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GB Energy targets floating wind

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Floating wind faces crunch time

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Contracts must reflect unstable world

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What's on at GOW 2025?

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UK puts £1bn in supply chain pot

The UK Energy Secretary has pledged £1bn in supply chain funding to "bring offshore wind jobs to Britain" and "turbocharge the sector's brilliant work" on the Industrial Growth Plan.

Ed Miliband said in his keynote speech at GOW 2025 on Tuesday that the cash boost would be provided by an "historic partnership" between London and the private sector.

Part of the spending commitment will come from plans announced by the Crown Estate earlier on Tuesday morning to inject £400m in ports and manufacturing, test and research facilities, including from the seabed landlord's pre-existing £50m accelerator pot.

The remainder will be provided by the £300m allocated to Great British Energy in April to invest in domestic supply chains and a further £300m supplied by the offshore wind industry to match government through the IGP.

Miliband also namechecked the more than £500m that has been made available



A RACE FOR JOBS: Energy Secretary Ed Miliband Photo: RUK

to the government's Clean Industry Bonus payments offered under the Contracts for Difference scheme.

He said he was "delighted with the response" from developers entering bids, which is a requirement for entry into the full Allocation Round 7 CfD.

Up to £200m has been allocated to potentially invest in north-east England, up to £185m for Scotland, £20m for the east of England and £25m for Northern Ireland, according to results published today. Miliband pointed to calculations made by DESNZ that every pound of "catalytic public investment" in the CIB pot could unlock a further £17 private capital.

"Today we go further with a genuinely transformative package for the offshore wind supply chain," he added. "This

is a global race for jobs, and we are determined to create them in Britain."

Miliband also promised to end continued uncertainty surrounding AR7 by "shortly confirming" bidding parameters and the outcome of a consultation on potential reforms including the relaxation of eligibility criteria for fixed wind.

He said the government remained committed to making a decision on electricity market reforms before AR7 opens in August.

"I know the importance the industry has attached to this decision. We've heard the message from industry (to make a decision ASAP) and we will deliver that."

Thomas Michel, RWE's COO for offshore wind, told a panel session immediately before Miliband's speech that he thought a switch to zonal pricing would be of "very questionable benefit to consumers and something I think we should avoid".

ScottishPower Renewables chief Charlie Jordan agreed that such a decision could "add to uncertainty instead of helping us".

TRENDING ON reNEWS.BIZ

TotalEnergies to prioritise German North Sea cluster

TotalEnergies will prioritise the development of a 5GW German North Sea cluster after winning the latest German lease auction, the company has said.

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'Act now to wipe out offshore wind carbon footprint'

Bibby Marine, Kongsberg Maritime and Stillstrom have written an open letter calling for urgent action to reduce the offshore wind sector's carbon footprint.

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Online portal revamped for wind sector

The UK's energy supply chain received a boost today as an online portal for advertising lucrative contracts was relaunched with new features and sections for offshore and onshore wind.

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Consortium announces Brazil's first floater demo

An international consortium has announced Brazil's first floating offshore wind pilot project. Rio Grande do Sul has been chosen to host the Aura Sul Wind project.

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Dajin completes first three monopiles for Inch Cape

Dajin has completed the first three monopiles for the Inch Cape offshore wind farm in Scotland.

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GB Energy targets strategic investments in floating wind

Great British Energy (GBE) is eyeing co-investment in floating offshore wind projects and is currently in talks with several developers, according to the company's chair Juergen Maier.

"We're in the market right now, talking to many floating offshore wind developers and saying that maybe we can take a small stake in your project to give confidence," Maier said during a panel discussion at GOW 2025.

"We're open to doing that, and we now have a small team assembled for this. Ultimately, we aim to grow into an owner and operator in that space."

In addition to co-investments, GBE plans to allocate substantial funding towards the UK's offshore wind supply chain.

"We will put quite a significant amount of money to work in that area," Maier



MISSION STATEMENTS: From left: RUK's Anna Musat, DESNZ Clean Power 2030 unit director Ben Golding, GBE chair Juergen Maier, The Crown Estate's Gus Jaspert, GWEC deputy chief executive Rebecca Williams and the Climate Change Committee's Emily Nurse

Photo: RUK

added. We want to work in partnership with The Crown Estate to ensure we create larger and better-coordinated funds, which will give manufacturers the confidence to invest," Maier said.

Earlier on Tuesday, The Crown Estate announced its plans to invest up to £400m in the UK's offshore wind supply chain. Gus Jaspert, marine

managing director at the seabed landlord, emphasised the need for collaboration.

"Looking beyond 2050, one of the biggest risks is that we have a massive pipeline but lack a supply chain that can keep pace, deliver the necessary jobs, or address gaps where developers compete rather than collaborate," he said.

The fund is aimed at stimulating investment across the supply chain, he noted, with £350 million earmarked to help companies scale up within the sector.

The UK Crown Estate meanwhile plans to complete its strategic vision for the country's seabed by summer next year. The UK aims to lease between 20GW and 30 GW of offshore wind capacity in English and Welsh waters by 2030 to meet national targets.

At the core of the new strategy is an integrated spatial planning and pre-planned grid connections.

"If we roll out that model further, we gain more site certainty and greater predictability that these projects are going to be delivered on time and can be effectively integrated into the energy system," Jaspert added.

IN BRIEF

■ The offshore wind industry has unveiled a new investment guide to boost supply chain growth in the UK. It provides a practical overview of opportunities in the UK's offshore wind market and was developed by the Offshore Wind Industry Council in partnership with RenewableUK and two government departments.

■ Great British Energy, The National Wealth Fund, The Scottish National Investment Bank, The Crown Estate, Crown Estate Scotland and The Development Bank of Wales have joined forces to develop a public finance ecosystem to support growth in the UK's offshore wind sector.

■ The Offshore Wind Growth Partnership has formally assumed its new role as the delivery body for the Offshore Wind Industrial Growth Plan.

■ The number of people working in the UK offshore wind industry has risen from just over 32,000 two years ago to nearly 40,000 today – an increase of 24%, according to a new report by RenewableUK and the Offshore Wind Industry Council.

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Floating wind faces crunch time

GOW 2025 will tackle some of the major challenges facing the floating offshore wind sector, writes **Paul Stephen**

Mobilising the UK's supply chain, reducing the levelised cost of energy and meeting the technical and skills challenges of delivering the world's largest pipeline of leased floating wind projects will all be major talking points at GOW 2025.

Delegates will hear how the nascent sector is facing a pivotal year for its ambitions to deploy a 30GW+ portfolio of floaters by 2040 as developers of the first projects with routes to market close in on making final investment decisions.

Just 3MW is due to come online this year as TotalEnergies adds its Culzean demonstrator to the 80MW of capacity already installed in UK waters, according to May's reNEWS Floating Offshore Wind 2025 special report.

However, commercial-scale activity could kick in from 2027 as Flotation Energy and Vargronn bid to reach FID on the CfD-backed 560MW Green Volt off east Scotland and lock-in prices from an immature supply chain for floating technologies not yet proven at an industrial scale.

The future direction of the sector will also be governed by the success of up to 458.4MW of capacity looking to secure backing in this year's AR7.

258.4MW of capacity is already eligible from three projects that came away empty handed in AR6 and which are all likely to bid again, depending on the auction parameters.

They could be bolstered by a further 200MW as Flotation Energy-Cobra and Orsted, SimplyBlue and Subsea7 close in on securing planning permission for the 100MW White Cross and 100MW Salamander arrays, off south-west England and east Scotland, respectively.

London's commitment to these mainly stepping stone projects has been widely seen as vital to maintaining momentum as well as providing demand signals and achieving cost reductions before the bulk of ScotWind and INTOG projects not yet consented and due to come online in the 2030s reach maturity. The geographic spread of sub-100MW floaters and the need

to trial technologies in waters off England, Scotland and Wales with varying metocean conditions has also increased the need for schemes to clear the auction and deploy quickly.

"It is essential that floating wind receives the policy certainty and

practical support it needs to move from ambition to action," said the Bluefloat Energy-Nadara partnership's managing director Susie Lind, who will take part in a panel discussion on the second day of GOW 2025.

This summer the Crown Estate is due to reveal the winners of its 4.5GW Celtic Sea leasing Round 5. Meanwhile, major players behind 6.2GW of floating capacity in planning have cited factors including ongoing uncertainty with grid connections, network charging and electricity market reform for compounding the pressure already being put on delivery timelines and business. Behind that, developers of a 21GW pipeline of early-stage floaters in mainly Scottish waters are asking the same question about the future size of the domestic supply chain.

Lind added: "This conference comes at a pivotal moment. Floating wind represents a global opportunity and nowhere is better placed than the UK to lead."

■ For the full reNEWS Floating Wind 2025 report, contact subscriptions manager Ben Webb on ben@renews.biz or +44 (0)1962 890440

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GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY: Susie Lind

Photo: Nadara

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THE INTERVIEW reNEWS



Orsted UK country manager **Benj Sykes** (left) discusses the short-term headwinds facing the offshore wind sector, the future of the scrapped Hornsea 4 project and the UK government's joined-up thinking

Q What is Orsted's main message for GOW 2025?

A At Orsted we firmly believe that the long-term fundamentals for the offshore wind market, in the UK and globally, remain very positive.

With the increased focus on energy security, price stability and affordability, offshore wind rightly continues to be the technology at the centre of the UK's energy policy.

The long-term direction of travel couldn't be more positive, and yet right now there are short-term headwinds affecting the whole industry. This is in part due to challenges in the supply chain and wider adverse macro-economic developments, and in part because we are in the middle of reforming policies and processes but we have yet to reap the benefits. If the government maintains focus on the reforms in process and provides investors with as much certainty as possible, and the industry continues to reform itself, we will work through our growing pains and be on course to deliver the secure energy and economic benefits the UK needs.

Q What is the latest on Hornsea 4 following the decision not to proceed on that project and what learnings from the process should the government heed for AR7 and beyond?

A Hornsea 4 is being taken back into our development programme with the intention of

bringing a redesigned project forward at a later date, but it's too early to say when this will be. This decision is not a broader comment on the UK offshore wind market, it's purely based on the value-creation profile of this project at this point in time.

I don't believe there are any specific learnings for AR7 and future rounds per se, beyond the fact that this decision underlines that the offshore wind industry is challenged in the short-term with headwinds relating to supply chain and macroeconomic developments.

Q Do you believe the government should revise down its 2030 offshore wind target?

A Government setting an ambitious target for offshore wind is an important signal to developers and investors that the UK remains committed to moving towards a renewables-based, low-carbon economy, and the 2030 target has proven to be an important catalyst in this regard. I encourage government to look beyond 2030 when developing policy frameworks will help to ensure decisions made in the short-term support the long-term fundamentals of the sector.

Q Nearly a year after the general election, are the fundamentals in place to drive the transition to net zero?

A The Labour government has clearly stated that accelerating the energy transition, and in particular

accelerating the deployment of renewables, is one of its highest priorities – and the government clearly understands the need to deliver planning reform and to accelerate the build-out of the grid to support this.

The creation of the 'Mission Control' role for Chris Stark is extremely welcome and we're already seeing clear evidence that this is bringing a more joined-up government approach to renewable energy, which is essential to support the continuing growth of the sector.

Q How can the offshore wind industry and government work together to accelerate progress and deliver the best outcomes for the UK and its consumers?

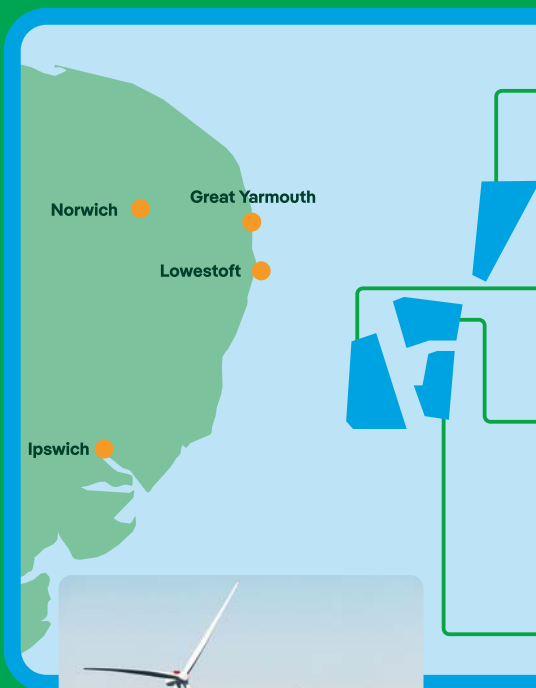
A Government has a strong policy framework in place to deliver offshore wind in the UK. And I'm convinced that the UK Government is right to be taking action to accelerate the deployment of offshore wind and other renewable projects, is right to aim for a decarbonised grid in 2030, and is right to be focussing on reform of the planning system and upgrading our electricity grid to ensure that essential UK energy infrastructure can be delivered at the pace the country needs.

I remain confident that it is possible to run a transformative and successful Allocation Round 7 later this year and to continue to expand the UK's offshore wind supply chain supported by an active industrial strategy.

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Why offshore wind contracts must reflect unstable world

The industry faces an urgent need for a more sophisticated and tailored approach to contract risk allocation, writes HFW partner

Richard Booth

I learned a new buzzword recently – ‘polycrisis’. This concept refers to multiple intervening events affecting the world simultaneously. It is arguable that we are currently in an era of polycrisis.

That era likely began in 2020 with the interplay between COVID-19, the war in Ukraine and the resulting surge in energy costs and general hyper-inflation. It is broader than those events.

State actors threaten to upset the largely peaceful period of global politics. Russia’s threat extends far beyond the Eastern regions of Ukraine. The conflict in Gaza, and other issues, could easily destabilise the Middle East. China continues to increase its hostility towards Taiwan. Trump is determined to re-write the global trade balance with the imposition of tariffs, as though negotiating a commercial property deal.

In 2025, these events are aggregating to such an extent that it requires attention in contracts. Particularly when the impact is felt in such basic terms as: pricing, and safety of your assets and people.

In such a period, a compelling argument arises that contracts should contain a carefully considered risk balance designed to adequately allocate risk to the party best able to respond.

It is simply no good relying on a ‘force majeure’ clause if the event(s) is already known.

This is because force majeure mechanisms, such as those in FIDIC contracts, only bite on events or circumstances that a party could not have reasonably provided against before entering into the contract or which having risen is an event that the party could not reasonably have avoided or overcome. The types of events we are concerned with include war, terrorism, and trade wars.

Evidently, China is already demonstrating ‘hostilities’ towards Taiwan, as is Russia to the West. There are incidents of Russian vessels surveying and passing over export cables for offshore wind farms.

Vessels have suffered GPS spoofing in the Arabian gulf, leading to groundings. Cyber

attacks are paralysing global businesses.

Offshore wind is intended to provide sustainable energy, but also “energy security”. That security is threatened by these events. An example of this is the physical damage caused to the two Nord Stream oil pipelines for which insurance coverage is being refused.

The offshore wind industry will be caught in the crossfire. To protect the industry and project participants, contracts should:

1. Include an adequate force majeure clause. Not restricted to just the offshore site, but extending to the entire geographical reach of the supply chain, and an open-ended list of events.
2. Expressly allow for the removal of assets (vessels and equipment) and people in the event of rising regional tensions that threaten to spill into hostility.
3. Give entitlement to extensions of time (to protect against liquidated damages) if works are delayed by these types of events.
4. Give proper consideration to the types and extent of insurance cover necessary for these events, and the extent to which liability caps should reduce in the event of certain events.
5. Consider the scope of indemnities. Is it correct to have a knock-for-knock indemnity regime if adequate insurance cannot be procured for the types of events contemplated?
6. Incorporate price indexation clauses that protect against the price escalation effect of these events. It cannot be predicted how prices may increase, or projects be delayed, and the supply chain should not be left with the risk of greater costs for events that it is not responsible for.
7. Require the preparation of a robust crisis management response plan so that the parties know how to mitigate the risks if an event does materialise. ■

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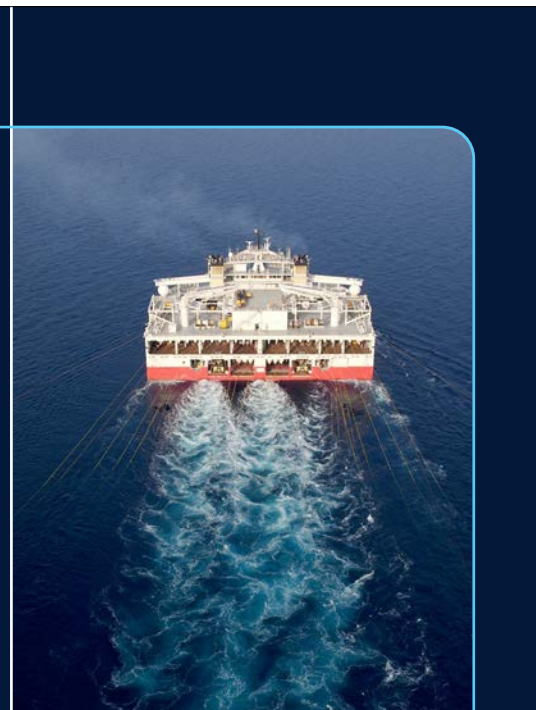


4C Offshore



RISK ANALYSIS: Richard Booth

Photo: HFW



THE INTERVIEW

reNEWS



Vestas northern and central Europe president **Nils de Baar** (left) discusses whether the UK government can translate intent into action, the uncertainty surrounding AR7, and a possible new manufacturing facility in Leith

Q What is Vestas's main message for UK policymakers at GOW 2025?

A Our main message for UK policymakers at GOW 2025 is clear: delivery must be the watchword. Offshore wind holds the key to advancing energy security, creating jobs, achieving net zero, and protecting consumers from volatile energy costs. The governmental ambitions are also there - and the time to translate positive intent into action is now.

With the right policy support, especially through a successful Allocation Round 7, the UK can make a big leap forward.

Mission possible is the motto of the fair - so let's get it done.

Q What is Vestas' view of the proposal to relax the consent eligibility requirement for Allocation Round 7 and what are the industry's key asks of the UK government as it finalises what is a critical auction?

A Allocation Round 7 needs to be set up for success and deliver a step change in volume. The UK's 'Clean Power 2030' action plan calls for 43-50GW of offshore wind by 2030 and a least 12GW from the next couple of ARs.

That requires sustainable prices reflecting real-world costs and a business environment that ensures delivery. The potential relaxation of eligibility rules to

allow unconsented projects to participate is a major uncertainty and concern ahead of Allocation Round 7.

It would mean that projects can't take FID until consent is received which increases the non-delivery risk for projects with CfDs, challenging supply chain planning and the capacity allocation. Ireland is a case in point - projects that received CfDs two years ago are still in the planning process and may not receive full consent for another couple of years.

What the industry needs is a firm, stable pipeline to invest, scale, and to build a long-term supply chain. This means a business environment that maximises project certainty and minimises the risk of non-delivery.

Q Nearly a year after the general election, are the fundamentals in place to drive the transition to net zero?

A The UK has solid foundations to deliver net zero - 15GW of offshore wind already installed, a proven CfD model, experienced developers, and a capable supply chain.

Positive steps since the election, including planning reform legislation, grid connection policy changes coming in, and a £300m supply chain fund via Great British Energy, show intent. Offshore wind is also at the heart of government industrial strategy, but intent must turn into delivery. Targets are ambitious and time is short. Allocation Round 7 must succeed to maintain momentum, and government must urgently resolve key

uncertainties - especially around unconsented project participation and the potential shift to zonal pricing.

Q How can the offshore wind industry and government work together to accelerate progress and deliver the best outcomes for the UK and its consumers?

A The scale of the buildout ahead requires coordinated action, clear policy, and shared commitment - a true partnership between the industry and the government to deliver the best outcomes for the UK and its consumers.

An open and honest dialogue is essential to overcome challenges and to capture the opportunities - from pricing and planning to supply chain growth. And credit must go to the government for a very constructive engagement so far on a wide range of topics.

Q Can you give us an update on Vestas UK manufacturing plans for the V236 and the proposed Leith facility? What is required to get that off the ground?

A Vestas has identified the Port of Leith as a possible location for a wind turbine blade manufacturing facility.

A final investment decision has not been made and will be based on several factors, including the viability of the business case and the market outlook.

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Out of the shadows

Keynote address delivered by Andrew Bowie, Shadow Minister (Energy Security and Net Zero) and Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland. perspectives on the future of the offshore wind industry.

0930-1000, Platinum 1

Join the Scots

The Scottish government's Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy Gillian Martin outlines the future of the offshore wind industry in Scotland and the action Holyrood is taking to support the growth of its supply chain and ports to accelerate the energy transition.

1000-1015, Platinum 1

All hail Wales

Join the Welsh government Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning Rebecca Evans for a keynote address on the evolving landscape of offshore wind and the path forward for the energy transition.

1145-1200, Platinum 1

FYI AI

Speakers from Aker Solutions, ORE Catapult and the Vekta Group discuss how AI-driven predictive analytics and data modelling can support smarter infrastructure and grid decisions.

1200-1300, Platinum 4

NI set to fly

Economy Minister for the NI Executive Caoimhe Archibald sets out the pivotal role for offshore renewable energy in achieving net zero.

1330-1345, Platinum 1



WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Global Offshore Wind

Keeping up with the Joneses

What lessons can the offshore wind sector draw from established industries, such as manufacturing, nuclear energy and oil and gas, to evolve as a mature

and innovative industry?

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1500-1555, Platinum 1



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