil servants in the Asia-Pacific region. The training material included an industry synopsis and insight into UK companies involved in offshore wind, and equipped the FCDO to better identify new opportunities for UK companies.