

Supply Chain Showcase



Riggs Distler
A Centuri Company



New Jersey based Riggs Distler Supports Offshore Wind efforts in the Northeast

Founded in 1909 during a progressive and prosperous time of industrial innovation and expansion in United States history, Riggs Distler, a Centuri Company, was one of the first companies to combine mechanical, electrical, and utility construction services under one hat. Riggs Distler employs the industry's best project managers and union craft personnel to deliver lasting construction solutions. For over a century, they have partnered with the Energy and Utility industries to develop the infrastructure that powers the Eastern United States. Now Riggs Distler's 100 years of experience stands behind Centuri's 100-year plan and vision for a sustainable future. To support an ongoing commitment to renewable energy, Riggs Distler was early to investigate opportunities in the emerging offshore wind market.

Gaining Momentum in the US Offshore Wind Market

In the early months of 2019, Riggs Distler sought to identify work that complemented their unique skillset, learn from experts in the field in Europe, and investigate businesses in the US that would evolve and grow with the market. The first step was easy, because they knew their heavy industrial and renewable energy work over the past decades would lend itself to the onshore construction of portions of wind turbines. Finding the right organization to learn from, Riggs Distler established a partnership with Smulders, a global steel construction firm with more than 50 years of experience in the design, manufacture, distribution, and assembly of steel components, as well as 22 years in the offshore wind sector. In 2020, US based LJUNGSTRÖM was recognized as a prospective partner for planned OSW projects. Given LJUNGSTRÖM's similar corporate longevity and evolution towards a more sustainable energy future, Riggs Distler was convinced there would be additional compatibilities as they continued to work together in the early stages of project estimation and development. As Riggs Distler learned more about the different product lines involved in offshore wind work, as well as the commitment that developers were being asked to make to local supply chain development and spending, Riggs Distler grew confident that LJUNGSTRÖM was a good fit for their journey into the offshore wind sector. Smulders and LJUNGSTRÖM were the first of an elite set of organizations now working with Riggs Distler to learn, grow and evolve to provide premier turnkey solutions for the US wind market.

Breaking New Ground

After four years of sustained perseverance, Riggs Distler was awarded three offshore wind contracts for projects owned by Ørsted and Eversource. Work is complete for one of the projects and underway for the other two that are at various levels of maturation. This includes serial fabrication of suspended internal platforms, external working platforms, anode cages, monopile doors and in some cases boat landings and ladders as well as port operations and logistics. Beginning in 2023 and extending into 2024 across four states, approximately 400 local union employees (electricians, carpenters, ironworkers, operating engineers, laborers, and concrete masons) and over 40 support staff (project managers, engineers, safety personnel, billing, and procurements professionals) contribute to the success of these efforts.

"From onshore substation, duct bank, and utility interconnection construction to fabricating, constructing, assembling, inspecting, and providing onshore installation of advanced foundation components for offshore wind farms, we are enabling hundreds of thousands of American homes to be powered by clean energy while building the local supply base to support this exciting renewable industry. We are proud that our work is creating economic growth and job opportunities right here in our own backyard as we work to build a cleaner energy future," said Steve Zemaitatis, Riggs Distler President & CEO.

By assembling fundamental elements of the turbine foundations onshore for multiple projects, Riggs Distler is stepping ever closer to its goal of supporting a sustainable future where we live and work. The Riggs Distler vision to build reliable and innovative infrastructure to support and empower future generations is taking shape right here in New Jersey.

