

UK OFFSHORE LOW-CARBON INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

Week Ending 26 September 2026

Coverage Period	Audience	Classification
20 – 26 Sep 2026	NES Tier 2/3 Energy Supply Chain	Weekly Market Intelligence

Executive Summary

The seven days to 26 September 2026 were dominated by a single North-east Scotland event and a single warning.

On 22 September King Charles III toured three North-east energy sites in one day: Peterhead Port (where Peterhead Port Authority is planning an approximately 80-metre extension to the 120-metre Smith Quay alongside Maritime Developments Limited's £25 million Peterhead Energy Service Base), the Energy Transition Zone in Aberdeen (where he formally opened the £10 million, 3,000 m² ETZ EnergyWorks, the UK's first dedicated low-carbon energy incubator and scale-up hub, created by ETZ Ltd, bp and Scottish Enterprise), and Great British Energy's new Marischal Square headquarters. GB Energy used the opening to announce a £750,000 skills, training and employability partnership for the North-east, and confirmed it is recruiting about two people a week towards around 300 Aberdeen staff by mid-2027.

The same day, the North Sea Transition Taskforce published its One Year On report, warning that "North Sea 1" (oil and gas) is declining faster than "North Sea 2" (offshore wind, CCS, hydrogen) is growing. It puts the current oil and gas workforce at about 115,000 direct and supply-chain jobs, estimates around 25,000 jobs lost since the last general election, notes that roughly one in four North-east workers is tied to offshore energy, and calls for the Energy Profits Levy to be replaced by the Oil and Gas Revenue Levy in 2027–28 rather than 2030. New Scottish Labour leader Michael Marra (22 September) said the EPL end "needs to happen sooner". On 24 September Energy Minister Michael Shanks said the Jackdaw and Rosebank decisions would be taken "as soon as we can" following the close of the reapplication consultation and denied that the 8 October Holborn and St Pancras by-election was driving the timing. GB Energy's first accounts (reported 25 September) showed a £14.1 million loss and its only direct investment in the period: £5.8 million in the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm.

On the delivery side, Inch Cape (1.1 GW, ESB / Red Rock Renewables) completed its second 85 km, 220 kV export cable (23 September), with energisation in the coming weeks and first power by the end of 2026. Worley secured a five-year renewal of its CNOOC International UK EPC framework covering Scott, Buzzard and Golden Eagle, including decommissioning scope (22 September). Aberdeen-based Three60 Energy set out plans to double revenue from £240 million within five years and confirmed its role on bp's Andrew field decommissioning with AF Group (21 September). The Offshore Wind Growth Partnership nearly doubled its team to 19 (24 September), and Humber Hydrogen published analysis claiming a Humber cluster could unlock £15 billion of investment ahead of the government's £500 million-plus hydrogen transport and storage network decision (24 September).

Time-critical NES focus for the week ahead: Labour Party Conference, Liverpool, 27–30 September (Prime Minister Andy Burnham's first conference speech); OEUK Data & Digital Conference, Aberdeen, 29 September; GB Energy Supply Chain Fund Round 3 closes and

NSTA Abandonment Fee Rules commence, 30 September; Ofgem price cap change, 1 October; Floating Offshore Wind Conference, Aberdeen, 7–8 October.

1. Offshore Wind — Fixed Bottom

Inch Cape completes second 85 km export cable — first power by end 2026 (23 September 2026)

Inch Cape Offshore Limited, the 50:50 joint venture between ESB and Red Rock Renewables, confirmed on 23 September that Enshore Subsea has completed installation of the 1.1 GW wind farm's second 85 km, 220 kV three-phase offshore export cable. The cable was laid in three 28 km sections by the CMOS Installer operating out of the Port of Blyth, with offshore joints completed aboard the Normand Cutter and burial by Enshore's ENS1100 hybrid trenching vehicle. Each cable has a 2,000 mm² cross-section and weighs almost 140 tonnes per kilometre, placing them among the largest AC export cables in the world; 170 km of export cable is now installed, manufactured by Ningbo Orient Wires & Cables (Orient Cable). The cables run from the offshore substation platform to the new onshore substation at Cockenzie, East Lothian, and are due to be energised in the coming weeks. Monopiles and transition pieces are installed, array-cable laying continues with the Altera, and Alfa Lift is installing pin piles for jacket foundations. Some final rock placement remains. First power remains scheduled for the end of 2026, with full commercial operation in 2027.

NES Sales Opportunity: Inch Cape is moving from installation to energisation and commissioning, and that shifts the buying pattern. The next 6–12 months will need HV testing and commissioning technicians, onshore and offshore substation completions, rock-placement survey and as-built inspection, ROV and cable-protection remediation, cathodic protection verification, and early O&M mobilisation (crew transfer, spares logistics, inspection contracts). NES Tier 2/3 firms should approach Inch Cape Offshore Limited (Project Director John Hill), Enshore Subsea (CEO Pierre Boyde) and the jacket/array contractors now with commissioning-phase and O&M propositions. Note the reliance on a Chinese cable manufacturer and a Blyth base: this is a live example of where UK content is being lost, and a useful reference point in supply-chain conversations with OWGP and developers.

Offshore Wind Growth Partnership nearly doubles team to 19 staff (24 September 2026)

The Offshore Wind Growth Partnership (OWGP), which delivers the Offshore Wind Industrial Growth Plan on behalf of the Offshore Wind Industry Council, has nearly doubled its team to 19 staff with four new appointments. Chris Harvey (formerly IBM, Jabil and Aggreko) joins as executive director of programme delivery, overseeing OWGP's business support and funding programmes; Lori Hanley joins as finance manager supporting the corporate finance and investment team; and Ieuan Collins and John Stevenson join as delivery specialists on funding programmes. Internally, Tom Piper becomes senior project manager for supply-chain development and Dai Lewis becomes senior strategy analyst on the Industrial Growth Plan. Anil Sayhan remains managing director and Alex MacPhie executive director of industrial development strategy. The expansion follows the £1 million 2026 Innovation Funding awards to seven UK firms earlier in September.

NES Sales Opportunity: A bigger OWGP delivery team means more funding rounds processed and more direct business-support capacity. NES Tier 2/3 firms should register with OWGP's business support and funding programmes now, ask for an introduction to the new delivery specialists, and prepare capability-development proposals (manufacturing investment, certification, digital/robotics) ready for the next call. OWGP is also a route to Tier 1 buyers under the Industrial Growth Plan: use it to get in front of developers and contractors on Ossian, Berwick Bank, Morecambe and the Morgan re-tender.

2. Floating Offshore Wind

GB Energy first accounts confirm £5.8m Pentland Floating Offshore Wind investment (25 September 2026)

Great British Energy's first statutory accounts (to 31 March, reported 25 September) show that the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm off Caithness was the company's only direct investment in the reporting period, at £5.8 million. The accounts record a £14.1 million loss, largely from staffing and set-up costs, £62,000 of income and £3.8 million of consultancy fees. Two further investments, in ITM Power and Naked Energy, were made after the reporting period. GB Energy had no direct employees when the accounts were filed but had 141 staff by 10 September, 60 of them permanent. Separately, CEO Dan McGrail said GB Energy's three major investments to date would indirectly support about 1,500 jobs, against a target of helping to create 10,000 additional jobs by 2030.

NES Sales Opportunity: Pentland is the only floating project with GB Energy money on the balance sheet, which makes it the most politically visible floating-wind build in Scotland. NES Tier 2/3 firms with mooring, dynamic cable, marine operations, port-side assembly, coatings, cathodic protection and inspection capability should refresh contact with the Pentland project team and use the GB Energy link to frame "UK content" arguments. The weak accounts will put pressure on GB Energy to show supply-chain outcomes quickly, so firms that can show local jobs and apprenticeships will get a better hearing.

Peterhead Port Smith Quay extension and £25m Energy Service Base — port capacity for floating and O&M (22 September 2026)

During the King's visit to Peterhead Port on 22 September, Peterhead Port Authority (chief executive Graeme Reid) set out plans to extend the existing 120-metre Smith Quay by approximately 80 metres, creating additional working space and berthing for larger vessels. The extension sits alongside Maritime Developments Limited's £25 million investment in the Peterhead Energy Service Base at Smith Embankment. Peterhead is the nearest major port to the Salamander floating project (21 miles offshore) and is well placed for Buchan and wider ScotWind floating developments in the outer Moray Firth and north-east. No new UK floating-wind contract awards or consents were published in the 20–26 September window; the next focal point is the RenewableUK Floating Offshore Wind Conference at P&J Live, Aberdeen, on 7–8 October.

NES Sales Opportunity: Port capacity is the bottleneck for floating wind, and Peterhead is adding it. NES marine civils, heavy-lift, quayside fabrication, logistics, mooring storage and vessel-support firms should engage Peterhead Port Authority and Maritime Developments Limited on the quay extension works and on future tenancy at the Energy Service Base. Use the 7–8 October Floating Offshore Wind Conference to connect Peterhead and Aberdeen port offers with Salamander, Buchan, Green Volt and Ossian project teams.

3. Hydrogen

Humber Hydrogen: first UK regional cluster could unlock £15bn investment (24 September 2026)

Humber Hydrogen published analysis on 24 September ahead of the UK Government's decision on where to locate Britain's first hydrogen transport and storage network, backed by more than £500 million of funding. It claims a Humber cluster could safeguard up to 4,000 industrial jobs, unlock up to £15 billion of investment, support more than 54,000 jobs during construction, sustain around 900 operational roles and provide some 700 apprenticeships over the lifetime of the assets. East Yorkshire is estimated to hold 65% of the UK's potential new-build hydrogen storage capacity, and the existing Aldbrough gas storage site is expected to be expanded and adapted for hydrogen. The network would bring together Centrica, Equinor, National Gas and SSE Thermal. National Gas CEO Jon Butterworth (New Statesman, 21 September) called on the government to publish the new

Hydrogen Strategy, launch the Hydrogen Transport and Storage Business Model competition and set the framework for the regional decision.

NES Sales Opportunity: The first hydrogen network decision will set where UK hydrogen pipeline, compression and storage spending goes for the next decade. Scotland is not currently the front-runner, so NES firms should position as suppliers to whichever cluster wins rather than wait for a Scottish network. Target Centrica (Aldbrough), Equinor, National Gas and SSE Thermal with pipeline integrity, compression, hazardous-area electrical, high-integrity welding, subsurface storage and well-engineering capability — the last two draw directly on North Sea gas storage and wells experience. Watch for the Hydrogen Strategy and business-model competition, which could land around the Autumn Budget.

4. CCUS

NZT Power contractors launch Tees Valley net zero enrichment programme (21 September 2026)

Technip Energies, Balfour Beatty and Costain — the contractors behind Net Zero Teesside Power, the planned 742 MW gas-fired power station with integrated carbon capture and storage — launched a Tees Valley net zero industry enrichment programme on 21 September. The programme gives college students (including Hartlepool and Darlington College) structured sessions with industry professionals, site visits to NZT Power and interview and networking training, with baseline and final skills assessments. It responds to North East England having the highest NEET rate in England: 20.4% of 16–24-year-olds, up 5.9% in five years against a 1.5% national rise. NZT Power will store captured CO₂ via the Northern Endurance Partnership. No new UK CCUS contract awards or FIDs were reported in the window; the North Sea Transition Taskforce report (22 September) again flagged CCS as one of the “North Sea 2” industries growing too slowly to absorb oil and gas workers.

NES Sales Opportunity: NZT Power and the Northern Endurance Partnership are the only UK CCS projects in full construction, and their contractors are now investing in local workforce pipelines — a signal they expect to need more labour and subcontractors. NES firms with CO₂-compatible pipeline, compression, instrumentation, inspection, hazardous-area electrical and offshore well-intervention capability should keep pursuing Technip Energies, Balfour Beatty, Costain and NEP (bp, Equinor, TotalEnergies). For Scotland, keep Acorn (Storegga / Shell / Harbour) and Scottish Cluster engagement live, but expect Track 2 funding signals to come via the 28 October Autumn Budget rather than earlier.

5. Marine & Tidal

Intertek Metoc wins Milford Haven tidal atlas contract (21 September 2026)

The Port of Milford Haven — described as the UK’s largest energy port — awarded Intertek Metoc a contract to update the Milford Haven Waterway tidal atlas, combining existing and new field measurements with hydrodynamic modelling of tidal currents and water movement. The outputs will support navigational planning, pilot training, vessel-manoeuving studies and ship-simulator systems. Named leads are David Stubbins, Assistant Harbourmaster, and Dr Paul Evans, Principal Consultant at Intertek Metoc. No new UK tidal-stream or wave commercial awards were published in the 20–26 September window; MeyGen (SAE Renewables) continues operating in the Pentland Firth, and the AR8 Pot 4 (marine energy) outcome remains the main commercial trigger for the sector.

NES Sales Opportunity: Hydrodynamic survey and modelling is a transferable service for tidal-stream site development, floating-wind port operations and Celtic Sea logistics. NES metocean, survey, ROV and marine-data firms should present tidal-resource and port-navigation capability to Port of Milford Haven, Celtic

Sea developers and tidal developers (SAE Renewables, Orbital Marine Power, Nova Innovation). Keep account plans ready for AR8 Pot 4 results, which will determine which tidal projects move into procurement in 2027.

6. Geothermal

United Downs — UK's first deep-geothermal electricity on the grid (feature coverage, 23 September 2026)

Energies Media ran a feature on 23 September on Geothermal Engineering Ltd's United Downs project near Redruth, Cornwall — drilled roughly three miles (about 5 km) into granite and holding temperatures around 190°C — which put the UK's first deep-geothermal electricity onto the national grid after more than a decade of development. There was no new UK geothermal contract or funding announcement in the 20–26 September window. For context, the University of York FutureSource 4 km well (Drillmec Rig 65, drilling partner Marriott Drilling Group) is now scheduled for rig delivery to campus in early 2027 and a one-year drilling programme starting in 2027, per the University's update.

NES Sales Opportunity: UK deep geothermal is still at single-project scale, but every project needs North Sea-type skills: drilling supervision, casing and cementing, well integrity, high-temperature completions, downhole tools and pumps. NES wells-engineering and drilling-services firms should approach Geothermal Engineering Ltd (United Downs), Marriott Drilling Group (York FutureSource) and Cornish Lithium (geothermal lithium appraisal) with short capability statements. This is a low-volume but low-competition diversification route for firms losing North Sea drilling work.

7. Decommissioning

Three60 Energy targets doubling in five years; confirms bp Andrew decommissioning role (21 September 2026)

Aberdeen-based Three60 Energy, backed by Simmons Private Equity and marking its tenth anniversary, told Energy Voice on 21 September that the North Sea decommissioning wave “is breaking”. CEO Walter Thain said the group — currently £240 million revenue and more than 1,200 employees across the UK, Norway, Southeast Asia, the UAE and the Americas — expects organic growth to double revenue within five years, with further acquisitions planned in the Americas, Middle East and Southeast Asia. Three60 has made nine acquisitions in ten years (StepChange Engineering has grown from about £12 million to £50 million annual revenue since 2018), now operates six of Neo Next+'s North Sea platforms, and holds a multi-million-pound contract with Norway's AF Group to decommission bp's Andrew field, 140 miles north-east of Aberdeen, covering subsurface, wells and subsea scope. Customers include Adura, bp, Neo Next+, Shell, Equinor and Aker BP.

NES Sales Opportunity: Three60 is an Aberdeen Tier 1/Tier 2 integrator growing on decommissioning — exactly the kind of buyer NES Tier 3 firms need. Offer Three60 and AF Group services for the Andrew programme and the wider multi-asset decommissioning pipeline: well P&A support, cutting and lifting tools, waste management and recycling, cleaning and decontamination, marine logistics, rope access and inspection. Three60's acquisition appetite also makes it a possible exit or partnership route for small specialist firms.

Worley secures five-year renewal of CNOOC UK North Sea EPC framework (22 September 2026)

Worley announced on 22 September a five-year renewal of its engineering, procurement and construction framework agreement with CNOOC International's UK business, covering UKCS assets including the Scott,

Buzzard and Golden Eagle fields. Scope runs across engineering, procurement, construction, commissioning, completions and decommissioning, from like-for-like replacements to complex brownfield modifications and larger projects. Over the previous 12 years Worley delivered more than 1,100 scopes of work under the framework and more than five million work hours without a lost-time incident. Graham Swan, Senior Vice President UK at Worley, said the renewal supports safe and efficient operations across CNOOC's UK assets for the next five years.

NES Sales Opportunity: A five-year brownfield and decommissioning framework on Buzzard, Golden Eagle and Scott guarantees a steady stream of small and medium work packages out of Aberdeen. NES fabrication, mechanical, electrical and instrumentation, inspection, coatings and specialist services firms should get on Worley's UK supplier lists for the CNOOC framework and ask about planned late-life and decommissioning-readiness scopes. Link this to the NSTA Abandonment Fee Rules taking effect on 30 September, which will focus operator attention on decommissioning planning.

8. Hydropower & Pumped Storage

No new UK pumped-storage decisions this week — Ofgem LDES Window 1 awards still due this autumn

No new UK hydropower or pumped-storage consents, contracts or investment decisions were published in the 20–26 September window. The key pending event remains Ofgem's final cap-and-floor decisions for Long Duration Electricity Storage Window 1, expected in autumn 2026. The minded-to list includes SSE Renewables' Coire Glas (1,440 MW), Statera's Loch Kemp (660 MW) and Gilkes' Earba (1,800 MW) in Scotland, alongside battery, compressed-air and flow-battery projects. Energy Secretary Miatta Fahnbulleh's comments this week (Bloomberg Green, 23 September) that affordability is now the top priority, and Ofgem's estimate that grid owners must spend around £70 billion between 2025 and 2031 to meet Clean Power 2030, frame the political context for those award decisions.

NES Sales Opportunity: Pumped-storage hydro is a multi-year civil, tunnelling, mechanical and electrical programme, and awards could come quickly once Ofgem decides. NES firms in tunnelling support, heavy civils, hydraulic and mechanical engineering, HV electrical, controls and coatings should maintain contact with SSE Renewables (Coire Glas), Statera (Loch Kemp) and Gilkes (Earba), and have pre-qualification packs ready for when Window 1 decisions are published.

9. Policy

King opens ETZ EnergyWorks and GB Energy HQ; £750k North-east skills partnership (22 September 2026)

King Charles III formally opened ETZ EnergyWorks in Aberdeen on 22 September — a £10 million, 3,000 m² facility created by Energy Transition Zone Ltd, bp and Scottish Enterprise with UK and Scottish government support, offering office, industrial and manufacturing space, business support and access to the regional supply chain for low-carbon start-ups and scale-ups. ETZ Ltd chair Trevor Garlick hosted. Scottish Enterprise's first commitment under its partnership with ETZ Ltd (worth up to £20 million, targeting up to £65 million of investment by 2032 in manufacturing, innovation and test facilities across Aberdeen and the North-east) was £2.8 million for EnergyWorks. The King then opened Great British Energy's Marischal Square headquarters, where GB Energy announced a £750,000 partnership for skills, training and employability in the North-east and a target of 5% of its workforce in entry-level and early-career roles. Energy Minister Michael Shanks attended. Sarah Merrick, founder of Ripple Energy, has been appointed GB Energy managing director of local energy. Shadow Energy Secretary Andrew Bowie criticised the gap between the original 1,000-job pledge and GB Energy's current headcount.

NES Sales Opportunity: ETZ EnergyWorks is new, subsidised space designed to connect low-carbon start-ups with established North-east suppliers — use it. NES Tier 2/3 firms should contact ETZ Ltd about supplying engineering, fabrication, testing and manufacturing services to EnergyWorks tenants, and about the £20 million Scottish Enterprise / ETZ facilities programme. GB Energy is now physically in Aberdeen with a local-energy managing director in post: request introductions on the People's Power community-energy programme and on GB Energy's supply-chain priorities.

North Sea Transition Taskforce “One Year On”: window narrowing, bring OGRL forward to 2027–28 (22 September 2026)

The North Sea Transition Taskforce, chaired by Philip Rycroft, published its One Year On report on 22 September. It concludes that the window for an orderly UKCS transition has narrowed but not closed, and that policy delivery has lagged. It estimates about 115,000 jobs directly and in the supply chain, with around 25,000 lost since the last general election, and says roughly one in four North-east Scotland workers is employed by or supports offshore energy. It credits the North Sea Future Plan, the North Sea Future Board, basin-wide planning commitments, stronger regulator enforcement powers and the Energy Skills Passport, but calls for the Energy Profits Levy to be replaced by the Oil and Gas Revenue Levy in 2027–28 rather than 2030, citing industry estimates that this could unlock up to £50 billion of private investment and more than £13 billion of tax over a decade. New Scottish Labour leader Michael Marra (22 September) backed an earlier EPL end. Campaigners led by Global Witness (24–25 September) wrote to Chancellor John Healey arguing an early switch could cost up to £8.6 billion by 2030; OEUK says an earlier OGRL plus pragmatic licensing could unlock 111 UKCS projects.

NES Sales Opportunity: The EPL timing is now the single biggest swing factor for NES oil and gas order books in 2027–28, and the 28 October Autumn Budget is the decision point. NES firms should prepare two scenarios: an early OGRL (a wave of brownfield, tie-back and life-extension work from 2027) and no change (continued decline with decommissioning as the main growth market). Brief local MPs and MSPs, feed evidence to OEUK and AGCC, and keep bid capacity ready for a fast restart if the Budget moves the date.

Jackdaw and Rosebank: decision “as soon as we can” as consultation closes (24 September 2026)

Speaking at the GB Energy opening in Aberdeen, Energy Minister Michael Shanks said on 24 September that the government would decide on Jackdaw and Rosebank “as soon as we can”, following the close of the legally required consultation on the reapplications, during which new evidence was submitted. He denied that the 8 October Holborn and St Pancras by-election (where Green Party leader Zack Polanski is standing) was influencing the timing, and said no timeline had been set because the government wanted its case to withstand further court challenge. Both fields, now operated by Adura (Shell / Equinor), had their consents quashed after legal challenges by Greenpeace and Uplift. Energy Voice notes that a decision could come after the 28 October Budget.

NES Sales Opportunity: Jackdaw (mainly gas) and Rosebank are the UK's largest unproduced reserves, and each carries substantial subsea, topside modification and support-vessel work. Do not plan on awards before November. Keep capability and pricing current with Adura, Ithaca Energy (Rosebank partner) and their Tier 1 contractors, so you can respond quickly if consent is granted after the by-election or Budget.

Energy Secretary puts cheaper bills first; GBE-N launches Gwyndod Delivery Partner procurement (23–24 September 2026)

At the Bloomberg Green summit in New York on 23 September, Energy Secretary Miatta Fahnbulleh named cutting energy bills as her top priority, framing clean power around affordability rather than climate messaging, and did not explicitly recommit to the target of at least 95% clean electricity by 2030. Ofgem has said grid owners

need to increase spending to about £70 billion between 2025 and 2031 to meet Clean Power 2030. On 24 September Great British Energy – Nuclear published the September edition of The Spark, confirming the launch of Delivery Partner procurement for the Gwyndod SMR project on Ynys Môn, GBE-N joining the World Association of Nuclear Operators, and supply-chain, apprenticeship and senior leadership developments ahead of the 22–23 October supplier conference.

NES Sales Opportunity: An affordability-first Energy Secretary will favour lower-cost delivery: expect sharper pressure on CfD strike prices, network costs and supply-chain pricing. NES firms should lead with cost-reduction and productivity evidence in every bid. For nuclear, the Gwyndod Delivery Partner procurement is the first major contract layer — NES Tier 2/3 firms should identify likely Delivery Partner bidders now and register for the 22–23 October Ynys Môn supplier conference.

10. Key Upcoming Events for NES Companies

Date	Event	Location	NES Relevance
27–30 Sep 2026	Labour Party Annual Conference (PM Andy Burnham's first conference speech)	Liverpool	North Sea / EPL / energy policy signals
29 Sep 2026	OEUK Data & Digital Conference 2026	Union Kirk, Aberdeen	Digital services for operators
30 Sep 2026	GB Energy Supply Chain Fund Round 3 closes	National (application)	NES Tier 2/3 grant scope
30 Sep 2026	NSTA Abandonment Fee Rules commence	UKCS	Decommissioning planning
1 Oct 2026	Ofgem energy price cap change effective	National	Industrial and commercial impact
7–8 Oct 2026	RenewableUK Floating Offshore Wind Conference	P&J Live, Aberdeen	Floating wind sales window
8 Oct 2026	Holborn & St Pancras by-election	London	Jackdaw / Rosebank timing
15–16 Oct 2026	Offshore Wind North East Conference	Newcastle	NES cross-border engagement
22–23 Oct 2026	Rolls-Royce SMR / GBE-N supplier conference (Gwyndod)	Ynys Môn, Wales	SMR supply-chain scope
28 Oct 2026	Autumn Budget 2026	Westminster	EPL / OGRL timing, CCUS, hydrogen
4–5 Nov 2026	Global Offshore Wind Investment Forum	London	Developer and investor access
Late Nov 2026	AR8 CfD Contract Budget Notice (DESNZ)	National	Pot 1/2/3 budget release
Autumn 2026	Ofgem LDES Window 1 cap-and-floor decisions	National	Coire Glas, Loch Kemp, Earba
Autumn 2026	Hydrogen transport & storage network location decision	National	First UK hydrogen cluster

Date	Event	Location	NES Relevance
End 2026	Inch Cape first power / Morgan re-tender preferred bidder	Scotland / Irish Sea	Commissioning and O&M scope

11. Grant Funding & Support Mechanisms Active This Week

Mechanism	Amount / Scope	Deadline	Relevance to NES
GB Energy Supply Chain Fund Round 3	Offshore wind supply chain capex	30 Sep 2026	NES Tier 2/3 manufacturing investment
GB Energy North-east skills partnership	£750k skills, training, employability	Announced 22 Sep 2026	Recruitment and early-career pipeline
Scottish Enterprise / ETZ Ltd facilities partnership	Up to £20m (target £65m by 2032)	Rolling	Manufacturing, innovation, test facilities
ETZ EnergyWorks incubator	£10m, 3,000 m ² hub	Open (formally opened 22 Sep)	Space and supply-chain access for start-ups
GB Energy People's Power	£30m of up to £1bn programme	Open	Community solar, wind, hydro
OWGP business support and funding	Team expanded to 19 (24 Sep)	Rolling	Capability development, Tier 1 access
Hydrogen transport & storage network	£500m+ first network	Location decision pending	Pipeline, storage, compression
HAR2 electrolytic hydrogen (DESNZ)	Hydrogen production business model	Awards expected H2 2026	Electrolyser and balance-of-plant
CCUS Track 1 / Track 2	Revenue support and FID gates	Budget 28 Oct signal	NEP, HyNet, Acorn, Viking
Ofgem LDES Cap-and-Floor Window 1	16 projects, 7,645 MW	Autumn 2026 decisions	Coire Glas, Loch Kemp, Earba
NSTA Abandonment Fee Rules	New fee regime	Effective 30 Sep 2026	Decommissioning planning
Rolls-Royce SMR / GBE-N Gwyndod	Up to £1.4bn contracts; Delivery Partner procurement	Supplier conf 22–23 Oct	Nuclear supply chain entry
Wave Energy Scotland	2025–27 programme	Rolling	Marine and tidal supply chain

12. Sales Opportunity Summary for NES Supply Chain Companies

Opportunity	Details	Rating	Action Window
Inch Cape commissioning and O&M (23 Sep)	1.1 GW, ESB / Red Rock. Second 85 km 220 kV export cable complete; energisation in coming weeks; first power end 2026. HV commissioning, rock-placement survey, cable protection, early O&M.	★★★★★	Now – Q2 2027
Worley / CNOOC UK EPC framework (22 Sep)	Five-year renewal on Scott, Buzzard, Golden Eagle. Brownfield modifications, commissioning, completions and decommissioning. 1,100+ scopes delivered in 12 years.	★★★★★	Supplier registration now
Three60 / AF Group — bp Andrew decommissioning (21 Sep)	Subsurface, wells and subsea decommissioning 140 miles NE of Aberdeen. Three60 targets doubling from £240m revenue; operates six Neo Next+ platforms.	★★★★★	Q4 2026
ETZ EnergyWorks tenants and ETZ facilities programme (22 Sep)	£10m, 3,000 m ² incubator; Scottish Enterprise / ETZ partnership up to £20m. Engineering, fabrication and test services for low-carbon start-ups.	★★★★★	Now
Peterhead Smith Quay extension and £25m Energy Service Base (22 Sep)	~80 m extension to 120 m quay; Maritime Developments £25m base. Marine civils, heavy lift, logistics, floating-wind and O&M support.	★★★★★	Q4 2026 – 2027
GB Energy Aberdeen HQ and £750k skills partnership (22 Sep)	HQ open, ~2 hires/week to ~300 staff; local-energy MD appointed. Training providers and community-energy suppliers.	★★★★★	Q4 2026
Pentland Floating Offshore Wind (GB Energy £5.8m)	Only GB Energy direct investment in first accounts. Mooring, dynamic cable, marine ops, port assembly, inspection.	★★★★★	Q4 2026
OWGP expanded delivery team (24 Sep)	Team up to 19; new programme delivery director. Register for business support and next funding call.	★★★★★	Now
Floating Offshore Wind Conference, Aberdeen (7–8 Oct)	Main floating-wind buyer event of Q4. Salamander, Buchan, Green Volt, Ossian, BW Ideol / Ardersier teams.	★★★★★	Book meetings now
EPL / OGRL timing at Autumn Budget (28 Oct)	Taskforce calls for OGRL in 2027–28; OEUK says 111 projects could be unlocked. Two-scenario bid planning.	★★★★★	Before 28 Oct
Jackdaw / Rosebank consent (Adura)	Consultation closed; decision “as soon as we can”, possibly after Budget. Subsea, topsides, vessels.	★★★	Nov 2026 onwards
Humber hydrogen network (Centrica, Equinor, National Gas, SSE Thermal)	£500m+ first network; £15bn investment claim; Aldbrough storage conversion. Pipeline, compression, storage wells.	★★★	After location decision
NZT Power / Northern Endurance CCS	742 MW gas CCS in construction; contractors building workforce pipeline. CO ₂ pipeline, instrumentation, inspection.	★★★★★	Ongoing

Opportunity	Details	Rating	Action Window
Gwyndod SMR Delivery Partner procurement (24 Sep)	GBE-N Delivery Partner procurement launched; up to £1.4bn contracts. Supplier conference 22–23 Oct.	★★★★	Register before 22 Oct
Morecambe transmission and Morgan re-tender	DCO granted 14 Sep; Morecambe construction 2027; Morgan preferred bidder end 2026. Export cable, substations, landfall.	★★★★★	Q4 2026
Ofgem LDES Window 1 (Coire Glas, Loch Kemp, Earba)	3,900 MW Scottish pumped-storage pipeline awaiting autumn decision. Tunnelling, civils, M&E, HV.	★★★★	Autumn decisions
Deep geothermal (United Downs, York FutureSource)	Rig delivery to York early 2027; Marriott Drilling lead. Drilling, casing, cementing, well integrity.	★★	2027
Tidal and marine survey (Milford Haven, AR8 Pot 4)	Intertek Metoc tidal atlas; AR8 Pot 4 outcome pending. Metocean survey, modelling, ROV.	★★	After AR8 results

Sources Used

- [1] [Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce — King Charles III puts North-east energy transition in spotlight during three visits \(23 Sep 2026\)](#)
- [2] [Press and Journal — Inside GB Energy's new Aberdeen HQ as King Charles hails 'brilliant engineering brains' \(22 Sep 2026\)](#)
- [3] [LabourHome — Michael Shanks hails Aberdeen's role as King opens new scale-up hub \(23 Sep 2026\)](#)
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