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Your essential intelligence briefing on offshore wind, hydrogen, CCUS, decommissioning and marine renewables developments in the global low-carbon energy sector.

Editor's Brief

This week's defining narrative is one of industrial acceleration meeting uncomfortable reality. In the UK, the completion of all 95 turbines at Dogger Bank A[1] and RWE's 1.38 GW turbine order for Norfolk Vanguard West[2] confirm that the AR7 pipeline is translating into physical supply chain mobilisation at unprecedented scale. Across the Atlantic, all five US offshore wind projects halted by the Trump administration are now reporting construction progress, with Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind expecting to deliver first power within weeks.

Yet the week also brought a sobering counterpoint: WindEurope revealed that Europe connected just 2 GW of offshore wind to the grid in 2025 — the lowest figure since 2016[3] — while Technip Energies' CEO publicly described the floating wind market as "much smaller than expected."[4] For North East Scotland supply chain companies, this week crystallises both the opportunity and the risk: the fixed-bottom offshore wind construction pipeline through the late 2020s is now the strongest in a generation, but floating wind timelines remain uncertain and require active policy support to reach commercial scale.

One key number this week: 2 GW

Europe connected only 2 GW of offshore wind to the grid in 2025 — down from 2.6 GW in 2024 and the lowest annual figure since 2016. With 6 GW forecast for 2026 and multiple major projects under construction across the UK, Germany, France and Poland, the delivery gap between ambition and grid connection is the sector's most pressing challenge. For supply chain companies, this means sustained demand for installation, commissioning and grid connection services through the remainder of the decade.[5]

Action for this week:

With the Seaway Alfa Lift now mobilised at Cromarty Firth for Inch Cape jacket installation[6] and Norfolk Vanguard West's turbine order confirmed, the AR7 construction wave is arriving in Scottish waters. Review your supply chain positioning against the Inch Cape, Berwick Bank and ScotWind construction timelines. The F4OR Scotland programme (applications close 6 March) offers direct support for companies seeking to enter or scale within the offshore wind

[1] Offshorewind.biz, 23 Feb 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/02/23/all-wind-turbines-up-at-dogger-bank-a-wtiv-voltaire-en-route-to-dogger-bank-b/

[2] Offshorewind.biz, 23 Feb 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/02/23/vestas-receives-1380-mw-offshore-wind-turbine-order-from-rwe/

[3] WindEurope Statistics, 26 Feb 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/02/26/windeurope-expects-catch-up-effect-in-offshore-wind-as-europe-connects-only-2-gw-to-grid-in-2025/

[4] Reuters, 26 Feb 2026, https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/floating-wind-market-much-smaller-than-expected-technip-chief-says-2026-02-26/

[5] WindEurope Statistics, 26 Feb 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/02/26/windeurope-expects-catch-up-effect-in-offshore-wind-as-europe-connects-only-2-gw-to-grid-in-2025/

[6] Energy Global, 27 Feb 2026, https://www.energyglobal.com/wind/27022026/seaway-alfa-lift-vessel-joins-inch-cape-construction-fleet/

supply chain. Simultaneously, track Germany's Hydrogen Acceleration Act[7] and the Danish Hydrogen Backbone EPCM contract[8] for European hydrogen infrastructure export opportunities.

1. Global Offshore Wind: Construction Surge Meets Grid Reality

1.1 Europe – UK Delivery Milestones and Supply Chain Mobilisation

Dogger Bank A (UK North Sea): All 95 GE Haliade-X 13 MW turbines have now been installed at the 1.2 GW first phase of the world's largest offshore wind farm, operated by SSE Renewables with Equinor and Vårgrønn. The WTIV Voltaire departed Teesport on 22 February and is now en route to Dogger Bank B to commence Phase 2 turbine installation, expected to run through Q2 2027. Full commissioning of Dogger Bank A is anticipated later in 2026.[9]

Norfolk Vanguard West (East Anglia): RWE placed a firm order with Vestas for 92 V236-15.0 MW turbines — the largest commercial offshore wind turbines available — for its 1,380 MW Norfolk Vanguard West project, secured in AR7 at a strike price of £91.20/MWh. FID is targeted for summer 2026 with KKR as 50% partner, and commissioning is expected in 2029. This is part of RWE's 6.9 GW total AR7 portfolio.[10]

Inch Cape (Scotland): The Seaway Alfa Lift — a 245-metre heavy-lift crane vessel with a 3,000-tonne capacity — arrived at the Port of Cromarty Firth in Invergordon to begin mobilisation for Inch Cape's 18 jacket foundations and 54 monopile transition pieces. The 1.1 GW project, located approximately 15 km off the Angus coast, is entering its major marine construction phase.[11]

Scotland's 40 GW Ambition: The Scottish Government's updated Offshore Wind Policy Statement — proposing up to 40 GW of new offshore wind capacity by 2035–2040 — continued to generate industry reaction this week. The Scottish Fishermen's Federation criticised the proposals as "warm words but no action," while industry analysis valued the Scottish offshore wind pipeline at approximately £100 billion in capital investment.[12]

1.2 Europe – Wider Market: Grid Gap and Baltic Progress

WindEurope Annual Statistics: Europe connected only 2 GW of new offshore wind in 2025 — the lowest since 2016 — with the UK accounting for 1,049 MW, Germany 503 MW and France 408 MW. Total installed European offshore wind capacity reached 39 GW. However, WindEurope forecasts a significant catch-up in 2026 with 6 GW expected to connect, supported by projects

[7] Argus Media, 26 Feb 2026, https://www.argusmedia.com/zh/news-and-insights/latest-market-news/2793478-germany-passes-law-to-speed-up-h2-permitting

[8] Worley, 25 Feb 2026, https://www.worley.com/en/insights/our-news/low-carbon-energy/2026/worley-energinet-hydrogen-pipeline-denmark

[9] Offshorewind.biz, 23 Feb 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/02/23/all-wind-turbines-up-at-dogger-bank-a-wtiv-voltaire-en-route-to-dogger-bank-b/

[10] Offshorewind.biz, 23 Feb 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/02/23/vestas-receives-1380-mw-offshore-wind-turbine-order-from-rwe/

[11] Energy Global, 27 Feb 2026, https://www.energyglobal.com/wind/27022026/seaway-alfa-lift-vessel-joins-inch-cape-construction-fleet/

[12] Fishing News, 25 Feb 2026, https://fishingnews.co.uk/uncategorised/scotland-announces-massive-increase-in-offshore-wind/

already under construction across the UK, Germany, Poland and France. Investment committed in 2025 totalled €22.5 billion across 5.4 GW.[13]

Poland – Baltica 2 Construction: Novastar Energy Holdings (UK-registered subsidiary of UAE-based HEA Energy) secured a jack-up vessel contract for Baltica 2, the 1.5 GW PGE/Ørsted offshore wind farm in the Polish Baltic Sea. The 14-month contract covers offshore substation commissioning support as major construction begins in spring 2026.[14]

1.3 Americas – US Projects Race Toward First Power

Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind: Dominion Energy confirmed on 24 February that its 2.6 GW CVOW project — America's largest offshore wind farm at a total cost of $11.5 billion — expects to begin generating electricity before the end of March 2026. Approximately 70% of towers and 30% of blades are fabricated, with turbine installation continuing to July 2027. The project absorbed $228 million in costs from the Trump administration's stop-work order and $137 million in tariff impacts.[15]

Sunrise Wind (New York): Ørsted issued a Notice to Mariners on 23 February confirming that Cadeler's installation vessel Wind Scylla is positioned at Port of New London and will commence turbine installation at the 924 MW project imminently. The project is approximately 45% complete following its construction restart on 2 February.[16]

Vineyard Wind (Massachusetts): Iberdrola declared Vineyard Wind "complete" at its investor day on 25 February, with 60 of 62 turbines installed and 80–85% of the 800 MW project actively exporting electricity to the grid.[17]

New WTIV Delivery: Seatrium delivered a next-generation wind turbine installation vessel to Maersk Offshore Wind on 26 February in Singapore. The vessel features a 1,900-tonne crane with 180-metre hook height, capable of installing 15+ MW turbines. It will deploy to Equinor's 810 MW Empire Wind project off New York in March 2026.[18]

1.4 Asia-Pacific – South Korea Crisis, Philippines Advance

South Korea: The country's offshore wind sector entered crisis as over 6 GW of projects were abandoned or suspended. The 2.37 GW Chuja project lost Korea Midland Power as developer following punitive local benefit-sharing demands; the 1.5 GW Ghost Whale project entered liquidation; Equinor's 750 MW Firefly project was suspended; and the 1.3 GW Boryeong project was delayed by military opposition. These withdrawals threaten the government's 14.3 GW by 2030 target.[19]

Philippines: Seawind Asia secured grid connection agreements for three offshore wind projects totalling 1,650 MW — among the first ever issued for offshore wind in the Philippines. The

[13] WindEurope Statistics, 26 Feb 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/02/26/windeurope-expects-catch-up-effect-in-offshore-wind-as-europe-connects-only-2-gw-to-grid-in-2025/

[14] Offshorewind.biz, 23 Feb 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/02/23/new-owner-of-three-seajacks-jack-ups-nets-contract-for-polish-offshore-wind-farm/

[15] E&E News / Politico, 24 Feb 2026, https://www.eenews.net/articles/after-beating-trump-offshore-wind-project-aims-to-produce-power-next-month/

[16] Offshorewind.biz, 24 Feb 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/02/24/turbine-installation-to-start-at-sunrise-wind-project-site-in-us/

[17] Maritime Executive, 25 Feb 2026, https://maritime-executive.com/article/u-s-offshore-wind-projects-report-progress-after-resuming-offshore-work

[18] Seatrium / Offshorewind.biz, 27 Feb 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/02/27/maersks-wtiv-delivered-ready-for-empire-wind/

[19] Ocean Energy Resources, 21 Feb 2026, https://ocean-energyresources.com/2026/02/21/south-koreas-offshore-wind-sector-is-facing-crisis/

agreements position the portfolio for participation in the country's first dedicated offshore wind auction (GEA-5), offering 3,300 MW with delivery expected 2028–2030.[20]

1.5 Floating Wind – Reality Check

Technip Energies CEO Arnaud Pieton described floating wind demand as "much smaller than expected" and "much lower than imagined only three to five years ago" in a post-earnings call on 26 February, citing high costs and a limited range of commercially viable environments.[21] On the same day, the Global Offshore Wind Alliance (GOWA) and Carbon Trust published a major whitepaper calling for urgent policy intervention to scale floating wind. Only approximately 278 MW is operational globally; GWEC estimates just 19 GW may be realised by 2034 under current conditions, far below the 40+ GW of national targets.[22] Despite this, Renexia deployed a floating LiDAR at its proposed 2.8 GW Med Wind site in the Strait of Sicily — which would be the world's largest floating wind project if realised.[23]

2. Hydrogen Infrastructure: Germany Leads Legislative Breakthrough

Germany dominated hydrogen news this week with two landmark developments. The Bundestag passed the Hydrogen Acceleration Act (Wasserstoffbeschleunigungsgesetz) on 26 February, designating hydrogen production plants, pipelines, import and storage facilities as projects of "overriding public interest" — a legal classification that prioritises hydrogen infrastructure in conflicts with environmental disputes or building regulations and mandates shorter permitting timelines.[24] Separately, the German government boosted Salzgitter AG's green hydrogen steelmaking grant by €322 million, bringing total public support for the SALCOS project to €1.32 billion. Stage 1 includes a 100 MW electrolyser and direct reduction plant targeting operations from 2027.[25]

Danish Hydrogen Backbone: Worley was awarded a 5-year EPCM contract by Energinet Brint to deliver Phase 1 of the Danish Hydrogen Backbone — approximately 41 km of new hydrogen pipeline and conversion of 89 km of existing natural gas pipeline, connecting Esbjerg to the German border at Frøslev. Commissioning is targeted for late 2030.[26]

Humber Hydrogen (UK): A consortium of National Gas, Centrica, Equinor and SSE Thermal submitted a bid for approximately £500 million in UK government funding under the Hydrogen Transport and Storage Business Model to build the UK's first regional hydrogen pipeline and

[20] Offshorewind.biz, 25 Feb 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/02/25/consortium-secures-1-65-gw-of-offshore-wind-grid-connections-in-philippines/

[21] Reuters, 26 Feb 2026, https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/floating-wind-market-much-smaller-than-expected-technip-chief-says-2026-02-26/

[22] GOWA / Carbon Trust Whitepaper, 26 Feb 2026, https://www.enlit.world/library/policy-first-approach-needed-to-scale-floating-offshore-wind

[23] Offshorewind.biz, 24 Feb 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/02/24/renexia-deploys-floating-lidar-at-2-8-gw-med-wind-site/

[24] Argus Media, 26 Feb 2026, https://www.argusmedia.com/zh/news-and-insights/latest-market-news/2793478-germany-passes-law-to-speed-up-h2-permitting

[25] Hydrogen Europe, 23 Feb 2026, https://hydrogeneurope.eu/german-government-boosts-salzgitters-grant-for-green-hydrogen-based-steel-project-by-e322m/

[26] Worley, 25 Feb 2026, https://www.worley.com/en/insights/our-news/low-carbon-energy/2026/worley-energinet-hydrogen-pipeline-denmark

storage network — a 54 km system across Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, targeting operations by 2031.[27]

Austria: The government pledged €100 million for a VERBUND–AustroCel green hydrogen-to-e-methanol project at the Hallein biorefinery in Salzburg. The electrolyser is projected to increase Austria's domestic hydrogen production by approximately 60% by 2030.[28]

Poland: Gaz-System opened public consultations on Poland's first 10-year National Hydrogen Transmission Development Plan (2026–2035), outlining strategic hydrogen pipeline routes connecting Tricity with central, western and southern industrial centres and linking to European hydrogen corridors.[29]

Industry Consolidation: Power2X acquired Netherlands-based hydrogen developer HyCC, consolidating green hydrogen project portfolios in Amsterdam, Delfzijl and Rotterdam.[30] Separately, Norwegian Hydrogen and Swedish transport operator MaserFrakt signed a long-term green hydrogen supply contract for heavy fleet decarbonisation, with deliveries already underway.[31]

Belgium: Regulator CREG published a framework for hydrogen terminals under the EU Hydrogen and Decarbonised Gas Package, recommending negotiated third-party access to support Belgium's ambition as a European hydrogen import and transit hub.[32]

3. Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage: Cement Breakthrough and EU Warning

Air Liquide and Holcim (27 February): The week's most significant CCUS announcement was the signing of a strategic agreement to deploy Air Liquide's Cryocap OXY carbon capture technology at Holcim's Obourg cement plant in Belgium, targeting up to 1.1 million tonnes of CO2 captured per year. Captured emissions will be transported via pipeline to the Antwerp@C hub, then shipped to permanent offshore North Sea storage. This represents one of the largest announced cement-sector CCS projects in Europe.[33]

CCSA/Deloitte Report (26 February): The Carbon Capture and Storage Association and Deloitte published a major report warning that CCUS delays risk both missing EU climate targets and deindustrialising European heavy industry. EU operational CO2 storage stands at just 0.185 Mt/year against a 50 Mt/year target by 2030. The report calls for first-mover projects to reach Final Investment Decision in 2026 and proposes 10 "no-regret" actions to de-risk early projects.[34]

[27] Pipeline Journal, 24 Feb 2026, https://www.pipeline-journal.net/news/energy-giants-bid-ps500m-build-humber-hydrogen-pipeline-network

[28] Hydrogen Europe, 24 Feb 2026, https://hydrogeneurope.eu/austrian-government-promises-e100m-in-funding-for-newly-launched-green-hydrogen-to-methanol-project/

[29] Hydrogen Europe, 23 Feb 2026, https://hydrogeneurope.eu/poland-launches-consultations-for-national-hydrogen-network-plan/

[30] TankTerminals, 24 Feb 2026, https://tankterminals.com/news/power2x-acquires-hydrogen-developer-hycc/

[31] H2TECH, 26 Feb 2026, https://h2-tech.com/news/2026/02-26/maserfrakt-and-norwegian-hydrogen-sign-long-term-agreement-for-delivery-of-green-hydrogen/

[32] Global Hydrogen Hub, 27 Feb 2026, https://globalhydrogenhub.com/report-presentation/belgium-sets-framework-for-hydrogen-terminals-under-eu-hydrogen-package

[33] Euronext / Carbon Herald, 27 Feb 2026, https://carbonherald.com/air-liquide-and-holcim-to-decarbonize-cement-with-carbon-capture-in-belgium/

[34] CCSA, 26 Feb 2026, https://www.ccsassociation.org/news/new-ccsa-report-highlights-opportunities-for-the-eu-to-achieve-climate-targets-and-strengthen-industrial-capacity-through-accelerated-ccus-scale-up/

NSTA Data Access (25 February): The North Sea Transition Authority launched AI-powered free-text search across its National Data Repository, covering 1.1 million+ files and 1.6 petabytes of data. This directly supports the ongoing Second CO2 Storage Licensing Round (applications deadline 24 March 2026) by making geological data more accessible for carbon storage suitability assessment.[35]

E3G/Bellona CCS Ladder (24 February): An updated prioritisation framework confirmed CCS as indispensable for cement and lime production (process emissions with limited alternatives) but of low and declining value for the power sector where renewables outcompete.[36]

Germany's CO2 Storage Act: Taylor Wessing published a detailed analysis of Germany's amended KSpTG, which lifts the effective ban on commercial offshore CO2 storage and classifies CO2 transport infrastructure as "overriding public interest." Onshore storage remains restricted pending federal state opt-in.[37]

4. Decommissioning: Sustained Operational Tempo

AF Offshore Decom (25 February): AF Offshore Decom was awarded a new contract by Heerema Marine Contractors for the onshore reception, dismantling and recycling of a 15,000-tonne North Sea production platform (topside and jacket). The topside and upper jacket will be delivered to AF Environmental Base Vats in 2026, with the remaining jacket section in 2027.[38]

OPRED Programme Approvals: Three decommissioning programmes were approved in February 2026 for Perenco UK Limited, UK North Sea Limited (Shell) and CNR International (UK) Limited, as confirmed by the GOV.UK decommissioning register updated on 26 February.[39]

Active North Sea Operations: FishSAFE notices published during the week confirmed active decommissioning across multiple UK Continental Shelf locations: the OBANA Heavy Lift Vessel was mobilised for jacket removal at Amethyst A1D (23 February); the Edda Freya CSV was contracted for well decommissioning at Grove G5, Seven Seas and Grove Deep in the Southern North Sea (campaign starting March); Perenco UK announced pre-decommissioning preparation at Leman Southwest (27 February); and the DSV Seven Kestrel conducted pre-decommissioning diving operations at Dana Bittern and Gannet E (24 February).[40]

5. Marine Energy: EMEC Investment and Array Testing

EMEC Blue Horizon (widely reported 21–27 February): £15 million was awarded to the European Marine Energy Centre in Orkney under UKRI's Infrastructure Fund for the Blue Horizon programme. This will expand EMEC's tidal test facilities from single-device trials to multi-device

[35] NSTA, 25 Feb 2026, https://www.nstauthority.co.uk/news-publications/data-access-boost-for-carbon-storage-offshore-wind-and-decommissioning/

[36] E3G, 24 Feb 2026, https://www.e3g.org/publications/carbon-capture-and-storage-ladder-2026-update/

[37] Taylor Wessing, 26 Feb 2026, https://www.taylorwessing.com/en/insights-and-events/insights/2026/02/novelle-des-kohlendioxid-speicherungsgesetzes

[38] Ocean Energy Resources, 25 Feb 2026, https://ocean-energyresources.com/2026/02/25/contract-award-for-af-offshore-decom-2/

[39] GOV.UK Decommissioning, updated 26 Feb 2026, https://www.gov.uk/guidance/oil-and-gas-decommissioning-of-offshore-installations-and-pipelines

[40] FishSAFE Notices, 23-27 Feb 2026, https://fishsafe.org/en/news/

array demonstrations — a critical step toward commercial-scale tidal deployment. EMEC Managing Director Matthew Finn stated the investment "will unlock vital infrastructure needed to move from single-device trials to multi-device demonstrations, accelerating the commercialisation of tidal power in the UK."[41]

Leask Marine Vessel Delivery: Damen Shipyards delivered the Multi Cat C-Trojan to Orkney-based Leask Marine on 27 February. The vessel, equipped with DP1 dynamic positioning, supports offshore wind, marine construction, cable landings and tidal energy operations in Scottish waters — a direct fleet capability addition for Scotland's marine energy sector.[42]

6. Policy, Regulation and Market Developments

6.1 UK Policy

Ofgem announced a 7% reduction in the energy price cap to £1,641/year effective 1 April, driven by the removal of approximately £150 in policy costs from bills. A pilot for lower standing charge tariffs will launch in spring 2026 with EDF, E.ON, Octopus and British Gas.[43]

The Committee on Climate Change published its Scotland Progress Report finding "credible plans" for 91% of emissions reductions needed to achieve Scotland's First Carbon Budget (2026–2030). Scotland's territorial emissions are now 51.3% below 1990 levels. The CCC warned, however, that a 'delay and catch-up' approach to building decarbonisation poses supply chain delivery risks in the late 2030s.[44]

Ofgem revealed that approximately 140 data centres with combined demand of 50 GW — exceeding UK peak electricity demand of 45 GW — are in the grid connection queue, prompting a call for input on demand connections reform.[45]

National Gas highlighted the strategic importance of Scotland's St Fergus Gas Terminal (25% of Britain's gas supply) and the SCO2T Connect pipeline linking Grangemouth/Mossmorran to St Fergus for the Acorn CCS project.[46]

6.2 EU Policy

The EU Sustainability Omnibus (Directive 2026/470) was published in the Official Journal on 26 February, entering force 18 March 2026. This significantly narrows CSRD scope from approximately 50,000 to 5,000 companies and delays CSDDD application to July 2029 — reducing near-term sustainability reporting burdens for energy transition companies operating across the EU.[47]

Detailed legal analyses of the Hamburg Declaration were published this week, unpacking the 100 GW cross-border commitment, the Joint Offshore Wind Investment Pact targeting €9.5 billion in

[41] Scottish Business News, 23 Feb 2026, https://scottishbusinessnews.net/orkney-secures-15m-boost-to-expand-tidal-energy-testing-under-uks-150m-research-drive/

[42] MarineLink, 27 Feb 2026, https://www.marinelink.com/news/damen-delivers-multi-cat-vessel-leask-536296

[43] Ofgem, 25 Feb 2026, https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/press-release/energy-price-cap-will-fall-7-april

[44] CCC, 25 Feb 2026, https://www.theccc.org.uk/2026/02/25/scotlands-plan-means-immediate-climate-targets-are-now-within-reach-says-ccc/

[45] The Register, 27 Feb 2026, https://www.theregister.com/2026/02/27/datacenter_uk_grid_demand/

[46] National Gas, 27 Feb 2026, https://www.nationalgas.com/media/news/critical-role-scottish-infrastructure-plays-powering-britain

[47] Inside Energy & Environment, 26 Feb 2026, https://www.insideenergyandenvironment.com/2026/02/eu-csddd-csrd-omnibus-published-in-official-journal-transposition-delegated-acts-and-guidelines-are-next/

European manufacturing capacity by 2030, and the Germany-Denmark Bornholm Energy Island bilateral agreement.[48]

The European Commission's draft Industrial Accelerator Act would introduce "Made in Europe" content requirements for hydrogen and other strategic sector products receiving public funding — significant for electrolyser manufacturing supply chains.

6.3 Scotland and North East Scotland

Port chiefs from Forth Ports, Port of Aberdeen, Haventus, Montrose and Peterhead wrote jointly to DESNZ warning that without adequate public funding and pipeline certainty, current port investments risk becoming stranded assets. The joint letter called for greater policy certainty, streamlined consenting and targeted funding.[49]

The F4OR Scotland programme — the first Scotland-wide Fit For Offshore Renewables programme backed by Crown Estate Scotland and ETZ Ltd — has applications open until 6 March 2026. Up to 10 companies will be selected for the 18-month supply chain development programme.

UK's first deep geothermal plant: Geothermal Engineering Ltd switched on the UK's first deep geothermal power plant at United Downs, Cornwall on 26 February. The 3 MWe baseload facility also produces the UK's first commercial-scale lithium carbonate (100 tonnes/year, scaling to 18,000 tpa). While geographically distant from North East Scotland, this demonstrates the commercial viability of baseload renewable generation from geological resources and the CfD framework's ability to support emerging clean energy technologies.[50]

6.4 Investment and Finance

EDF priced a €2.75 billion senior green bond in four tranches, with over €1.5 billion earmarked for Hinkley Point C. The book reached €11 billion (4x oversubscribed), reflecting strong institutional appetite for low-carbon energy infrastructure financing.[51]

The Net Zero Asset Managers initiative relaunched with 250+ signatories and USD 3.7 trillion in asset-owner endorsement, signalling continued institutional commitment to climate-aligned investing despite the withdrawal of major US firms.[52]

In the US, the DOE approved a $26.5 billion loan to Southern Company while Virginia rejoined the RGGI carbon cap-and-trade system.[53]

7. Supply Chain Opportunities and Implications for North East Scotland

[48] Taylor Wessing Hamburg Declaration Analysis, 26 Feb 2026, https://www.taylorwessing.com/en/insights-and-events/insights/2026/02/ergebnisse-des-3-north-sea-summit

[49] Addleshaw Goddard / The Herald, 23 Feb 2026, https://www.addleshawgoddard.com/en/insights/insights-briefings/2026/transport/scotlands-ports-power-economy-ambition-matched-action/

[50] Sky News, 26 Feb 2026, https://news.sky.com/story/uks-first-deep-geothermal-electricity-plant-switches-on-13512396

[51] EDF / Euronext, 26 Feb 2026, https://live.euronext.com/en/products/equities/company-news/2026-02-26-edf-edf-announces-success-its-senior-green-multi-tranche

[52] NZAM, 25 Feb 2026, https://www.netzeroassetmanagers.org/net-zero-asset-managers-initiative-relaunches-with-global-investor-backing-and-updated-commitment/

[53] LCV, 27 Feb 2026, https://www.lcv.org/media-center/this-week-in-climate-action-february-27-2026/

The convergence of this week's developments points to five priority areas for North East Scotland supply chain companies:

- **Fixed-bottom offshore wind construction:** The Seaway Alfa Lift at Cromarty Firth, Dogger Bank A completion, and Norfolk Vanguard West turbine order confirm the AR7 construction wave is mobilising. Companies with fabrication, installation, marine logistics, commissioning and O&M capabilities should be mapping their capacity against the 2026–2029 project timeline.
- **European hydrogen infrastructure:** Germany's Hydrogen Acceleration Act, the Danish Backbone EPCM award to Worley, and the Humber hydrogen pipeline bid create a pipeline of engineering, procurement and construction opportunities for companies with pipeline, compression, storage and process engineering capabilities — directly transferable from North Sea oil and gas experience.
- **CCUS value chain:** The NSTA's enhanced data access for carbon storage assessment, Germany's removal of its CCS ban, and the Air Liquide–Holcim cement CCS project all expand the addressable market for subsea, pipeline, geological and monitoring expertise. NSTA's Second CO2 Storage Licensing Round applications close 24 March 2026.
- **Decommissioning:** Sustained operational activity across the UK North Sea — from platform removal at Amethyst A1D to well P&A campaigns in the Southern North Sea — continues to drive demand for heavy-lift, diving, well intervention, and onshore recycling capabilities. Three new OPRED programme approvals maintain the regulatory pipeline.
- **Marine energy and tidal:** EMEC's £15 million Blue Horizon investment and the delivery of Leask Marine's C-Trojan vessel strengthen Orkney's position as the global centre for tidal energy demonstration and the Scottish supply chain's ability to serve this emerging market.

8. Feature: The Grid Connection Gap – Why Europe's Biggest Offshore Wind Challenge Is Now Onshore

WindEurope's annual statistics, released on 26 February, confirmed what many in the sector had feared: Europe connected just 2 GW of offshore wind to the grid in 2025 — the lowest annual figure since 2016 — despite a nominal installed capacity of 39 GW.[54] This disconnect between the volume of offshore wind under construction and the capacity actually delivering electricity to consumers has become the sector's most critical bottleneck.

The causes are structural rather than cyclical. Grid connection infrastructure — offshore substations, export cables, onshore converter stations and transmission upgrades — requires lead times of 5–8 years, yet in many cases these timelines have not kept pace with offshore construction schedules. In the UK, Ofgem's demand connections reform call revealed 125 GW of contracted offers in the demand queue, up from 41 GW in November 2024, with approximately 140 data centres alone requesting 50 GW of connection capacity.[55]

For North East Scotland supply chain companies, this creates a paradox: the physical construction pipeline is the strongest in a generation, but the rate at which new capacity translates into operational revenue — and therefore O&M and service contracts — depends on solving onshore

[54] WindEurope Statistics, 26 Feb 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/02/26/windeurope-expects-catch-up-effect-in-offshore-wind-as-europe-connects-only-2-gw-to-grid-in-2025/

[55] The Register, 27 Feb 2026, https://www.theregister.com/2026/02/27/datacenter_uk_grid_demand/

grid constraints. WindEurope's forecast of 6 GW connecting in 2026 suggests a significant catch-up is expected, but achieving the 73 GW offshore target by 2030 will require sustained grid investment and regulatory reform.

The Hamburg Declaration's commitment to cross-border hybrid offshore wind projects adds a further dimension. Taylor Wessing's analysis published this week noted that delivering 100 GW of jointly connected capacity requires not only offshore engineering but coordinated grid planning across multiple national jurisdictions — an entirely new class of infrastructure challenge.[56]

The strategic implication for supply chain companies is clear: those that can offer integrated grid connection, cable installation, substation engineering and onshore electrical infrastructure alongside traditional offshore wind services will be positioned for premium roles in the next decade of the energy transition.

9. Events, Resources and Forward Look

- **F4OR Scotland Programme** – Applications close 6 March 2026. Up to 10 Scottish companies selected for 18-month offshore wind supply chain programme (ORE Catapult / Crown Estate Scotland / ETZ Ltd).
- **NSTA Second CO2 Storage Licensing Round** – Applications deadline 24 March 2026. Enhanced NDR data access now available.
- **Poland Hydrogen Network Consultation** – Responses due 13 March 2026 (Gaz-System).
- **OPRED Fee Consultation** – Responses due 13 March 2026 on revised decommissioning and environmental hourly rates.
- **Global Offshore Wind 2026** – Manchester Central, 16–17 June 2026.

Next week's anticipated coverage: Norfolk Vanguard West FID progress; Inch Cape marine construction commencement; NSTA CO2 storage licensing round updates; further Hamburg Declaration implementation analysis; UK Budget 2026 implications for energy transition investment.

Conclusion

The week ending 27 February 2026 reinforces a central theme of this year's energy transition: the gap between ambition and execution is narrowing in some areas and widening in others. Fixed-bottom offshore wind construction is accelerating at a pace unseen in European history, with AR7 projects mobilising across UK waters and all five US projects progressing despite unprecedented political interference. Hydrogen infrastructure is moving from strategy to legislation, with Germany's Acceleration Act and the Danish Backbone contract representing tangible supply chain opportunities. CCUS is gaining commercial traction in hard-to-abate sectors, particularly cement.

[56] Taylor Wessing Hamburg Declaration Analysis, 26 Feb 2026, https://www.taylorwessing.com/en/insights-and-events/insights/2026/02/ergebnisse-des-3-north-sea-summit

Yet the challenges are equally real. Europe's grid connection bottleneck risks delaying the operational revenue that underpins long-term supply chain investment. Floating wind remains commercially unproven at scale despite substantial pipeline ambitions. South Korea's project abandonments demonstrate how quickly investor confidence can evaporate where permitting, costs and local opposition converge.

For North East Scotland, the message is focused: the fixed-bottom construction pipeline is here, the hydrogen infrastructure pipeline is materialising, and decommissioning continues to provide a steady underpinning of demand. Companies that combine offshore engineering heritage with capabilities in grid integration, hydrogen systems and CCUS engineering will be best positioned for the next decade of opportunity.

Editor's Note

Energy Transition Weekly Global Edition is published weekly for companies and supply chain professionals exploring global market opportunities in offshore wind, hydrogen, CCUS, decommissioning and marine renewables. Content covers developments from the preceding seven days only. We welcome feedback, story suggestions, contract win announcements and intelligence on supply chain developments.

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