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UK Offshore Wind Supply Chain Investment Guide

Foreword



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The UK offers a uniquely attractive investment environment. It has the second largest operational fleet of projects in the world, a stable regulatory framework, a growing energy workforce and a world-leading clean energy finance sector. The UK is also home to pioneering research and development (R&D) institutions and advanced testing facilities, fostering innovation throughout the supply chain.

The UK Government is committed to working in partnership with industry to deliver the [Clean Power 2030 Action Plan](#)⁴,

Offshore wind is already a British success story. With around 16 GW¹ of installed capacity, the sector supports nearly 40 thousand jobs², generates more than [£2 billion](#)³ in annual exports, and has attracted billions in private investment, making the UK Europe’s biggest offshore wind market. From the Highlands to the Isle of Wight, we are seeing the emergence of a globally competitive supply chain, with major investments in the turbine blade manufacturing, subsea cable production and monopile fabrication. These are not just numbers — they are proof that the UK can deliver world-class clean energy infrastructure and industrial capabilities.

positioning offshore wind as the backbone of a future clean power system and targeting 43-50 GW of capacity by the end of 2030.

The first round of the Clean Industry Bonus⁵ (CIB) has been conducted for offshore wind. It provides great promise in attracting investment towards supply chains across the UK. Following higher than expected demand, the Government has increased the CIB budget from £200m to £544m, in recognition of the significant value add brought to UK deprived communities through the development of clean supply chains.

But there is more to do. To meet the UK’s 2030 and long-term net zero ambitions, it is necessary to unlock even greater levels of investment in the UK’s domestic supply chain. This requires giving manufacturers, service providers, and institutional investors the clarity and confidence they need to support the UK market. That means creating a more transparent investment environment where the available support is clearly signposted and decisions are grounded in more certain outcomes, resulting in capital flowing into supply chain propositions with real-world impact and scalable returns.

That is exactly what this Investment Guide aims to do.

Developed by the [Offshore Wind Industry Council](#)⁶ in partnership with

Government, this guide provides a clear, practical overview of the UK’s investment-support mechanisms for offshore wind supply chain development. It cuts through the complexity to show how public and private finance can work together to deliver key investments across the sector.

This guide builds on the work of the UK Offshore Wind [Industrial Growth Plan](#)⁷ (IGP), which garnered collective agreement from across the sector on the roadmap to triple offshore wind manufacturing capacity by 2035. Working together, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and Department for Business and Trade (DBT) support this and other initiatives arising from it.

This guide serves to help investors seize those opportunities by supporting positive investment decisions through a clearer picture of the market opportunity and the financial tools available to them. It will help businesses, small to large, understand where to access support at every stage of the project lifecycle, from early-stage development to construction and long-term operation. Most importantly, it aims to send a clear message: the UK is open for business and is ready to partner with those who want to build the future of offshore wind.

We invite you to use this guide as a launchpad for your next investment — and to join us in delivering a cleaner, stronger, and more secure energy future for the UK.

The fundamentals to investing in the supply chain — the UK offshore wind story

Since the installation of the first commercial offshore wind farm in 2003, the UK offshore wind sector has evolved into a mature, globally leading market. In 2023, offshore wind generated 17% of the UK’s annual electricity consumption.⁸ Offshore wind provides secure, domestically produced electricity, and the Government has made becoming a clean energy superpower by 2030 one of its top five missions, accelerating progress towards net zero.⁹

In parallel with an established regulatory framework, the UK continues to develop its extensive pipeline of 93GW of fixed and floating offshore wind capacity and has outlined intentions to bring the next 20-30GW of capacity to market by 2030. Within this, Crown Estate Scotland awarded option agreements to 20 projects in the ScotWind leasing round, with an intended installed capacity of around 30GW seeing an average current commitment of £1.5bn per project of investment in Scotland, making the UK one of the world’s largest pipelines of floating offshore wind based on seabed exclusivity at over 25GW.¹⁰

A Commitment to Partnership

In 2023, [Scotland’s Strategic Investment Model \(SIM\)](#) marked a significant step forward in offshore wind collaboration, enabling trusted information sharing

among developers, the supply chain, government, and stakeholders.¹¹ Through structured engagement, it identified market-validated investment priorities and fostered a culture of openness and cooperation to support a strong, sustainable industry.

Clear Priorities based on Robust Analysis

The aforementioned IGP, released in 2024, created a consensus across the sector that, amongst other things, recognised the need to focus on five supply chain categories; ‘Advanced Turbine Technology’, ‘Industrialised Foundations & Substructures’, ‘Future Electrical Systems & Cables’, ‘Smart Environmental Services’ and ‘Next Generation Installation and O&M’. The plan outlines the products and services aligned with each category. Its evidence-based approach continues to guide financial-support providers on where to focus their backing.

Coordinated Incentives

Launched in 2025, the UK Government introduced the ‘Clean Industry Bonus’. This provides financial rewards for offshore wind developers, on the condition that they prioritise investment in regions that need it most or in cleaner supply chains. It aims to support cleaner manufacturers, new or upgraded facilities, port infrastructure, and more investment for UK supply chains. Hundreds of CIB bids have been received from the UK’s offshore wind sector, signalling strong support for the Government’s Clean Power 2030 mission. Investors seeking bankable projects have been reassured by the consistent commitment to ensuring demand which mechanisms like the CfD, CIB and others have supported across multiple administrations. It is expected that for every £1 spent on the bonus, it could leverage up to £17 of private sector investment, mainly into some of the UK’s most deprived communities — providing a huge return for communities from clean energy projects. The message is loud and clear: the UK is committed to offshore wind and will make investment

across the value chain attractive.⁵

The Government has also granted The Crown Estate new investment and borrowing powers through [The Crown Estate Act 2025](#).¹² The industry continues to collaborate with The Crown Estate on how these capabilities can support greater investment in offshore wind infrastructure, supply chains and de-risking activities.

Furthermore, as announced at the International Investment Summit in October 2024, the [National Wealth Fund \(NWF\) will also commit at least £5.8 billion over this Parliament to five subsectors](#), one of which is ports and their supply chains.¹³

Complementary Government Funding

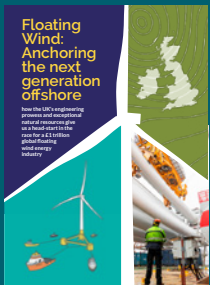
At the 2025 Spending Review, Government announced £300m of Great British Energy support for Offshore Wind supply chains to boost domestic jobs, mobilise additional private investment and secure manufacturing facilities for critical clean energy supply chains. This is in addition to the [Scottish Government’s commitment to invest up to £500 million over five years](#) in the infrastructure and manufacturing facilities critical to growing the offshore wind sector. The investments are delivered through Scotland’s Enterprise Agencies and the Scottish National Investment Bank with a commercial-first approach.¹⁴ The Scottish and UK Governments are working in partnership to ensure funding alignment and maximising the economic opportunities from project delivery.

Blended finance for successful investment

Against the backdrop of this, the UK offers a compelling range of financial instruments that can form a unique ‘blend’ of support, all helping to achieve the Government’s mission to make the UK into a clean energy superpower, accelerating our transition to net zero.

Further information on the offshore wind supply chain and the UK market can be found in the following documents →

Floating Wind: Anchoring the next generation offshore



The UK Offshore Wind Industrial Growth Plan



Regional Growth Prospectuses



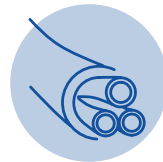
The UK aims to be a global leader in:



Advanced turbine technology



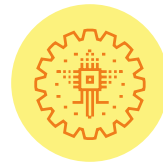
Industrialised foundations & substructures



Future electrical systems & cables



Smart environmental services



Next generational installation and O&M

Where can I access investment? — major financial support organisations

There are 10 major providers of financial mechanisms across the UK. These governmental, independent, and industry organisations are positioned to provide various types of support. Note that the organisations below do not represent an exhaustive list; other organisations may also provide relevant support.



The UK’s first publicly owned energy company for over 70 years. Established to drive clean energy deployment, create jobs, boost energy independence, and ensure that UK taxpayers, bill payers, and communities reap the benefits of clean, secure, homegrown energy.

Further Details

- Great British Energy (GBE), headquartered in Aberdeen, is committed to investing in renewable energy projects, supply chains and community energy.
- Its initial efforts will prioritise businesses within the offshore wind sector, supported by up to £300 million in grant funding aimed at boosting domestic supply chain capacity.
- To maximise the impact of this initiative, GBE will work with public finance partners to design blended finance solutions tailored to market demands.

www.gbe.gov.uk



Offshore Wind Industry Council (OWIC) established the Offshore Wind Growth Partnership (OWGP) as an independent, not-for-profit organisation. OWGP supports UK supply chain companies in growing and competing in the global offshore wind sector.

Further Details

- Offers UK-wide grant funding under Development, Innovation, and Manufacturing Facility Support programmes.
- OWGP has assumed the role of Industrial Growth Plan Delivery Body for CfD AR7 and will administer Clean Industry Bonus funding committed via this route.
- As the designated Delivery Body, OWGP will act as a central coordinator.

www.owgp.org.uk



The Crown Estate (TCE) is an independent commercial business sitting between the public and private sectors. It owns and manages land for the benefit of the nation, including the coastline and the seabed.

Further Details

- The Crown Estate has signposted intentions to invest up to £400m over the short to medium term for supply chain infrastructure.
- Their £50m Supply Chain Accelerator Fund provides early-stage development funding for supply chain projects, supporting them to be investment-ready. The Fund is already in its second iteration.
- £350m of capital is available through its Supply Chain Investment Programme to support larger development projects and capital investment.

www.thecrownestate.co.uk




Export credit agency that helps UK businesses win, fulfil, and get paid for international contracts by providing financing and insurance.

Further Details

- UK Export Finance (UKEF) provides several types of guarantee and insurance products to make UK exports more competitive.
- Direct lending is also available for certain overseas projects with high levels procurement from the UK supply chain.
- To qualify for UKEF’s support, the organisation / project must demonstrate the requisite level of UK content (for overseas projects) or an exporting track record or pathway towards exporting (for UK companies looking to access financing).

www.ukexportfinance.gov.uk



The devolved Government for Wales is responsible for areas such as education and economic development.

Further Details

- Focus on developing offshore wind supply chains across strategically placed ports, including Holyhead, Mostyn, Pembrokeshire, and Port Talbot.
- Provide financial support for developing new products and services.
- Support is primarily targeted at organisations wishing to engage in R&D.

www.businesswales.gov.wales



Backed by the Welsh Government, the Development Bank of Wales provides sustainable and effective finance for people, businesses, and communities in Wales.

Further Details

- Invests debt and equity into Welsh-based businesses.
- Invests up to £10m in one round.
- Supports technology development, working capital, project and bond finance, scape-up, and property development.

www.developmentbank.wales

Case Study: JDR’s utilisation of multiple financial support mechanisms

The global subsea cable and umbilical supplier JDR Cable Systems, part of the TFK Group, received multiple types of investment support aligned to its long-term expansion plans and its new £130m investment in a high-voltage subsea cable manufacturing facility in Blyth, Northumberland.

Firstly, JDR applied for an Offshore Wind Growth Partnership development grant. The product development grant aimed to demonstrate the technical viability of long-length 66kV cables and a next-gen 132kV array cable prototype. JDR also leveraged DESNZ’s Floating Offshore Wind (FLOW) Demonstration Programme to support the development of its dynamic FLOW cables. As a result of this support, dynamic cables at 66 and 132 kV can now be manufactured at JDR’s Hartlepool facility, and these types can be produced in the JDR Blyth facility in the future. The products were developed with the local supply chain and European material specialists. In addition, JDR received targeted Government grant support to help finance the construction of the Blyth facility—complementing its broader investment strategy and reinforcing the UK’s commitment to growing domestic manufacturing capacity in offshore wind. Lastly, JDR utilised the UK Export Finance Export Development Guarantee to support its three financial lenders and to construct the new manufacturing facility.



The National Wealth Fund (NWF) is the UK Government’s principal investor is at the forefront of investing public money in support of the government’s growth and clean energy missions.

Further Details

- Deliver the Government’s growth and clean energy missions, crowding in significant private capital over time and generating a portfolio-level financial return.
- Offers equity, debt, credit enhancement, first loss guarantees and performance bonds to capital-intensive projects, businesses or assets.
- Provides debt across the capital structure, including senior debt, mezzanine debt and bridge financing.
- Equity investments focus on higher technology readiness levels (TRLs 7-9), from late-stage development to construction and/or commercialisation.

www.nationalwealthfund.org.uk



Designated areas in the UK that benefit from tax and customs incentives to boost trade, investment, and job creation.

Further Details

- Tax reliefs, on designated sites, provide businesses with lower cost overheads such as reduced employer National Insurance contributions, stamp duty, and business rates.
- Simplified customs procedures can also help businesses save on time and expense when importing and exporting goods.
- See the section on ports for further information.

www.gov.uk/guidance/freeports





Scotland’s national economic development agencies support business innovation, investment, and international growth.

Further Details

- Focus on supporting R&D activity, high-growth potential start-ups and domestic businesses as well as inward investment.
- Can offer loan funding, a co-investment fund, a venture fund and grant funding.
- The Enterprise agencies invest alongside private and publicly funded co-investors.

www.scottish-enterprise.com
www.hie.co.uk
www.southofscotlandenterprise.com



The Scottish National Investment Bank (SNIB) is a state-owned development investment bank — delivering patient, mission-impact investment to the Scottish economy.

Further Details

- Supports businesses and projects throughout Scotland through debt, equity and fund investments, encouraging private capital to invest alongside.
- Aims to generate positive, measurable social, economic and environmental impact as well as a commercial return.
- Supports innovations with a Technology Readiness Level of 8 or higher.
- Equity stakes must remain below 50%.

www.thebank.scot

Tailored support to meet my needs – the financial instrument landscape

- The UK investment landscape for the offshore wind sector is multifaceted and caters to diverse organisational requirements.
- Financial instruments are available throughout all phases of the lifecycle: Development, Construction and Operation.
- Categories of financial instruments are Equity, Loan, Bond, Guarantee, Tax exemption and Grant.
- Various financial instruments are available, depending on the need. Not all investment tools may be applicable to an organisation’s needs.
- All publicly funded support is subject to subsidy control and value for money assessments.
- Some of the support schemes may be time-limited, with specific deadlines.
- The available support ranges depend on investment size, not the financial strength of the supporter.
- The investment size designates the total available financial support for a project.

Offshore Wind Investment Tools (non-exhaustive)

		Mechanism Name	Investment Category	Investment Size	Development	Construction	Operation
Government	National Wealth Fund	Equity Programme	Equity	££££			
		Debt Programme	Loan	££££			
		Guarantees Programme	Guarantee	££££			
	UK Export Finance	General Export Facility	Guarantee	££			
		Export Development Guarantee	Guarantee	££££			
		Standard Buyer Loan Guarantee	Guarantee	££££			
		Buyer Credit Facility	Guarantee	££££			
	HMRC	Freeport / Scottish Green Freeport	Tax Exemption	N/A			
	Welsh Government	Smart Financial Innovation Support	Grant	£			
		Economies Futures Fund	Grant, Loan	££££			
	Scottish Enterprise Agencies	Scottish Co-Investment and Venture Funds	Bond	£			
		Scottish Enterprise Grant Schemes	Grants	££££			
Scottish Loan Funding		Loan	£				
South of Scotland Enterprise Net Zero Accelerator Fund		Grant	£				
Independent	GBE	Capital Grant Scheme	Grant	TBC			
	The Crown Estate	Supply Chain Accelerator	Equity	£			
		Supply Chain Investment Programme (Name TBC)	Equity, Loan, Land*	££££			
	Development Bank of Wales	Wales Flexible Investment Fund	Equity, Bond, Loan	££			
		Wales Commercial Property Fund	Loan	££			
	Crown Estate Scotland	Infrastructure Investment	Equity	££££			
	SNIB	Mission-led Impact Investment	Equity, Loan	££££			
Industry	OWGP	Manufacturing Facility Support Programme	Grant	£			
		Development Grants	Grant	£			

Key

- £ = £0–£2m
- £ £ = £2m–£10m
- £ £ £ = >£10m

Government investments cannot exceed 50% ownership.

The three investment phases, for supply chain propositions, are defined as follows:

Development Phase: The stage where projects are scoped, planned, and de-risked. This includes identifying suitable sites, conducting feasibility studies, securing permits and approvals, engaging stakeholders, and confirming infrastructure needs such as utilities, access, and supply chain readiness.

Construction Phase: The stage where physical assets are built or installed. Activities typically include site preparation, civil engineering works, equipment procurement, and construction of buildings, machinery, transport links, and other operational infrastructure.

Operation Phase: The stage where the facility becomes fully operational and begins delivering products or services.

* Novel instrument that would see procurement of land and leasing to the facility

Note: All investment tools are subject to a value-for-money assessment.

Worked Examples

The way that one applies to and receives these instruments is not always linear or cumulative. As the value proposition matures one may meet the instrument criteria in different ways i.e. every proposition has its own path. Worked examples include:

Example 1:
An international component manufacturer looking to expand in the UK has multiple options for support. It can apply to multiple organisations.
It could be eligible for an export development guarantee from UKEF to support increasing its export capacity. Furthermore, UKEF could support securing more favourable bank loans prior to operations.
Afterwards, it could be eligible for GBE’s capital grant scheme to support the cost of the construction phase of the new facility (GBE is yet to publish eligibility criteria).

Example 2:
A Scotland-based offshore wind technology firm aiming to scale production for its Floating Offshore Wind (FLOW) platforms could secure £2M of funding from the Scottish Co-Investment Fund to enable early-stage R&D and prototyping during the development phase as part of an expected £30M scale-up plan.
After successful development, the same company could apply to The Crown Estate’s Infrastructure Investment fund to secure an equity investment as part of the construction phase to crowd-in private investors.

Where should I invest? — Offshore Wind Clusters and key port infrastructure

What are Clusters?

The UK Offshore Wind Industry Council defined the [Offshore Wind Clusters](#) as part of the [Offshore Wind Sector Deal \(2019\)](#) to drive local economic growth, enhance supply chain capabilities, and promote innovation.^{15,16} These clusters are geographic concentrations of public and private sector collaborators including businesses, education & training providers, local government and other stakeholders working collaboratively to further offshore wind development in the UK. These support the creation of an environment where industry players can flourish by providing:

Co-location and proximity to market

Situating businesses near offshore wind farms, ports, and supply chain partners, reducing logistics costs and improving response times.

Innovation ecosystems and collaboration

Clusters encourage R&D partnerships between businesses, academia, and institutions like Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult (OREC).

Business development and market visibility

Being part of a recognized cluster boosts a company's credibility and visibility to international developers, investors, and buyers.

Shared infrastructure and support services

Pooling access to specialist facilities, such as R&D facilities, deep-water ports, training centres, and innovation hubs.

Access to talent and skills pipelines

Creating partnerships with local colleges, universities, and training providers help businesses access a trained, industry-aligned workforce.

Policy influence and strategic alignment

Clusters often serve as regional voices in national policy development, ensuring business interests are heard.

Case Study: Teesworks and SeAH Wind's Value Proposition

SeAH Wind is aiming to build the largest monopile factory in the world. For this, it selected a shovel-ready site to develop their monopile factory. SeAH was able to secure a c. £17m UK Government grant. SeAH then utilised the largest domestic UK Export Finance guarantee of £414m over two phases,, as the factory is geared towards domestic and export monopile markets. Further to this, SeAH's factory is located in the Teeside Freeport, providing financial relief on operational expenditure, such as business rates, equating to several £m worth of savings per year. The blend of these financial instruments had led to SeAH Wind developing the XXL monopile factory, employing up to 750 people.

What do clusters prioritise?

Recognising the IGP's five key priorities for strengthening the UK's offshore supply chain, additional work has recently been undertaken to explore which of these five areas should be considered for each of the clusters. The Regional Growth Prospectuses saw a detailed analysis of capabilities, ports and existing businesses, so the clusters themselves could indicate which of the focus areas applied to them, illustrated on the adjacent map.

Clusters and port infrastructure present valuable factors for you to consider when deciding on where to locate your facility.

Freeports and Investment Zones

Designated areas in the UK to drive regional growth and industrial innovation. These ports and areas are critical for the successful deployment of offshore wind.

[Freeports](#) offer customs and tax benefits, such as duty deferral or exemption, full relief from stamp duty land tax, 100% first-year capital allowances on qualifying plant and machinery, and employer National Insurance relief on new hires. In Scotland, Freeports are referred to as "Green Freeports" and carry additional requirements regarding contributions towards the net zero transition.¹⁷

[Investment Zones](#) focus on creating clusters of high-growth industries, including clean energy, by offering similar tax incentives with planning flexibilities and R&D support.¹⁸ The Scottish Government will provide a package of Non-Domestic Rates relief at the sites for a period of 25 years, which can be used to further invest in the Investment Zone and associated economic infrastructure.

Notable benefits applicable to both freeports and investment zones:

- 1 Lower employer national insurance contributions for up to 3 years.
- 2 Full stamp duty land tax relief in England and Northern Ireland, with similar benefits in Scotland and Wales
- 3 Full business rates relief for newly occupied business premises
- 4 First-year capital allowance for expenditure on plant and machinery of 100%
- 5 Enhanced structures/buildings allowances of 10% straight-line deduction p.a. over 10 years.
- 6 Full business rates relief for newly occupied business premises (Non-Domestic Rates relief in Scotland).

Additional benefits applicable to freeports:

- 1 Simplified customs arrangements including reduced documentation, delayed tariff payment and customs duty inversion.
- 2 VAT benefits where businesses can zero-rate certain goods sold between authorised freeport businesses within a customs site.

Port infrastructure in the UK

The UK is actively improving its port infrastructure, aligning with the country's broader renewable energy ambitions. Backed by significant public and private investment, UK ports are being transformed into offshore wind deployment hubs. Given their coastal locations, existing industrial capacity, and strong transport links, several ports across the country are ideally positioned to support the development of new or expanded offshore wind facilities, offering ready-made places to accelerate the energy transition.

Case Study: Ardersier Port

The NWF and SNIB are each providing a £50m capex loan to Haventus to redevelop up to 350 acres at Ardersier Port, creating a major offshore wind hub and the largest dedicated offshore wind deployment space on the North Sea coast when it opens in late 2025. Located in the Moray Firth, Ardersier is ideally positioned to serve Scotland's FLOW projects, including the 24GW expected from ScotWind and INTOG, as well as fixed offshore wind development needs. This investment supports the creation of clean energy infrastructure whilst also helping to regenerate the local economy and rejuvenate the site after the loss of oil and gas activity on the site in 2001. Ardersier is also located within a green freeport area, so benefits from various other forms of financial and non-financial incentives. The NWF/SNIB loan was enabled by a £300 million equity commitment from Quantum Capital Group in 2023.

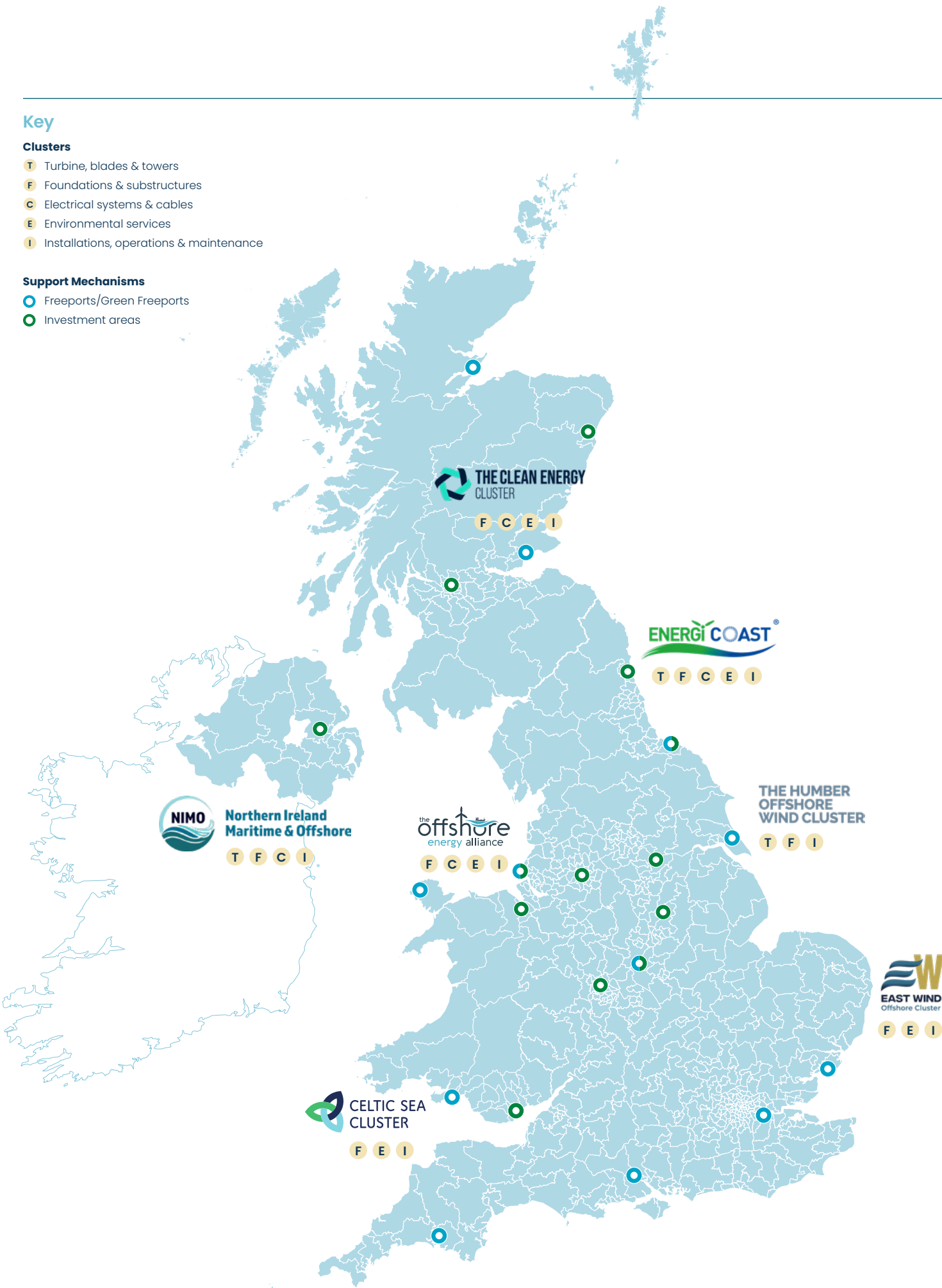
Key

Clusters

- T** Turbine, blades & towers
- F** Foundations & substructures
- C** Electrical systems & cables
- E** Environmental services
- I** Installations, operations & maintenance

Support Mechanisms

- Freeports/Green Freeports**
- Investment areas**



Where are the emerging opportunities? — floating offshore wind

The UK has a fantastic opportunity to develop a strong supply chain which meets the medium and long-term deployment of floating offshore wind (FLOW) projects in water depths that exceed the viability of fixed bottom foundations. Recognised as one of the worlds largest and most advanced markets, the UK is well placed to see successful propositions come forward.

The UK has signalled a strong potential for FLOW having already leased capacity exceeding 26GW. Further to this The Crown Estate will award additional Agreements for Lease for areas of the Celtic Sea supporting up to 4.5 GW of floating offshore wind capacity.¹⁹ 13 out of the 20 projects announced by ScotWind are FLOW.

This positions the UK as a pioneer of the FLOW and deep-water industry.²⁰

The Clean Power 2030: Action Plan announced the medium-term target of delivering a total of 43 to 50 GW of offshore wind by the end of 2030, which includes FLOW. Critically, FLOW deployment can significantly contribute to the UK's 2050 net zero ambition.⁴

RenewableUK's EnergyPulse database projects that a third of the total 93GW of offshore wind that is aimed to be deployed by 2050 could be floating (based on the capacity of known offshore wind and FLOW projects).¹

The Floating Wind: Anchoring the Next Generation of Offshore report highlights that the UK's historical expertise in the oil & gas sector substructures and its strong R&D capabilities, such as through the Catapult network, provide a significant

first-mover advantage for the expansion of the UK FLOW supply chain.²¹ This report identified eight specific areas that the UK already has as advantage; moorings & anchors, concrete platforms, steel platforms, array cables, port logistics, installation, operations & maintenance and development services.

To achieve the medium and long-term targets, the Offshore Wind Industrial Growth Plan stipulates expanding deep-water foundation manufacturing, increasing the UK's mooring and anchor production capacity by 50% until 2030, and developing the capabilities to produce 50 FLOW foundations annually by 2030.⁷ These goals are already being pursued, as evidenced by The Crown Estate's funding of Hutchinson Engineering as part of the Supply Chain Accelerator Programme (see case study below) and the support of Marine Power Systems facility development (see case study to the right).

Case Study: Marine Power Systems facility development

Marine Power Systems (MPS) is a Welsh manufacturer of deep-water platforms for offshore wind turbines.

MPS successfully secured a £500k project with funding from The Crown Estate's Supply Chain Accelerator fund. The match funding will enable MPS to conduct a technical and commercial feasibility study to establish a fabrication facility to produce steel components for its PelaFlex platform technology.

Furthermore, MPS received several rounds of innovation funding through the Welsh Government.

Port Talbot is the preferred location for MPS as the facility could serve the Celtic Sea and export to international markets via the Celtic Freeport using low embodied carbon steel from Tata Steel's Port Talbot electric arc furnace. This investment will create local Welsh jobs and support the Welsh offshore wind market. Other UK location options are also possible.



Image courtesy of Hutchinson Engineering

Case Study: The Crown Estate and UK Export Finance funding for Hutchinson's FLOW foundations

The steel fabricator Hutchinson Engineering leveraged a combination of UK Government investment tools.

Taking advantage of The Crown Estate £50m Supply Chain Accelerator fund, Hutchinson was offered <£1m funding to develop the industrialised serial-manufacture of secondary steelwork, anchors, pin piles, and tubular modules for FLOW foundations.

Furthermore, Hutchinson Engineering has benefited from OWGP's development grant funding, enabling the development of a quayside modular assembly building used for the Internal Platform scope on the Hornsea 3 project.

Lastly, Hutchinson accessed support from the UKEF Bond Support Scheme in the provision of guarantees against contract bonds, enabling the SME to secure larger-scale offshore projects.

What additional support could I benefit from? — academia, innovation and testing facilities

The UK is home to a world-class ecosystem of academic institutions, cutting-edge innovation hubs, and state-of-the-art testing facilities that play a pivotal role in advancing offshore wind technologies. While this guide focuses on financial support for developing infrastructure and services, it also recognises the vital synergy between innovation and investment. The UK recognises that ensuring that the products and services your organisation provide remain at the cutting edge of technical innovation is essential to staying competitive. This section highlights the UK's unique strengths in research, development, and testing—key enablers that make the UK an ideal destination for offshore wind investment.

UK Wind Research and Innovation ecosystem

The UK is home to a world-class wind Research and Innovation (R&I) ecosystem. This includes fundamental research, innovation, and prototyping facilities, as well as test and verification assets. These capabilities form a 'connected pathway' from breakthrough research to serial manufacturing, providing an essential and world-leading ecosystem for innovative businesses to secure technology leadership and compete globally.

Research and Innovation excellence

Joint research centres bring together academia, industry and Government to develop and deliver the research needed to meet offshore energy technology and innovation challenges. Some examples include the Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult's research hubs, the Aura Innovation Centre led by the University of Hull, the Supergen ORE Hub led by the University of Plymouth, and the National Manufacturing Institute Scotland and Energy Technology Partnership in Glasgow. These research hubs provide support to organisations invested in the UK supply chain.

Innovation and industrialisation

Across the UK, open-access, not-for-profit organisations work with companies of every size to de-risk investments by accelerating the adoption and commercialisation of innovation. These national institutions support investment readiness across the wind sector but play a particular role in UK competitiveness in strategic priority areas of turbine blades, towers, deep water foundations and cables.

High Value Manufacturing (HVM) Catapult

Catapult works with OEMs and supply chain companies to de-risk manufacturing processes, ensuring they are ready for high-speed, large-scale industrial production. A network of six technology innovation centres, HVM Catapult has 25 sites across the UK, with product design capabilities spanning the whole product life cycle, from concept development to end-of-life solutions. Located in Aberdeen, the Net Zero Technology Centre collaborates with the Government and industry on technology development and provides technology services to investors and industry.

Test and verification

The Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult (OREC) is home to comprehensive offshore renewable energy technology research, testing, innovation and validation services. These include the National Renewable Energy Centre in Northumberland, the Floating Wind Innovation Centre in Aberdeen, the O&M Centre of Excellence in Grimsby and the Levenmouth Demonstration Turbine in Fife.

Funding innovation to de-risk investment

In addition to a dynamic R&I ecosystem, the UK benefits from a funding and investment ecosystem that supports technology development and deployment. This includes through joint industry programmes developed by the Carbon Trust, and enabling technology deployment through the UK Net Zero Innovation Portfolio (MPS Case Study), and €R&D grants from organisations such as Innovate UK (the national innovation funding agency).

Case study: Joule Challenge

The Joule Challenge aims to create new investment opportunities in disruptive industries enabling offshore wind deployment. Innovative composite technologies that could save cost and improve performance of next-generation 20MW offshore wind turbine components were developed, with a novel composite tower being developed and tested to TRL4. This project was funded by the UK's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and delivered by a team from the National Composites Centre (NCC) — part of HVM Catapult — and ORE Catapult.



Image courtesy of ORE Catapult

How can I find and build a skilled workforce? — the UK has a range of initiatives

There are several public sector initiatives available that UK employers can access to support workforce recruitment, training, and the building of a long-term talent pipeline. Notably, these tools are in place and have already accelerated the training of the UK clean energy workforce.

Here we provide an overview of key Government tools that enable employers to have a skilled workforce now and in the future, to meet the ambitions of the [Offshore Wind Industrial Growth Plan](#).⁷ The table below displays an overview of key public sector tools and their benefits that can support businesses with the

When planning to invest in the offshore wind value chain, it is essential to have the confidence that the local UK region can provide the necessary workforce to commence operations.

recruitment and training of their workforce.

This chapter can guide decisions on which tools to leverage to access the required workforce.

As an example, [for its £186m blade facility extension in Hull](#) and hiring of up to 600 additional employees, Siemens Gamesa leveraged a higher employer National Insurance Contributions (NIC) threshold, which was raised from £9.1k to £25k for new eligible employees for the first 36 months of their employment to boost employment benefits and attract additional workforce. The NIC thresholds are available to organisations in investment

zones.²² Furthermore, creating the factory within the [Humber Freeport Zone entailed the creation of 1k jobs, of which 98% are within a 30-mile radius of the port](#). At the time, Siemens Gamesa received additional support to develop courses with local colleges, some of whose students have subsequently been hired.²³

Further information about available public sector skills tools can be found [here](#).

Public Sector Workforce Initiatives (non-exhaustive)

	Tool Category	Description	Location	Benefits
Recruiting Employees	Sector-based work academy programmes	Pre-employment training, work experience placements, and a guaranteed job interview, tailored to meet employers’ recruitment needs. Fully Government-funded.	Cross-UK	✓ Training funding ✓ Candidate pool
	Jobcentre Plus	Offers recruitment services, including advertising vacancies and pre-screening candidates, to help employers find suitable job seekers.	Cross-UK	✓ Job advertising ✓ Candidate screening
	Access to Work	Provides practical and financial support to individuals with disabilities or health conditions to start or stay in work. Government support depends on company size.	Cross-UK	✓ Workplace adjustment funding (more funding for SMEs than large firms)
	Developing the young workforce	Connects young people and employers to support the transition into work. Fosters collaboration among employers, schools, colleges, and training providers.	Scotland	✓ Job advertising ✓ Candidate pool
	Skills Development Scotland	Supports Scotland’s businesses and individuals to grow and prosper. Working with employers to understand skills requirements, providing career information advice & guidance, and providing funding for Apprenticeships.	Scotland	✓ Apprenticeship funding ✓ Workforce development
Training	Apprenticeships	Government-backed schemes combining work experience with academic learning. The UK Government pays 10%-100% of costs depending on company size & UK location.	Cross-UK	✓ Co-funding for training costs ✓ Wage subsidies
	Skills Bootcamps	Skills Bootcamps are free, flexible training programmes to address skill shortages and improve productivity, offering sector-specific training with a guaranteed job interview and opportunities for employers to recruit or upskill staff.	England	✓ Training funding ✓ Candidate pool
	Higher Technical Qualifications	Employer-led qualifications at Levels 4 and 5, designed to meet the needs of industry. Subjects include engineering and management.	England	✓ Course development and delivery funding
Building a Talent Pipeline	Investment Zones	Designated areas aimed at stimulating economic growth through targeted support, including the local labour market, which is critical in the clean energy sector.	Cross-UK	✓ Tax incentives ✓ Support for skills development.
	Freeports / Green Freeports	Special areas that have been created by Government to boost investment into deprived areas of the country. The goal is to create an environment for high-quality jobs.	Cross-UK	✓ Tax breaks ✓ Innovation hubs and training partnerships
	Regional Skills Partnerships	Collaborative bodies that bring together employers, education providers, and local authorities to align skills development with regional economic needs.	Wales	✓ Funding for educational programmes

What else do I need to consider, and what are my next steps? — there are several organisations that can help

While this guide outlines a range of public and private financial instruments available to support investment in the UK — many of which can be combined — projects receiving public funding will need to comply with the UK’s subsidy control regime and international state aid rules. This means that the total support offered to a project may be subject to legal limits and transparency requirements. Projects/investors are encouraged to engage early with relevant authorities to understand how subsidy control rules may apply to their specific funding package.

This guide highlights many of the key financial tools available to support investment in the UK offshore wind supply chain, but it’s not an exhaustive list. We encourage prospective investors to explore additional opportunities that may be available at regional, devolved, or city levels.

We recognise that the landscape of financial support can be complex and is constantly evolving. Looking ahead, we’re exploring creative ways to make this information more interactive and even easier to access.

Department for Business and Trade

The UK’s Department for Business and Trade is an economic growth department, leading on the Industrial Strategy with His Majesty’s Treasury. We ensure fair, competitive markets at home, secure access to new markets abroad and support businesses to invest, export and grow. The department’s offshore wind team, together with our global network based in over 100 markets, will support your investment from inception to Final Investment Decision, and beyond.

RenewableUK

As the UK’s leading trade body for renewable energy, RenewableUK can connect your company to potential customers, suppliers and other key stakeholders who can help to develop your business. RenewableUK’s members are building our future energy system, powered by clean electricity. It supports over 500 member companies to ensure increasing amounts of renewable electricity are deployed across the UK and to access export markets all over the world. Its members are business leaders, technology innovators, and expert thinkers from right across industry.

Offshore Wind Growth Partnership

OWGP supports UK supply chain companies in several ways: OWGP provides bespoke coaching for companies to correctly position products and services and improve competitiveness. It co-hosts events that bring together supply chain companies, potential customers and investors. In its role as the IGP Delivery Body, OWGP will coordinate the implementation of the Offshore Wind Industrial Growth Plan to increase market share and profitability in the global market.

Scotland’s enterprise agencies

The development agencies support economic growth across Scotland. They help businesses innovate, grow and export while also attracting inward investment. Contact regional enterprise agencies for further information.

UK Offshore Wind Clusters

The seven Offshore Wind Clusters across the UK present focal points for businesses to contact and gain more detailed information about the area.



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