

# The North Sea Investment Pact

Opportunities for North East Scotland  
Energy Supply Chains

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GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

**Europe / North Sea**

FOR

**NE Scotland Energy Supply  
Chains**

INVESTMENT SCALE

**€1 Trillion**

# Executive Summary

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The North Sea Investment Pact, formally known as the “Offshore Wind Investment Pact for the North Seas,” represents a transformational agreement signed at the North Sea Summit in Hamburg on 25-26 January 2026. The landmark pact brings together nine North Sea countries - Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, and the United Kingdom - to coordinate the largest offshore wind expansion in European history<sup>1</sup>.

Representing a historic commitment to transform the North Sea from a hydrocarbon basin into the world’s largest clean energy reservoir, the agreement’s coordination of €1 trillion in investment, 91,000 jobs created , and 15 GW annual deployment over 2031-2040 creates unprecedented opportunities for regional supply chains.

However, success is not guaranteed. North East Scotland faces competition from other regions, requires continued infrastructure investment, must address skills gaps, and needs supportive policy frameworks. The window for establishing competitive position is time-limited - infrastructure and capability decisions made in 2026-2028 will determine which regions capture the manufacturing and service opportunities of the 2030s.

This report examines the background, detailed provisions, and strategic implications of the North Sea Investment Pact, with specific focus on opportunities for North East Scotland energy supply chain companies in offshore wind manufacturing, port infrastructure, and service provision.

Strategic recommendations are delivered for:

- North East Scotland energy supply chain companies
- Business development professionals
- Regional development agencies

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As always, comments and feedback are very welcome.

[Dr Jim Hamill](#)

# 1. Background to the North Sea Investment Pact

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## 1.1 Historical Context

The North Sea has served as Europe's energy backbone for over five decades, with Scotland's oil and gas industry headquartered in Aberdeen playing a pivotal role in extracting hydrocarbon resources. However, North Sea oil and gas production has been in natural decline, with a 75% reduction between 1999 and 2024<sup>3</sup>.

This decline has resulted in over 70,000 job losses in the North Sea oil and gas sector between 2016 and 2023<sup>3</sup>.

Simultaneously, offshore wind has emerged as a European success story, with 37 GW installed across 13 countries, representing more than 6,000 turbines providing homegrown, clean electricity at scale<sup>2</sup>. Scotland has positioned itself as a global leader in this transition, particularly in floating offshore wind technology, with the world's first floating wind farm (Hywind Scotland) and the world's largest (Kincardine) already operational<sup>4</sup>.

## 1.2 The Policy Drivers

Several key policy frameworks and initiatives laid the groundwork for the North Sea Investment Pact:

- **The North Sea Transition Deal (2021):** A UK Government agreement with the oil and gas sector aimed at supporting 40,000 supply chain jobs by 2030 through investment in carbon capture, hydrogen production, and offshore electrification<sup>5</sup>
- **ScotWind Leasing Round (2022):** Scotland's largest offshore wind leasing round awarded exclusivity for approximately 25 GW of capacity, with initial supply chain commitments indicating £1.2 billion investment per gigawatt built<sup>6</sup>
- **INTOG Leasing Round (2023):** Innovation and Targeted Oil & Gas leasing process designed to reduce emissions from North Sea oil and gas operations through offshore wind electrification and support innovative floating wind projects<sup>7</sup>
- **AR7 Auction Success (January 2026):** Europe's largest ever offshore wind auction secured 8.4 GW capacity, including Scottish projects Berwick Bank (1.4 GW) and Pentland (92.5 MW), marking Scotland's first positive auction results in three years<sup>3</sup>

## 1.3 Challenges Addressed

Prior to the Investment Pact, offshore wind deployment faced significant challenges:

- Sub-optimal auction design creating revenue uncertainty
- Increased costs of capital reducing project viability
- Lack of visibility for supply chain due to uncertain project pipelines
- Insufficient coordination between North Sea countries
- Regulatory obstacles to Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)
- Inconsistent support mechanisms across European markets

The North Sea Investment Pact was designed to address these challenges head-on through coordinated government action, industry commitments, and transmission system operator cooperation<sup>2</sup>.

## 2. Overview of the North Sea Investment Pact

### 2.1 Governance Structure

The Pact is underpinned by three interconnected declarations<sup>2</sup>:

- Heads of State Declaration: Strategic commitment from seven Heads of State and Government
- Energy Minister Declaration: Operational commitments from Energy Ministers of all nine participating countries
- Industry Declaration: Signed by more than 100 offshore wind companies across the value chain

Work is coordinated through the North Seas Energy Cooperation (NSEC) High-level Group, with the European Commission serving as co-President<sup>8</sup>. This long-established regional forum provides proven experience in cross-border cooperation on offshore renewables.

### 2.2 Government Commitments

Governments pledged to provide planning and investment security and de-risk offshore wind projects through several key mechanisms<sup>29</sup>:

#### Two-Sided Contracts for Difference (CfDs)

The Pact commits governments to provide two-sided CfDs as the standard for offshore wind auction design. Two-sided CfDs unlock investments and reduce financing costs by providing visibility on revenue. When wholesale electricity prices fall below the strike price, generators receive top-up payments; when prices exceed the strike price, generators pay back the difference<sup>9</sup>.

#### Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) Support

Governments agreed to remove any regulatory obstacles to PPAs - direct agreements between electricity producers and corporate end-consumers. This enables offshore wind developers to secure long-term revenue contracts with industrial consumers<sup>9</sup>.

#### Coordinated Deployment Pathway

Crucially, governments commit to a coordinated and steady buildout of offshore wind across the North Seas. They will contribute towards Europe collectively deploying 15 GW of offshore wind annually over 2031-2040<sup>2</sup>. This steady pipeline provides the confidence needed for investment in new manufacturing capacity, port infrastructure, and vessels.

#### Long-Term Target

The participating countries confirmed their long-term ambition to build 300 GW of offshore wind capacity in the North Seas by 2050, with an intermediate target of 100 GW through joint offshore wind projects<sup>310</sup>.

### 2.3 Industry Commitments

Europe's offshore wind industry made reciprocal pledges to create value and reduce costs<sup>29</sup>:

*Table 1: Industry commitments under the North Sea Investment Pact*

Commitment	Details
Cost Reduction	30% reduction in offshore wind costs by 2040 compared to 2025 levels, driven by scale effects, lower capital costs, and industrialisation
Economic Activity	Mobilise €1 trillion of economic activity for Europe over the investment period
Job Creation	Create 91,000 additional jobs across the offshore wind value chain
Value Chain Investment	Invest €9.5 billion in manufacturing, port infrastructure, and vessels by 2030
Consumer Value	Create lasting value for the economy, communities, and consumers through reduced energy costs

## 2.4 Transmission System Operator (TSO) Commitments

Transmission system operators agreed to identify and develop cost-effective cross-border cooperation projects<sup>29</sup>:

- Identify 20 GW of economically promising cross-border projects by 2027 for deployment in the 2030s
- Develop hybrid offshore projects combining electricity production and interconnection
- Create projects in one country connected to another country via Multi-Purpose Interconnectors (MPIs)
- Develop cost-sharing principles for cooperation projects
- Coordinate planning and financing of cross-border offshore infrastructure

These interconnections have already delivered significant value, saving British consumers £1.6 billion since 2023 by balancing supply and demand across different time zones<sup>11</sup>.

## 2.5 Financial Architecture

The Investment Pact aims to mobilise approximately €1 trillion in investment through<sup>2</sup>:

- Private sector investment in offshore wind projects (largest component)
- Government support through CfD mechanisms and infrastructure funding
- Industry investment in manufacturing and port facilities (€9.5 billion committed)
- TSO investment in grid connections and cross-border infrastructure
- European Union funding programmes supporting clean energy transition

This represents one of the largest coordinated infrastructure investments in European history, comparable in scale to post-war reconstruction programmes.

## 3. UK and Scottish Context

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### 3.1 UK Government Response

The UK government has aligned multiple policy initiatives with the North Sea Investment Pact:

#### North Sea Future Board

On 29 January 2026, the UK government launched the North Sea Future Board in Aberdeen, chaired by UK Energy Minister Michael Shanks. The Board brings together industry bodies from oil, gas, and clean energy sectors, trade unions, and local leaders to drive forward the North Sea Future Plan<sup>3</sup>.

The Board's key responsibilities include<sup>3</sup>:

- Driving investment in all North Sea regions
- Unblocking barriers to delivering a clean energy transition
- Supporting the highly skilled oil and gas workforce
- Identifying new supply chain opportunities

#### AR7 Auction Success

The January 2026 Allocation Round 7 auction delivered record results for the UK<sup>312</sup>:

- 8.4 GW total capacity awarded—Europe's largest ever offshore wind auction
- Five fixed-foundation projects (8.25 GW) at £91/MWh strike price
- Two floating projects (192.5 MW) at £216/MWh strike price
- Scottish projects: Berwick Bank B (1.4 GW) and Pentland (92.5 MW)
- Estimated support for over 5,600 high-skilled jobs in Scotland

#### Clean Industry Bonus

The UK government introduced the Clean Industry Bonus, a financial incentive designed to encourage offshore wind developers to invest in sustainable supply chains, UK manufacturing, and local jobs<sup>11</sup>. This mechanism provides additional revenue for projects that meet specific local content and supply chain criteria.

### 3.2 Scottish Government Alignment

The Scottish Government has positioned Scotland to capitalise on the North Sea Investment Pact through several strategic initiatives:

- £500 million strategic investment expected to leverage additional £1.5 billion private investment into offshore wind supply chain<sup>13</sup>
- £150 million announced in Scottish Budget 2025-2026 specifically for offshore wind sector development<sup>14</sup>
- £55.7 million UK government grant to Port of Cromarty Firth for floating offshore wind manufacturing infrastructure<sup>15</sup>
- £20 million partnership between Scottish Enterprise and Energy Transition Zone Ltd to support Aberdeen's net zero ambitions<sup>16</sup>

### 3.3 Great British Energy (GBE) Aberdeen Headquarters

In February 2026, Great British Energy confirmed Aberdeen as its permanent headquarters location<sup>17</sup>. The new HQ will host GBE's main corporate functions, supply chain activities, and major development projects including deep-water offshore wind. This decision recognises Aberdeen's world-class energy sector expertise and strategic positioning for the offshore wind transition.

### 3.4 Strategic Investment Model (SIM)

The Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council (SOWEC) developed the Strategic Investment Model, a collaborative framework bringing together offshore wind developers, port operators, and supply chain companies to coordinate investment in infrastructure and capabilities<sup>18</sup>. The SIM process has successfully completed Stage 2, establishing a transition plan for maximising Scottish supply chain participation.

### 3.5 Scotland's Offshore Wind Pipeline

Scotland now possesses one of the world's most substantial offshore wind pipelines with estimated investment exceeding £40 billion and potential support for over 60,000 clean energy jobs in Scotland by 2030<sup>319</sup>.

Table 2: Scotland's offshore wind development pipeline (2026)

Category	Capacity (GW)	Key Projects
Operational	~2.5	Beatrice, Moray East, Seagreen Phase 1
Under Construction	~2.0	Seagreen Phase 2, Moray West
ScotWind Projects	~25.0	Berwick Bank (4.1 GW), MarramWind (3.0 GW), multiple others
INTOG Projects	~4.7	Green Volt, Cenos, others targeting O&G electrification
Other Development	~6.3	Positioning Scotland in top 10 global offshore wind markets

This pipeline represents estimated investment exceeding £40 billion and potential support for over 60,000 clean energy jobs in Scotland by 2030<sup>319</sup>.

## 4. Implications for North East Scotland Supply Chains

### 4.1 The North East Scotland Opportunity

North East Scotland, centred on Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, is uniquely positioned to benefit from the North Sea Investment Pact due to several competitive advantages:

#### Existing Capabilities

- Over 50 years of offshore energy expertise in oil and gas operations
- World-class supply chain with proven capability in complex offshore projects
- Established infrastructure including port facilities, fabrication yards, and logistics networks
- Highly skilled workforce with directly transferable competencies
- Global hub status with international business connections and export experience

#### Strategic Location

- Proximity to major offshore wind development sites in the North Sea
- Access to deep water ports suitable for large-scale offshore wind components
- Central position relative to ScotWind floating wind sites
- Connectivity to European markets and supply chains

#### Recent Infrastructure Investment

- Port of Aberdeen: £420 million investment in South Harbour expansion, with additional £25 million capital dredge supporting major offshore wind projects<sup>20</sup>
- Energy Transition Zone (ETZ): Development of manufacturing hub south of Aberdeen capable of supporting floating wind supply chain with potential for 100+ jobs in initial facilities<sup>21</sup>
- Port of Cromarty Firth: £55.7 million government grant enabling UK's first port-side floating offshore wind turbine manufacturing at scale, operational by 2028<sup>15</sup>

### 4.2 Supply Chain Opportunities by Sector

#### Floating Offshore Wind Manufacturing

Scotland is a global leader in floating offshore wind deployment, and the North East is positioned to become a manufacturing center<sup>422</sup>:

##### Substructure Fabrication:

- Floating foundations (semi-submersible, spar, tension-leg platforms)
- Steel and concrete hull manufacturing
- Assembly and integration facilities
- Estimated value: £500-800 million per GW of floating capacity

The Cromarty and Moray Firths have been identified as the most suitable locations in Scotland for platform fabrication and manufacture, with existing infrastructure and technical capability for serial manufacturing<sup>22</sup>.

##### Mooring Systems:

- Specialist mooring equipment design and manufacture

- Chain and synthetic rope systems
- Anchoring solutions for various seabed conditions

Example: Mooreast, a Singapore-based mooring systems specialist, signed a cooperation agreement with ETZ Aberdeen in 2023 to establish manufacturing facilities targeting Scottish offshore wind projects with capacity for up to 100 jobs<sup>21</sup>.

#### Dynamic Cables:

- Inter-array cables connecting floating turbines
- Export cables with dynamic sections
- Specialist installation and connection equipment

### Fixed-Bottom Offshore Wind Supply Chain

North East Scotland companies can target multiple components of fixed-bottom offshore wind projects<sup>23</sup>:

Table 3: Fixed-bottom offshore wind supply chain opportunities

Component	Opportunities for North East Scotland
Foundations	Monopile fabrication, jacket structures, transition pieces, grouting systems
Substations	Offshore substation platforms, topside modules, electrical equipment
Cables	Inter-array and export cable supply, cable protection systems, installation vessels
Installation	Jack-up vessels, heavy lift operations, marine coordination, survey services
Commissioning	Electrical testing, mechanical completion, project management

Recent milestone: Port of Nigg (Cromarty Firth) has successfully completed marshalling for major projects including Beatrice, Moray East (Deme jacket foundations, Vestas turbines), and Seagreen (Subsea 7 jacket foundations)<sup>22</sup>.

### Operations and Maintenance (O&M)

With Scotland's operational and under-construction capacity exceeding 4.5 GW and the pipeline reaching 40.5 GW, long-term O&M presents sustained opportunities:

- Port of Aberdeen already serves as O&M base for two operational wind farms, handling approximately 700 offshore wind vessels annually<sup>20</sup>
- Crew transfer vessel operations and personnel logistics
- Major component exchange and repair facilities
- Predictive maintenance and condition monitoring services
- Spare parts supply and inventory management
- Emergency response and specialist technical services

O&M typically represents 25-30% of levelised cost of energy over project lifetime, creating sustained 20-25 year revenue opportunities.

### Port Infrastructure and Services

Scottish ports are forming strategic alliances to optimize offshore wind opportunities. The Scottish Offshore Wind Ports Alliance (SOWPA), launched in 2024, brings together leading infrastructure facilities to enhance regional competitiveness<sup>24</sup>:

#### Port of Aberdeen capabilities[20]:

- Fixed assembly and floating integration support

- Major component exchange facilities
- 700+ offshore wind vessel movements annually
- Recent £420 million South Harbour expansion
- £25 million capital dredge for deeper access

#### **Cromarty Firth ports (Invergordon and Nigg)[22]:**

- Largest commercial port in Scottish Highlands
- Deepest and most sheltered ports in the country
- £110 million infrastructure investment for offshore wind
- Large fabrication and assembly facilities
- Proven track record in major offshore wind project marshalling

#### **Subsea and Underwater Services**

North East Scotland's underwater hub expertise, developed through decades of North Sea oil and gas operations, transfers directly to offshore wind:

- ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) services for cable installation and inspection
- Diving services for shallow water work
- Subsea engineering and project management
- Geophysical and geotechnical surveys
- Seabed preparation and boulder clearance
- Scour protection installation

The UK government provided £7 million funding to the Global Underwater Hub to support sector transition<sup>5</sup>.

#### **Innovation and Targeted Oil & Gas (INTOG) Projects**

INTOG represents a unique opportunity for North East Scotland supply chain to support oil and gas platform electrification using offshore wind<sup>25</sup>:

- Green Volt and Cenos projects awarded exclusivity for O&G electrification
- Floating wind farms providing renewable power directly to oil and gas platforms
- Up to 85% reduction in platform emissions from electricity generation
- Significant contributor to North Sea Transition Deal goal of halving offshore emissions by 2030
- Smaller-scale projects (typically under 500 MW) suitable for regional supply chain

This creates a bridge opportunity—allowing North East Scotland companies to transition capabilities while continuing to serve existing oil and gas clients.

### **4.3 Skills Transition and Workforce Development**

#### **Transferable Skills Analysis**

Research shows strong correlation between oil and gas sector capabilities and offshore wind requirements<sup>26</sup>:

*Table 4: Skills transferability from oil and gas to offshore wind*

Oil & Gas Skill	Offshore Wind Application
Offshore installation	Foundation and turbine installation

Oil & Gas Skill	Offshore Wind Application
Subsea engineering	Cable installation and protection
Project management	Offshore wind farm development
Marine coordination	Construction logistics
Heavy lift operations	Component installation
Fabrication and welding	Foundation and platform manufacture
Electrical engineering	Grid connection and substations
HSE management	Offshore wind safety systems

Particularly strong alignment exists between oil and gas capabilities and floating offshore wind, where many components (floating platforms, mooring systems, subsea connections) closely resemble offshore oil and gas infrastructure<sup>26</sup>.

### Skills Development Initiatives

#### Offshore Wind Skills Plan 2026-27<sup>[27]</sup>:

- Level 5 Engineering Foundation Apprenticeship
- ‘Work Ready’ programmes specifically for offshore wind sector
- Reskilling pathways for oil and gas workers
- Apprenticeship programmes in renewable energy

#### F4OR (Fit For Offshore Renewables) Programme<sup>[28]</sup>:

- First Scotland-wide supply chain support programme launched February 2026
- 18-month programme for up to 10 companies
- Funded by Crown Estate Scotland and ETZ Ltd
- Targets companies transitioning from oil & gas or entering offshore wind
- Provides evaluation of capabilities, project management, financial stability, and market readiness

Example success: Balmoral Comtec (Aberdeen-based) completed F4OR programme and achieved ‘Granted’ status, signifying readiness to win renewables sector work<sup>28</sup>.

## 4.4 Investment and Economic Impact Projections

### Direct Investment

The combination of the North Sea Investment Pact and Scottish offshore wind pipeline is expected to drive substantial investment in North East Scotland:

- ScotWind projects: Average £1.2 billion investment per GW in Scotland (total £30 billion across 25 GW)<sup>6</sup>
- Port infrastructure: £500+ million in regional port upgrades and expansions already committed or underway<sup>1520</sup>
- Manufacturing facilities: £200-400 million in floating wind manufacturing capacity at Cromarty Firth and other locations<sup>1522</sup>
- Supply chain: Industry committed €9.5 billion Europe-wide investment in value chain, with Scotland positioned to capture significant share<sup>2</sup>

### Economic Multiplier Effects

- Direct jobs in offshore wind project delivery and manufacturing
- Indirect jobs in supply chain companies providing components and services
- Induced jobs in local economy from workforce spending
- Business rates and tax revenues for local authorities
- Property and commercial real estate demand

Scottish Government projections: Up to 60,000 clean energy jobs in Scotland by 2030, representing a 40,000 increase from 2023 levels<sup>3</sup>.

### Export Opportunities

- European markets: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway (North Sea Investment Pact signatories)
- Emerging markets: Celtic Sea (England and Wales), Baltic Sea, Mediterranean floating wind
- Global expansion: Asia-Pacific (Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Australia), United States East Coast

The North Sea Transition Deal established a supply chain champion role to coordinate activities across UK Export Finance and other exporting bodies to maximize international opportunities<sup>5</sup>.

## 4.5 Challenges and Risk Factors

### Competition for Investment

North East Scotland faces competition from other UK and European regions:

- Teesside and Humberside (England) offering similar capabilities and competing for manufacturing investment
- European ports in Denmark, Netherlands, and Germany with established offshore wind infrastructure
- Lower-cost manufacturing locations in Eastern Europe and Asia

Success requires differentiation based on proximity to projects, technical expertise, and speed to market.

### Timing and Coordination Challenges

- Infrastructure investment must align with project Final Investment Decisions (FIDs)
- Risk of capacity oversupply if multiple regions over-invest simultaneously
- Risk of capacity shortage if infrastructure development lags project needs
- Grid connection constraints potentially delaying project commissioning

The Strategic Investment Model (SIM) process aims to address coordination challenges through collaborative planning<sup>18</sup>.

### Skills Availability

Despite transferable capabilities, specific skills gaps exist:

- Composite materials expertise for turbine blade manufacturing and repair
- Power electronics and grid integration specialists
- Floating wind-specific engineering (limited global experience base)
- Installation vessel crews trained in offshore wind procedures

Workforce development programmes must accelerate to meet 2028-2032 peak construction period demands.

## Policy and Regulatory Risks

- Changes to UK Energy Profits Levy affecting investment decisions—harbour boss revealed over £2 billion North Sea investment on hold due to windfall tax concerns<sup>29</sup>
- Auction mechanism design affecting project viability and supply chain commitments
- Planning and consenting delays impacting project timelines
- Grid connection charging and access arrangements

The North Sea Future Board is tasked with “unblocking barriers” to address these challenges<sup>3</sup>.

## 5. Strategic Recommendations for NES Supply Chains

### For Individual Companies

#### Assessment and Positioning:

- Conduct capability assessment against offshore wind requirements
- Identify specific components and services aligned with company strengths
- Engage with F4OR programme or similar supply chain readiness initiatives<sup>28</sup>
- Develop clear value proposition differentiating from competitors

#### Investment and Certification:

- Invest in required certifications (e.g., ISO 9001, ISO 45001, ISO 14001)
- Upgrade facilities and equipment for offshore wind specifications
- Consider joint ventures with European partners for market access
- Pursue track record through early involvement in demonstration projects

#### Market Engagement:

- Attend offshore wind industry events and conferences
- Register with developer procurement databases
- Engage directly with Tier 1 contractors and developers
- Participate in Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council (SOWEC) activities
- Join relevant industry associations (Scottish Renewables, RenewableUK, etc.)

You can leverage Perplexity AI Spaces for supporting the above.

### For Business Development Professionals

#### Market Intelligence:

- Monitor SOWEC Developer Milestone Map for project timelines and opportunities<sup>30</sup>
- Track CfD auction results and project Final Investment Decisions
- Understand developer Supply Chain Development Statement (SCDS) commitments
- Map Tier 1 contractor preferences and procurement processes

#### Relationship Building:

- Develop relationships with project developers active in Scotland (SSE Renewables, ScottishPower, bp/EnBW, Shell, etc.)
- Engage with Great British Energy Aberdeen office for supply chain opportunities<sup>17</sup>
- Connect with Energy Transition Zone Ltd for manufacturing hub opportunities<sup>21</sup>
- Build partnerships with complementary capability companies

#### Export Strategy:

- Leverage Scottish project experience as reference for European markets

- Engage with Scottish Development International (SDI) for export support
- Target North Sea Investment Pact signatory countries for expansion
- Consider establishing European subsidiaries or partnerships

Build Export Marketing Intelligence Hubs using Perplexity AI Spaces.

## For Regional Development Agencies

### Coordinated Investment:

- Continue Strategic Investment Model collaborative approach
- Align port infrastructure investment with developer project timelines
- Support manufacturing facility development through grants and land provision
- Coordinate skills development programmes with industry needs

### Cluster Development:

- Foster collaborative networks through Scottish Offshore Wind Ports Alliance<sup>24</sup>
- Support innovation and demonstration projects
- Facilitate knowledge transfer from oil & gas to offshore wind
- Create physical cluster facilities (e.g., Energy Transition Zone) for co-location benefits

### Marketing and Positioning:

- Promote North East Scotland's competitive advantages internationally
- Develop targeted investment attraction campaigns
- Showcase successful transitions and case studies
- Participate in international trade missions and exhibitions

Leverage Perplexity AI Spaces to provide strategic advice to supply chain companies.

## 6. Conclusion

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The North Sea Investment Pact represents a historic commitment to transform the North Sea from a hydrocarbon basin into the world's largest clean energy reservoir. The agreement's coordination of €1 trillion in investment, 91,000 jobs, and 15 GW annual deployment over 2031-2040 creates unprecedented opportunities for regional supply chains.

North East Scotland stands at a pivotal juncture. The region possesses world-class offshore energy expertise, established infrastructure, and strategic location advantages. The combination of Scotland's 40.5 GW offshore wind pipeline, the UK's record AR7 auction success, and the North Sea Investment Pact's coordinated European buildout creates a multi-decade opportunity for companies willing to transition and invest.

However, success is not guaranteed. North East Scotland faces competition from other regions, requires continued infrastructure investment, must address skills gaps, and needs supportive policy frameworks. The window for establishing competitive position is time-limited—infrastructure and capability decisions made in 2026-2028 will determine which regions capture the manufacturing and service opportunities of the 2030s.

For business development professionals supporting North East Scotland companies, the priority is clear: facilitate rapid assessment, positioning, and market entry to ensure the region secures its fair share of the North Sea Investment Pact opportunity. The transition from oil and gas to offshore wind is not merely a possibility—it is an economic imperative that will define the region's prosperity for generations to come.

The North Sea powered the UK's economy through hydrocarbon production for five decades. With the right strategic choices and coordinated action, the North Sea Investment Pact ensures it will continue powering Europe through clean offshore wind for the next fifty years—and North East Scotland can lead that transformation.

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