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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

The Strait of Hormuz crisis is the defining macro event of this week. On 28 February, US and Israeli military strikes began against Iran; by 2 March, Iran's Revolutionary Guard had closed the Strait of Hormuz to all shipping, and Qatar Energy — operator of the world's largest LNG facility — declared force majeure[1]. European TTF gas prices surged approximately 70% in a single week to a three-year peak of €65.79/MWh[2]. Brent crude jumped 15% to $83/bbl, with analysts warning of $100+ if the blockade persists[3]. Energy infrastructure was struck in at least six countries — an unprecedented escalation that has transformed the abstract concept of "energy security" into a lived crisis for European markets[4].

Yet delivery is accelerating. On 3 March, the first GE Haliade-X 13 MW turbine was lifted into position at Dogger Bank B[5]; a day later, RWE installed the first of 72 Siemens Gamesa turbines at Denmark's 1.1 GW Thor project[6]. East Anglia Three is mobilising for turbine installation starting around 18 March[7], and across the Atlantic, Dominion's 2.6 GW Coastal Virginia project is past 70% complete with first power imminent[8]. Japan's largest offshore wind farm, the 220 MW Kitakyushu Hibikinada, entered commercial operation on 2 March[9]. Meanwhile, Germany's Hydrogen Acceleration Act passed the Bundestag[10]; the NSTA

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[1] Reuters, 5 March 2026, https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/charting-widening-impact-iran-crisis-energy-markets-2026-03-05/

[2] CNBC, 3 March 2026, https://www.cnbc.com/2026/03/03/strait-of-hormuz-closure-which-countries-will-be-hit-the-most.html

[3] Forbes, 5 March 2026, https://www.forbes.com/sites/arielcohen/2026/03/05/how-the-iran-war-will-change-energy-markets-and-oil-prices/

[4] WGCU / NPR, 6 March 2026, https://www.wgcu.org/2026-03-06/middle-east-conflicts-largely-avoided-energy-facilities-in-the-past-not-in-this-war

[5] OffshoreWind.biz, 3 March 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/03/03/first-turbine-up-at-dogger-bank-b-offshore-wind-farm/

[6] RWE Press Release, 4 March 2026, https://www.rwe.com/en/press/rwe-offshore-wind-gmbh/2026-03-04-first-turbine-up-at-denmarks-largest-offshore-wind-farm/

[7] OffshoreWind.biz, 3 March 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/03/03/wind-turbine-installation-to-start-at-1-4-gw-east-anglia-three/

[8] Power Engineering, 23–25 February 2026, https://www.power-eng.com/renewables/wind-energy/dominion-says-coastal-virginia-offshore-wind-project-tops-70-complete-as-turbine-installation-enters-slower-final-stretch/

[9] OffshoreWind.biz, 4 March 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/03/04/japans-largest-offshore-wind-farm-enters-commercial-operation/

[10] Argus Media / Hydrogen Europe, 26 February 2026, https://hydrogeneurope.eu/german-parliament-adopts-hydrogen-acceleration-law/

granted consent for the Endurance appraisal well[11]; and Ocean Winds signed the final Round 5 Celtic Sea floating wind lease, completing a 4.5 GW programme[12].

While Middle East energy infrastructure burns and shipping routes close, the offshore low-carbon sector pressed ahead this week with unprecedented scale. The Hormuz crisis makes the strategic case for domestic renewables investment impossible to ignore.

ONE KEY NUMBER

€2.2 billion

NKT's record HVDC cable contract for Eastern Green Link 3 — a 2 GW, 680 km subsea link from Longside in Aberdeenshire to Walpole in Norfolk. It is the UK's largest-ever electricity transmission investment and connects directly to the NE Scotland grid[13]. This is exactly the kind of domestic infrastructure that reduces reliance on vulnerable fossil fuel shipping routes. While tankers cannot transit the Strait of Hormuz this week, electrons will flow through this cable for decades — from Scottish offshore wind to English demand centres, entirely insulated from geopolitical chokepoints.

ACTION FOR THIS WEEK

Aberdeen companies should register for the OEUK Share Fair on 19 March at P&J Live where Inch Cape and a dozen other operators will present live procurement opportunities[14]. Companies eyeing manufacturing investment should also attend the NOF/Great British Energy webinar on 13 March covering the £300 million GBE Supply Chain Fund[15]. The NSTA's second CO_2 storage licensing round closes 24 March — submit now if you have North Sea storage ambitions[16].

1. Global Offshore Wind

1.1 Europe: A Week of Installation Firsts

The first turbine at Dogger Bank B was installed on 3 March by Jan De Nul's WTIV Voltaire, fresh from completing Phase A. All 277 foundations across three phases are now in place, and inter-array cabling for A and B is done[17]. A day later, RWE installed the first Siemens Gamesa turbine at Denmark's 1.1 GW Thor wind farm from the Port of Esbjerg, using Fred

[11] NSTA, 5–6 March 2026, https://www.nstauthority.co.uk/news-publications/nsta-grants-consent-for-carbon-storage-appraisal-well/

[12] OffshoreWind.biz, 3 March 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/03/03/ocean-winds-enters-lease-agreement-with-crown-estate-for-1-5-gw-celtic-sea-floating-wind-project/

[13] NKT Investors, EGL3 Record Contract, 4 March 2026, https://investors.nkt.com/company-announcements/2026/nkt-signs-record-order-for-power-cable-project-eastern-green-link-3-reinforcing-the-uk-power-grid/

[14] OEUK, March 2026, https://oeuksharefair.co.uk

[15] NOF Events, March 2026, https://www.nof.co.uk/events/nof-engage-online-with-great-british-energy-march-2026/

[16] NSTA, Licensing Round 2, https://www.nstauthority.co.uk/regulatory-information/licensing-and-consents/licensing/

[17] OffshoreWind.biz, 3 March 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/03/03/first-turbine-up-at-dogger-bank-b-offshore-wind-farm/

Olsen Windcarrier's Brave Tern[18]. East Anglia Three (1.4 GW) is next: Cadeler's Wind Osprey plans its first load-out on 15 March, with 95 SG 14+ MW turbines to install[19]. At Inch Cape off the Angus coast, all 32 XXL monopiles have been delivered to Port of Leith[20] and first jacket foundations are now arriving[21]. In leasing, Ocean Winds signed the final Round 5 Celtic Sea floating wind Agreement for Lease for 1.5 GW, completing the full 4.5 GW programme[22]. However, WindEurope reported Europe connected only 2 GW of offshore wind in 2025 — the lowest since 2016 — though it forecasts a catch-up to 6 GW in 2026[23]. Audit Scotland confirmed a formal investigation into the ScotWind programme, raising governance questions about how £700 million in seabed option fees have been spent[24].

1.2 Americas: US Projects Under Construction Despite Legal Uncertainty

The Trump administration filed its appeal against the December 2025 court ruling that declared the wind permitting moratorium unlawful[25]. Interior Secretary Burgum confirmed all five project-level injunctions will be appealed. Yet all five projects remain in active construction: Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind is past 70% complete, with all 176 monopiles installed and first power expected in March[26]. Briefing schedules run through March–April 2026. In Latin America, Brazil's CNPE is scheduled to deliberate on offshore wind regulations at a critical 12 March meeting[27], a step toward enabling the country's first offshore wind auction.

1.3 Asia-Pacific: Japan's Milestone and Philippines' First Auction

Japan's 220 MW Kitakyushu Hibikinada offshore wind farm entered commercial operation on 2 March — the country's largest[28]. The Philippines opened registration for its first-ever offshore wind auction (GEA-5), offering 3.3 GW of fixed-bottom capacity with a ceiling price of ₱11/kWh; the auction is scheduled for August 2026[29]. Vietnamese conglomerate Vingroup proposed a 3 GW offshore wind farm in Ca Mau province for domestic and Malaysian export

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[18] RWE Press Release, 4 March 2026, https://www.rwe.com/en/press/rwe-offshore-wind-gmbh/2026-03-04-first-turbine-up-at-denmarks-largest-offshore-wind-farm/

[19] OffshoreWind.biz, 3 March 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/03/03/wind-turbine-installation-to-start-at-1-4-gw-east-anglia-three/

[20] Ocean Energy Resources / CWHI, 27 February 2026, https://ocean-energyresources.com/2026/02/27/cwhi-completes-delivery-monopiles-for-inch-cape-owf/

[21] Inch Cape Offshore Wind, March 2026, https://www.inchcapewind.com/projects-first-jacket-foundations-arrive-in-port-of-leith/

[22] OffshoreWind.biz, 3 March 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/03/03/ocean-winds-enters-lease-agreement-with-crown-estate-for-1-5-gw-celtic-sea-floating-wind-project/

[23] WindEurope, 26 February 2026, https://windeurope.org/news/europe-invested-45bn-in-new-wind-energy-in-2025-market-tampering-would-put-future-investments-at-acute-risk/

[24] TGS4C / Electricity Info, February 2026, https://www.tgs4c.com/news/scotwind-to-go-under-the-microscope-amid-spending-controversy-nid32566.html

[25] New Bedford Light / Maritime Executive, 18–19 February 2026, https://newbedfordlight.org/feds-appeal-ruling-that-voided-trumps-day-one-anti-wind-memo/

[26] Power Engineering, 23–25 February 2026, https://www.power-eng.com/renewables/wind-energy/dominion-says-coastal-virginia-offshore-wind-project-tops-70-complete-as-turbine-installation-enters-slower-final-stretch/

[27] BNAmericas, 5 March 2026, https://www.bnamericas.com/en/features/offshore-wind-hydropower-storage-and-pre-salt-gas-on-brazils-agenda

[28] OffshoreWind.biz, 4 March 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/03/04/japans-largest-offshore-wind-farm-enters-commercial-operation/

[29] Philippines DOE / OffshoreWind.biz, 2–3 March 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/03/03/philippines-pre-qualifying-bidders-for-3-3-gw-offshore-wind-auction/

use[30]. Australia's 1 GW Blue Mackerel project entered full environmental impact assessment[31], and Germany launched a 5.5 GW offshore wind tender[32].

1.4 Floating Wind: Reality Check Meets Policy Progress

Technip Energies CEO Arnaud Pieton delivered a blunt assessment: the floating wind market is "much smaller than expected," attributing the slowdown to high costs and limited viable deployment environments[33]. That said, policy is still advancing: the Ocean Winds 1.5 GW Celtic Sea lease represents the UK's most material floating wind progress this week[34]. Norway's Odfjell Oceanwind and Prodtex established "Windset," a JV for serial floating foundation manufacturing, targeting industrialisation cost reductions[35]. The 3rd Annual Floating Offshore Wind Conference in London (3 March) addressed practical scaling challenges. For NE Scotland, this underscores that floating wind is a longer game than many assumed — but the Celtic Sea and ScotWind pipelines remain the strategic anchors for supply chain development.

1.5 The Hormuz Factor: Why This Week's Installations Matter More Than Ever

The juxtaposition this week is extraordinary. While the Strait of Hormuz is closed to shipping and energy infrastructure burns across six Middle Eastern nations, five major offshore wind projects are simultaneously advancing through construction and installation in European and American waters. This is not coincidence — it is the energy security argument made tangible.

As the Wall Street Journal argued, the crisis "accelerates the case for decarbonisation" by exposing the structural fragility of fossil fuel supply chains concentrated around a single geographic chokepoint[36]. Windpower Monthly's analysis, citing Wood Mackenzie's Luke Lico, noted that the crisis "highlights the continued importance of energy security, and the role renewable energy" plays in reducing dependence on imported hydrocarbons[37]. Morningstar and GMO analysts concluded that a prolonged war could "open the door for an acceleration in renewable energy" investment[38].

Higher gas prices also improve the relative economics of CfD-backed wind. Every £1/MWh rise in the wholesale reference price reduces the net subsidy cost to bill-payers, making AR8 projects cheaper in real terms for consumers. The irony is not lost on the industry: the US offshore wind permitting freeze is happening precisely when energy security needs domestic renewables investment most. For every turbine installed at Dogger Bank, Thor, East Anglia

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[30] Tuoi Tre News, 4 March 2026, https://news.tuoitre.vn/vietnams-vingroup-proposes-3000mw-offshore-wind-farm-in-ca-mau-for-energy-exports-10326030412415662.htm

[31] Renew Economy, 6 March 2026, https://reneweconomy.com.au/offshore-wind-project-says-its-fully-prepared-as-it-heads-into-full-environmental-assessment/

[32] OffshoreWind.biz / BNetzA, March 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz

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

[34] OffshoreWind.biz, 3 March 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/03/03/ocean-winds-enters-lease-agreement-with-crown-estate-for-1-5-gw-celtic-sea-floating-wind-project/

[35] OffshoreWind.biz, March 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz

[36] WSJ, 5 March 2026, https://www.wsj.com/business/energy-oil/the-energy-security-argument-for-saving-the-world-5ddc86b1

[37] Windpower Monthly, 4 March 2026, https://www.windpowermonthly.com/article/1950400/analysis-middle-east-crisis-boost-wind-power-sector

[38] Morningstar, 6 March 2026, https://www.morningstar.com/markets/what-prolonged-iran-war-could-mean-energy-stocks

Three, Inch Cape, and Coastal Virginia this week, Europe and America are one step closer to an energy system that does not depend on the Strait of Hormuz.

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2. Global Hydrogen

2.1 Green Hydrogen: Spain Leads With FIDs

Moeve approved the final investment decision for the Andalusian Green Hydrogen Valley — a 300 MW, €1 billion+ project that is Southern Europe's largest, producing 45,000 tonnes of green hydrogen per year[39]. Separately, bp and Iberdrola's 25 MW Castellón project is at 90% assembly completion with commissioning due May[40]. In the UK, ITM Power shipped its final PEM electrolyser batch to RWE's 200 MW Lingen project in Germany — one of the largest electrolysis plants under construction globally[41].

2.1a The Gas Price Spike and the Green Hydrogen Breakeven

The Hormuz crisis has dramatically narrowed the cost gap between green hydrogen (produced via electrolysis from renewable electricity) and grey hydrogen (produced via steam methane reforming from natural gas). With Dutch TTF gas prices surging to approximately €65/MWh — roughly double pre-crisis levels[42] — the feedstock cost for grey hydrogen has spiked commensurately. At these gas prices, the breakeven calculus shifts significantly in favour of electrolysis. This strengthens the FID case for projects like Moeve's Andalusian Green Hydrogen Valley and RWE's Lingen electrolyser, and underscores why the European Commission's push for electrolyser manufacturing under the Industrial Accelerator Act is strategically well-timed. If gas prices remain elevated through the winter — and Goldman Sachs warns TTF could reach €74/MWh in a prolonged closure scenario[43] — the economic argument for green hydrogen becomes compelling across a wider range of industrial applications.

2.2 Blue Hydrogen: A European Policy Battleground

Eight EU member states led by Belgium formally lobbied for blue (CCS-based) hydrogen to count toward RED III's 42% RFNBO obligation for industry[44]. Germany's Hydrogen Acceleration Act explicitly covers CCS-based hydrogen production[45]. Yet Equinor scrapped its 1 GW H2M Eemshaven blue hydrogen project in the Netherlands, citing "policy

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[39] Reuters / Hydrogen Europe, 2 March 2026, https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/spains-moeve-teams-up-with-masdar-12-billion-green-hydrogen-project-2026-03-02/

[40] PV Magazine, 6 March 2026, https://www.pv-magazine.com/2026/03/06/the-hydrogen-stream-bp-and-iberdrola-set-to-commission-spains-largest-project/

[41] Hydrogen Europe / PV Magazine, 5–6 March 2026, https://hydrogeneurope.eu/itm-power-ships-final-electrolysers-for-rwes-200mw-green-hydrogen-project-in-lingen/

[42] Reuters, 5 March 2026, https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/charting-widening-impact-iran-crisis-energy-markets-2026-03-05/

[43] CNBC (gas/LNG), 3 March 2026, https://www.cnbc.com/2026/03/03/middle-east-war-gas-energy-lng-drone-qatar-strait-hormuz-price-shock.html

[44] Argus Media, 26 February 2026, https://www.argusmedia.com/en/news-and-insights/latest-market-news/2793497-eu-member-states-want-blue-h2-for-red-iii-targets

[45] Argus Media / Hydrogen Europe, 26 February 2026, https://hydrogeneurope.eu/german-parliament-adopts-hydrogen-acceleration-law/

uncertainty and lack of funding" — a cautionary signal about blue hydrogen's viability without firm regulatory support[46].

2.3 Infrastructure: Pipelines and Storage Take Shape

Germany's Hydrogen Acceleration Act designates the full hydrogen supply chain — production, import, storage, and pipelines — as "overriding public interest," fast-tracking permitting[47]. A Humber consortium (National Gas, Centrica, Equinor, SSE Thermal) submitted a £500 million bid for regional hydrogen network funding[48]. Poland launched consultations on its first national hydrogen transmission network plan for 2026–2035[49]. Italy's Snam committed €200 million to a hydrogen backbone using 60% repurposed gas pipelines[50]. Baker Hughes and Vallourec signed an MoU on underground hydrogen storage using Vallourec's Delphy system[51].

2.4 Policy: EU Industrial Accelerator and National Strategies

The European Commission's Industrial Accelerator Act (4 March) introduces "Made in Europe" content thresholds for electrolysers and other strategic clean technologies[52]. Spain approved €440.5 million for the EU Hydrogen Bank's Auction-as-a-Service scheme[53]. Chile reset its green hydrogen strategy with significantly lower production targets[54]. Hong Kong announced a voluntary green hydrogen certification system[55]. In the UK, industry leaders are critical of continued HAR2 delays[56].

2.5 End-Use: Green Steel, Transport, Maritime and Aviation

Germany raised state aid for Salzgitter's SALCOS green steel project to €1.3 billion[57]. Aberdeen City Council formally voted to discontinue its hydrogen double-decker bus fleet — the world's first — pivoting to battery-electric, a cautionary tale about hydrogen refuelling infrastructure reliability[58]. Over 85 companies called on IMO member states to adopt the delayed Net-Zero Framework, which would unlock demand for green hydrogen-based

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[46] Argus Media, 19 February 2026, https://www.argusmedia.com/en/news-and-insights/latest-market-news/2790457-equinor-halts-dutch-ccs-h2-plans-belgian-site-still-on

[47] Argus Media / Hydrogen Europe, 26 February 2026, https://hydrogeneurope.eu/german-parliament-adopts-hydrogen-acceleration-law/

[48] BBC News, 24 February 2026, https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c9dn0v07ez8o

[49] Hydrogen Europe / GAZ-SYSTEM, February 2026, https://hydrogeneurope.eu/poland-launches-consultations-for-national-hydrogen-network-plan/

[50] Reuters, 5 March 2026, https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/italys-gas-grid-operator-snam-plans-14-billion-euro-investment-through-2030-2026-03-05/

[51] H2TECH / Energies Media, February 2026, https://h2-tech.com/news/2026/02-26/baker-hughes-and-vallourec-sign-mou-on-underground-hydrogen-storage-with-the-delphy-solution/

[52] European Commission, 4 March 2026, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_515

[53] Advanced Biofuels USA / MITECO, 26 February 2026, https://advancedbiofuelsusa.info/the-government-adapts-the-regulatory-framework-for-green-hydrogen-aid-and-approves-new-guidelines-for-the-decarbonization-of-industrial-heat-within-european-auctions-as-a-service

[54] BNamericas / Strategic Energy Europe, 4 March 2026, https://www.bnamericas.com/en/news/ministry-of-energy-presents-the-update-of-the-national-green-hydrogen-strategy-2026-2030

[55] Hong Kong Business, 26 February 2026, https://hongkongbusiness.hk/energy-offshore/news/government-launch-new-hydrogen-certification-system

[56] Energies Media, 26 February 2026, https://energiesmedia.com/energy-sector-leaders-urge-uk-officials-hydrogen/

[57] Bloomberg / Hydrogen Europe, 23 February 2026, https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-02-23/germany-raises-green-steel-aid-for-salzgitter-to-1-3-billion

[58] BBC News / CleanTechnica, 27 Feb – 1 March 2026, https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cnv6e5l588jo

maritime fuels[59]. Technip Energies won the EPCC contract for SkyNRG's Dutch SAF plant, Europe's first standalone greenfield facility with on-site hydrogen production[60].

3. Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage (CCUS)

3.1 UK: Endurance Well, Viking Subsidy, and Storage Licensing

DESNZ referred its proposed Viking CCUS Development Fund subsidy to the CMA's Subsidy Advice Unit on 3 March, with a report due 16 April[61]. The NSTA granted a two-year consent for drilling an appraisal well on the Endurance CO_2 storage licence (CS006), with spud scheduled for 7 March[62]. The NSTA also published North Sea CO_2 storage potential maps to guide applicants in the second licensing round[63], which remains open until 24 March and offers 14 locations with up to 2 Gt of additional storage capacity[64]. These developments collectively strengthen the UK's CO_2 storage credentials — and Aberdeen's subsurface companies should note the active licensing deadline. Energy security concerns further reinforce the strategic importance of domestic CO_2 storage, as it reduces industrial dependence on imported gas heating by enabling electrification and hydrogen switching.

3.2 Europe: Greece Breaks New Ground

Greece's HEREMA issued a 25-year CO_2 storage permit for the Prinos CCS project off the Aegean coast — the country's first commercial permit, covering up to 1 Mtpa in Phase 1[65]. Air Liquide and Holcim signed an agreement for 1.1 Mtpa carbon capture at Holcim's Obourg cement plant in Belgium using CryocapTM OXY technology[66]. The Global CCS Institute held its Europe Forum in Brussels on 4 March, where experts concluded that long-term government backing and higher carbon prices are essential to scale CCS[67].

3.3 Global: US 45Q Backlash and Canada's Extension

In the US, over 125 groups called for the elimination of the 45Q carbon capture tax credit, arguing it primarily subsidises enhanced oil recovery[68]. Canada took the opposite approach: Bill C-15 extended the CCUS ITC to 2035, a major boost for long-lead projects facing

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[59] Green Hydrogen Organisation / H2 View, 4 March 2026, https://gh2.org/call-member-states-adopt-imos-net-zero-framework-2026

[60] Hydrogen Europe, February 2026, https://www.hidrojenteknolojileri.org/en/hydrogen-news-from-europe-february-2026/

[61] GOV.UK / CMA, 3–4 March 2026, https://www.gov.uk/cma-cases/referral-of-the-proposed-subsidy-for-the-viking-carbon-capture-utilisation-and-storage-ccus-development-fund-by-the-department-for-energy-security-and-net-zero

[62] NSTA, 5–6 March 2026, https://www.nstauthority.co.uk/news-publications/nsta-grants-consent-for-carbon-storage-appraisal-well/

[63] Carbon Pulse / NSTA, 2 March 2026, https://carbon-pulse.com/488605/

[64] NSTA, Licensing Round 2, https://www.nstauthority.co.uk/regulatory-information/licensing-and-consents/licensing/

[65] HEREMA, 26 February 2026, https://herema.gr/storage-permit-issued-for-prinos-co2/

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

[67] Global CCS Institute, 4 March 2026, https://www.globalccsinstitute.com/events/2026-europe-forum-on-carbon-capture-and-storage/

[68] Pipeline Fighters Hub / Food & Water Watch, 26 February 2026, https://pipelinefighters.org/news/press-release-125-groups-call-for-end-to-wasteful-untracked-45q-carbon-capture-tax-credits/

development delays[69]. Svante Technologies acquired Carbon Alpha, expanding its BECCS portfolio with the North Star project in Saskatchewan[70]. A new CCS advocacy organisation, Carbon Capture Impact, launched to amplify federal policy efforts in the US[71].

3.4 Direct Air Capture: Japan and Kenya

AirMyne secured a strategic investment from ENEOS Holdings (Japan's largest energy company), establishing a framework for commercialisation in the US, Japan, and globally[72]. Octavia Carbon in Kenya secured a DAC offtake agreement via Carbon Direct, a rare commercial deployment in the Global South with 24/5 operations at its Rift Valley pilot[73].

3.5 Policy: Germany Lifts CCS Ban; Financing Gap Persists

A Taylor Wessing analysis of Germany's amended KSpTG confirmed the effective lifting of the country's ban on commercial CO_2 storage, with CCS and pipeline projects designated as "overriding public interest"[74]. However, the SMI Financial Services Task Force reported a structural CCS financing gap, recommending a pre-FID development capital fund and aggregated demand solutions[75]. For Aberdeen companies, the convergence of UK and German regulatory frameworks creates opportunities for cross-border knowledge transfer in subsurface services and CCS engineering.

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4. Decommissioning & Marine Energy

4.1 Decommissioning: Major Contracts and Regulatory Shifts

AF Offshore Decom and Heerema were awarded an EPRD contract for a 39,500-tonne UKCS platform — 27,500t topsides plus 12,000t jacket — with removal to AF's Environmental Base Vats in Norway within five years[76]. AF also awarded BOA Offshore a contract for float-on operations for the ALBA FSU and FPF-1 using the newbuild Boabarge 39[77]. OPRED approved four new decommissioning programmes (Perenco, Shell/UK North Sea, CNR International, NEO Energy)[78]. A Helvellyn subsea decommissioning procurement opportunity appeared on the NSTA Energy Pathfinder[79]. The NSTA also published its fees

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69 EY Tax / CCS Knowledge Centre, 26 February 2026, https://taxnews.ey.com/news/2026-0549-canada-substantively-enacts-capital-cost-allowance-and-other-business-income-tax-measures-in-bill-c-15

70 Business Wire, 4 March 2026, https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20260304605629/en/Svante-Acquires-Carbon-Dioxide-Removal-Project-Developer-Carbon-Alpha-Corp.

71 Ethanol Producer, 5 March 2026, https://ethanolproducer.com/articles/carbon-capture-impact-launches-to-support-carbon-management-advocacy-efforts

72 AirMyne / Carbon Herald, 3 March 2026, https://carbonherald.com/airmyne-eneos-direct-air-capture/

73 Carbon Herald, 4 March 2026, https://carbonherald.com/octavia-carbon-secures-an-offtake-agreement-via-carbon-direct/

74 Taylor Wessing, 26 February 2026, https://www.taylorwessing.com/en/insights-and-events/insights/2026/02/novelle-des-kohlendioxid-speicherungsgesetzes

75 SMI / Carbon Herald, 5 March 2026, https://carbonherald.com/smi-urges-dedicated-fund-to-close-ccs-financing-gap/

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78 GOV.UK / OPRED, 6 March 2026, https://www.gov.uk/guidance/oil-and-gas-decommissioning-of-offshore-installations-and-pipelines

79 NSTA Energy Pathfinder, 3 March 2026, https://energypathfinder.nstauthority.co.uk/collaboration-opportunities/5001

consultation response[80]. Internationally, the Trump administration proposed rolling back Biden-era offshore bonding requirements, potentially saving the US industry $484 million annually but raising concerns about decommissioning liability gaps[81]. A TNO study found Dutch offshore wind decommissioning costs ~44% above current government guarantees[82], and a CMS/OGN 10-jurisdiction analysis confirmed globally tightening regulatory regimes[83]. For NE Scotland, the decommissioning pipeline remains robust, with over 7,500 UK wells requiring permanent abandonment over the next three decades.

It is worth noting that higher oil prices resulting from the Hormuz crisis could extend the economic life of some aging North Sea assets, potentially slowing decommissioning timelines in the near term. With Brent at $83/bbl and analysts warning of $100+ if the blockade persists[84], marginal fields that were approaching cessation of production may find renewed commercial viability. However, the structural pipeline of 7,500+ wells requiring abandonment remains intact — decommissioning demand is deferred, not eliminated.

4.2 Marine Energy: HydroWing Expands at Morlais

HydroWing was awarded an additional 10 MW CfD (AR7a) for its Ynni'r Lleuad project at Morlais, Anglesey, taking its total contracted capacity to 30 MW — set to become the world's largest tidal project by 2030[85]. The Marine Energy Conference in Newcastle on 10 March will feature speakers from EMEC, MeyGen, Orbital Marine Power, and Mocean Energy, gathering input on the Marine Energy Taskforce's four priority themes[86]. For companies with subsea expertise, the tidal stream sector offers a transferable and growing market.

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5. Policy & Regulatory Developments

5.1 UK: CfD Reform, GBE Funding, and Grid Investment

DESNZ published a consultation on CfD contract amendments for the Clean Industry Bonus in AR8, covering Fair Work Charter requirements and skills investment criteria[87]. The SAU approved Great British Energy's £5.3 billion multi-year capitalisation scheme, clearing a key hurdle for GBE's supply chain investments[88]. Defra laid new environmental compensatory measures regulations for offshore wind, introducing a Marine Recovery Fund and tiered

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[80] NSTA, 2 March 2026, https://www.nstauthority.co.uk/news-publications/consultation-response-on-proposals-to-introduce-new-and-amended-nsta-fees/

[81] Reuters / US DOI, 5 March 2026, https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/us-proposes-loosen-bonding-requirements-offshore-oil-gas-companies-2026-03-05/

[82] Windpower NL / TNO, 27 February 2026, https://windpowernl.com/2026/02/27/new-analysis-shows-dutch-decommissioning-guarantees-fall-short-for-offshore-wind/

[83] OGN Energy News / CMS, 1 March 2026, https://ognnews.com/Article/48224/Global_offshore_decommissioning_regimes_tighten_as_liabilities_escalate

[84] Forbes, 5 March 2026, https://www.forbes.com/sites/arielcohen/2026/03/05/how-the-iran-war-will-change-energy-markets-and-oil-prices/

[85] Renewable Energy Magazine, 4 March 2026, https://www.renewableenergymagazine.com/ocean_energy/hydrowing-awarded-additional-10mw-advancing-tidal-energy-20260304

[86] Global Underwater Hub, March 2026, https://www.globalunderwaterhub.com/events/event/?id=Marine_Energy_Conference_2026_-_Newcastle1756371512

[87] DESNZ / GOV.UK, 4 March 2026, https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/contracts-for-difference-contract-amendments-to-implement-clean-industry-bonus-reforms

[88] SAU / CMA / GOV.UK, 4 March 2026, https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/report-on-the-great-british-energy-multi-year-capitalisation-scheme

compensation hierarchy[89]. The landmark EGL3 contracts were signed: NKT's €2.2 billion HVDC cable and Hitachi Energy's converter stations for the 2 GW Aberdeenshire–Norfolk link[90]. Ofgem launched a consultation on expanding DNO roles for low-carbon technologies under ED3[91]. NESO opened a new feedback window on RESP methodology[92], and Natural England published an update on the POSEIDON offshore wind marine data project[93].

5.2 EU: Omnibus I, Post-2030 Framework, and REPowerEU

The Omnibus I Directive was published in the EU Official Journal on 26 February, simplifying CSRD and CSDDD reporting thresholds[94]. Two public consultations on the post-2030 climate framework are open until 4 May, feeding into the "Fit for 90" legislative package[95]. The REPowerEU national diversification plans deadline passed on 1 March[96]. A JD Supra analysis of the European Green Deal at five years found tension between the simplification agenda and climate ambition[97].

5.3 Scotland: Climate Plan Debate and GB Energy Grid

The Scottish Parliament debated the Draft Climate Change Plan on 5 March, finding the pathway "achievable" but criticising insufficient detail on electricity cost reductions alongside electrification[98]. The CCC presented its 2025 progress report to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, noting that 58% of required emissions reductions fall within devolved powers[99]. The Westminster Scottish Affairs Committee heard from NESO and Ofgem that Scotland's grid is "playing catch-up" with connected generation, with 88 major reinforcements planned before 2030[100]. The Scottish Crown Estate issued its Ministerial Direction for transfers from 2026–2031[101].

5.4 Hormuz Crisis Upends Energy Markets

The week's dominant macro story is the US-Israeli military campaign against Iran and its cascading impact on global energy markets. The conflict timeline unfolded with devastating speed:

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89 Defra / GOV.UK, 27 February 2026, https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-compensatory-measures-reforms-for-offshore-wind-policy-background-and-proposed-compensation-hierarchy

90 NKT Investors, EGL3 Record Contract, 4 March 2026, https://investors.nkt.com/company-announcements/2026/nkt-signs-record-order-for-power-cable-project-eastern-green-link-3-reinforcing-the-uk-power-grid/

91 Ofgem, 3 March 2026, https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/consultation/dno-low-carbon-technology-energy-efficiency-role-ed3

92 NESO, 2 March 2026, https://www.neso.energy/news/neso-launches-new-feedback-window-three-resp-methodology-areas

93 Natural England Blog, 4 March 2026, https://naturalengland.blog.gov.uk/2026/03/04/what-lies-beneath-the-data-shaping-the-future-of-offshore-wind-energy/

94 Cleary Gottlieb / EU Official Journal, 26 February 2026, https://www.clearygottlieb.com/news-and-insights/publication-listing/climate-energy-eu-policy-regulation-update-2026-03-04

95 European Commission / Cleary Gottlieb, February 2026, https://www.clearygottlieb.com/news-and-insights/publication-listing/climate-energy-eu-policy-regulation-update-2026-03-04

96 European Commission, REPowerEU, 1 March 2026, https://commission.europa.eu/topics/energy/repowereu_en

97 JD Supra, 3 March 2026, https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/the-european-green-deal-at-five-7591229/

98 Scottish Parliament, 5 March 2026, https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament-05-03-2026?meeting=20117&iob=210928

99 Scottish Parliament / CCC, 3 March 2026, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93I0sU_BsrY

100 UK Parliament Scottish Affairs Committee, 4 March 2026, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uj5OquDPt0o

101 Scottish Government, 23 February 2026, https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-crown-estate-act-2019-ministerial-direction-transfer-of-sums-for-2026-to-2031/

On 28 February, US and Israeli strikes began against Iranian military and nuclear targets. By 1 March, Iran retaliated with strikes hitting energy infrastructure across Gulf states, and crude tanker transits through the Strait of Hormuz collapsed from 24 vessels per day to just four[102]. On 2 March, Iran's Revolutionary Guard announced the full closure of the Strait of Hormuz, warning all vessels would be targeted. QatarEnergy suspended LNG production at Ras Laffan — the world's largest LNG facility — after Iranian drone strikes, and Maersk suspended all vessel movements through the strait[103]. By 3 March, European TTF gas futures had surged to a three-year peak of €65.79/MWh — more than double the previous week's price[104]. Brent crude reached $83/bbl, up 15% since Friday[105].

The scale of infrastructure damage is unprecedented. Unlike previous Middle East conflicts that largely spared energy facilities, this war has directly struck refineries and processing plants in at least six countries: Iran, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE[106]. Saudi Arabia's Ras Tanura refinery — its largest domestic facility — was shut down. QatarEnergy's Ras Laffan and Mesaieed facilities were struck by Iranian drones. Israel's Leviathan gas field suspended output. Companies in Iraqi Kurdistan also halted production[107].

On 5 March, QatarEnergy formally declared force majeure on its LNG contracts. Reuters reported that European gas prices had surged approximately 70% since the previous Friday[108]. VLCC (very large crude carrier) charter rates from the Middle East to China skyrocketed from approximately $120,000/day to $450,000+/day[109]. Goldman Sachs estimated that the QatarEnergy shutdown alone could reduce global LNG supply by 19% in the near term, and raised its April TTF forecast to €55/MWh from €36/MWh[110]. Goldman further warned that a one-month Hormuz closure could push TTF and JKM prices to approximately €74/MWh — approaching the 2022 energy crisis levels.

By 6 March, UK NBP gas was trading at 135.13 GBp/thm, up 71% over the month[111]. UK wholesale electricity prices had spiked 58% in 48 hours (1–3 March), from £62.83 to £99.25/MWh[112]. UK NBP gas traded at a premium over Dutch TTF and French PEG,

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[102] NYT, 1 March 2026, https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/01/business/energy-environment/iran-war-oil-prices.html

[103] CNBC (Hormuz crisis), 2 March 2026, https://www.cnbc.com/2026/03/02/strait-of-hormuz-crisis-us-iran-israel-war-shipping-trade-oil.html

[104] CNBC (gas/LNG), 3 March 2026, https://www.cnbc.com/2026/03/03/middle-east-war-gas-energy-lng-drone-qatar-strait-hormuz-price-shock.html

[105] Euronews, 4 March 2026, https://www.euronews.com/business/2026/03/04/passage-denied-hormuz-shutdown-keeps-oil-prices-on-an-upward-trajectory

[106] WGCU / NPR, 6 March 2026, https://www.wgcu.org/2026-03-06/middle-east-conflicts-largely-avoided-energy-facilities-in-the-past-not-in-this-war

[107] CNN, 5 March 2026, https://edition.cnn.com/2026/03/05/economy/economy-impact-middle-east-war-intl

[108] Reuters, 5 March 2026, https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/charting-widening-impact-iran-crisis-energy-markets-2026-03-05/

[109] Euronews, 4 March 2026, https://www.euronews.com/business/2026/03/04/passage-denied-hormuz-shutdown-keeps-oil-prices-on-an-upward-trajectory

[110] CNBC (gas/LNG), 3 March 2026, https://www.cnbc.com/2026/03/03/middle-east-war-gas-energy-lng-drone-qatar-strait-hormuz-price-shock.html

[111] Trading Economics, UK Gas, https://tradingeconomics.com/commodity/uk-natural-gas

[112] BP Consulting UK, 1–3 March 2026, https://bpconsulting.co.uk/wholesale-energy-prices-rise-amid-global-uncertainty-in-middle-east/

reflecting the UK's heightened vulnerability to LNG supply disruptions[113]. Analysts warned that prices could exceed $100/bbl for Brent crude if the Hormuz blockade persists[114].

The EU alerted member states to the gas price escalation but said no emergency measures were yet needed[115]. The IMF assessed that the war's economic impact would depend on duration, infrastructure damage, and resulting energy costs[116]. Approximately 20% of the world's daily oil and LNG passes through the Strait of Hormuz — roughly 20 million barrels of oil per day and 11 billion cubic feet per day of LNG[117]. OilPrice.com characterised the situation as "The End of Energy Security as We Knew It," pointing to the structural fragility of global reliance on a single geographic chokepoint[118].

On the UK consumer front, Ofgem set the Q2 2026 energy price cap at £1,641 (−6.7%), reflecting lower wholesale costs prior to the crisis and the Warm Home Discount shift to general taxation[119]. However, Cornwall Insight forecast the July cap could rise approximately 10% to £1,801, driven directly by the Hormuz crisis and LNG supply disruption[120]. This volatility underscores the strategic case for accelerating renewables deployment and grid investment — every megawatt of domestic offshore wind reduces exposure to precisely the kind of geopolitical price shock Europe is experiencing this week.

6. Supply Chain Intelligence

6.1 Major Contracts

Boskalis and TKF secured a €50–150 million inter-array cable contract for the 976 MW Gennaker wind farm in the German Baltic Sea[121]. Aberdeen-based Aventus Energy won its largest-ever contract for year-long foundation acceptance work at Port of Leith for Inch Cape[122]. Palfinger will supply 35 fully electric offshore cranes for Taiwan's 495 MW Formosa 4[123]. Tekmar secured a €4.7 million cable protection contract, building its record £43 million order intake[124].

6.2 Vessel Market

[113] Argus Media, 5–6 March 2026, https://www.argusmedia.com/en/news-and-insights/latest-market-news/2767073-uk-government-eyes-gas-market-regulatory-push-in-2026

[114] OilPrice.com, 3 March 2026, https://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/The-End-of-Energy-Security-as-We-Knew-It.html

[115] Reuters (EU response), 4 March 2026, https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/eu-concerned-by-iran-driven-energy-price-spike-not-planning-emergency-response-2026-03-04/

[116] Reuters / IMF, 3 March 2026, https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/middle-east-war-economic-impact-depend-duration-damage-energy-costs-imf-official-2026-03-03/

[117] CNBC, 3 March 2026, https://www.cnbc.com/2026/03/03/strait-of-hormuz-closure-which-countries-will-be-hit-the-most.html

[118] OilPrice.com, 3 March 2026, https://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/The-End-of-Energy-Security-as-We-Knew-It.html

[119] Ofgem, 25 February 2026, https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/news/changes-energy-price-cap-between-1-april-and-30-june-2026

[120] Reuters / Cornwall Insight, 4 March 2026, https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/boards-policy-regulation/britains-energy-price-cap-forecast-rise-about-10-cornwall-insight-says-2026-03-04/

[121] Boskalis / Energy Global, 26 February 2026, https://boskalis.com/press/press-releases-and-company-news/boskalis-secures-contract-for-the-inter-array-cable-system-at-the-gennaker-offshore-wind-farm

[122] OffshoreWind.biz, 4 March 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/03/04/aventus-energy-nets-inch-cape-contract/

[123] Palfinger / OffshoreWind.biz, 5 March 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/03/05/palfinger-wins-contract-to-supply-cranes-for-formosa-4-offshore-wind-farm/

[124] Tekmar Group / OffshoreWind.biz, 13 February 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/02/13/long-standing-customer-taps-tekmar-for-cable-protection-under-eur-4-7-million-contract/

Seatrium delivered Maersk's new $475 million WTIV, which is bound for the Empire Wind project[125]. In the week's biggest M&A story, Edda Wind agreed to sell its entire SOV/CSOV fleet (seven vessels plus three on order) to North Star and Navigare Capital[126]. Strategic Marine delivered the first two Supa Swath CTVs to Mainprize Offshore[127]. Asso.subsea ordered a second next-generation trenching support vessel from CMHI for Q2 2028 delivery[128]. NYK Line completed the basic design of a new long-distance subsea cable-laying vessel for Japan's HVDC network[129].

The Hormuz closure and Maersk's suspension of vessel movements through the strait could indirectly affect component delivery schedules and costs for European offshore wind projects. VLCC rates have surged from $120,000/day to over $450,000/day[130], and insurance premiums for vessels transiting affected areas are rising sharply. While most European offshore wind supply chains source from domestic or intra-European routes, steel and component imports from Asia could face delays and cost increases if the disruption persists.

6.3 NE Scotland Focus

The F4OR Scotland programme — the first Scotland-wide cohort — closed applications on 6 March; up to 10 companies will be selected for an 18-month offshore wind supply chain readiness programme[131]. Great British Energy confirmed its permanent Aberdeen HQ at Marischal Square, with a broader recruitment drive launching in 2026[132]. GBE's £300 million Supply Chain Fund for offshore wind manufacturing is the subject of a NOF webinar on 13 March[133]. OEUK's Share Fair returns to P&J Live on 19 March with Inch Cape, Aker Solutions, INEOS, Spirit Energy, and others presenting procurement opportunities[134]. The Aventus Energy Inch Cape win demonstrates Aberdeen-based IRM capability securing significant offshore wind contracts[135]. The ScotWind audit will scrutinise how seabed option fees have been managed, with implications for future supply chain investment programmes[136].

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[125] OffshoreWind.biz / Maritime Executive, 26–27 February 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/02/27/maersks-wtiv-delivered-ready-for-empire-wind/

[126] Maritime Executive / Breakbulk News, 4–5 March 2026, https://maritime-executive.com/article/edda-wind-has-potential-agreements-to-sell-fleet-of-wind-service-vessels

[127] OffshoreWind.biz, 6 March 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/03/06/strategic-marine-delivers-first-two-supa-swath-vessels-to-mainprize-offshore/

[128] Offshore-Energy.biz, 3 March 2026, https://www.offshore-energy.biz/asso-subsea-orders-second-next-gen-trenching-support-vessel-from-china-merchants/

[129] Marine Technology News, 4 March 2026, https://www.marinetechnologynews.com/news/advances-design-subsea-cable-659549

[130] Reuters, 5 March 2026, https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/charting-widening-impact-iran-crisis-energy-markets-2026-03-05/

[131] ORE Catapult / Offshore Wind Scotland, 12 February 2026, https://www.offshorewindscotland.org.uk/news/2026/february/12/offshore-wind-supply-chain-support-programme-opens-for-scottish-businesses/

[132] GBE Blog / BBC News, 12 February 2026, https://www.gbe.gov.uk/blog/great-british-energy-announces-aberdeen-headquarters

[133] NOF Events, March 2026, https://www.nof.co.uk/events/nof-engage-online-with-great-british-energy-march-2026/

[134] OEUK, March 2026, https://oeuksharefair.co.uk

[135] OffshoreWind.biz, 4 March 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/03/04/aventus-energy-nets-inch-cape-contract/

[136] TGS4C / Electricity Info, February 2026, https://www.tgs4c.com/news/scotwind-to-go-under-the-microscope-amid-spending-controversy-nid32566.html

7. Weekly Feature

The Delivery Wave Arrives: What Five Simultaneous Installation Campaigns Mean for the North Sea Supply Chain

Consider the juxtaposition. On 2 March, Iran's Revolutionary Guard closed the Strait of Hormuz to all shipping, triggering the worst energy market disruption since 2022. Saudi refineries burned. QatarEnergy declared force majeure. European gas prices doubled in days. And at the same moment, in the waters around Northern Europe and the US East Coast, five major offshore wind projects continued their installation campaigns without interruption. No geopolitical chokepoint can shut down the North Sea wind. No drone strike can close the Strait of Dover to cable-laying vessels. This week, the theoretical argument for energy security through domestic renewables became a visceral, lived reality.

Something unprecedented is happening. Five major offshore wind projects are simultaneously in active construction or turbine installation: Dogger Bank B (1.2 GW, UK North Sea), Thor (1.1 GW, Danish North Sea), East Anglia Three (1.4 GW, UK Southern North Sea), Inch Cape (1.1 GW, Scottish East Coast), and Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (2.6 GW, US Atlantic). Together they represent over 7.4 GW of generation capacity, requiring coordinated deployment of every major category of offshore wind vessel and specialist workforce simultaneously[137].

Vessel utilisation is at capacity. Jan De Nul's Voltaire transitioned directly from Dogger Bank A to B without returning to port. Fred Olsen Windcarrier's Brave Tern is at Thor. Cadeler's Wind Osprey and Wind Pace are mobilising for East Anglia Three. Charybdis, the first Jones Act-compliant WTIV, is at CVOW. The new Maersk WTIV is sailing from Singapore for Empire Wind. With Dogger Bank C still ahead and multiple CfD AR7 projects needing installation slots from 2027, vessel availability is becoming the binding constraint on project schedules.

Port bottlenecks are real. Leith is handling monopile and jacket marshalling for Inch Cape. Esbjerg is servicing both Thor and East Anglia Three load-outs simultaneously. Tees Port manages the Dogger Bank campaigns. These ports are running year-long programmes: Leith's foundation completion work alone spans all of 2026, with Aventus Energy managing the receiving, inspection, and preparation of 54 monopiles, 18 jacket foundations, and 72 transition pieces. The practical effect is that port capacity for additional projects is extremely limited until at least mid-2027.

Workforce demand is spiking. Each installation campaign requires hundreds of specialist technicians: turbine installation crews, cable burial teams, foundation grouting specialists, commissioning engineers, and health and safety supervisors. The concurrent campaigns mean the same qualified people are being sought by multiple projects. WindEurope's data showing only 2 GW connected in 2025 versus a 6 GW 2026 forecast tells the story: the

137 OffshoreWind.biz, 3 March 2026, https://www.offshorewind.biz/2026/03/03/first-turbine-up-at-dogger-bank-b-offshore-wind-farm/

industry is concentrating three years' worth of installation activity into a compressed window[138].

Implications for Scottish ports. Leith is already demonstrating its capabilities as a major marshalling port. Nigg and the Cromarty Firth remain positioned for future ScotWind assembly. The concurrent campaigns validate the investment case for Port of Aberdeen's South Harbour expansion and the Freeport infrastructure at Cromarty. However, the ScotWind audit raises questions about whether government capital will flow into port infrastructure at the pace required. Companies with port services, logistics, and heavy-lift capabilities are in an exceptionally strong position.

Why Aberdeen companies should position now. The next 12–18 months represent a window: project developers are committing to contractors for 2027–2028 campaigns now. The OEUK Share Fair (19 March) and GBE Supply Chain Fund webinar (13 March) are entry points. Companies with transferable skills in inspection, repair, maintenance, subsea engineering, project management, and marine logistics can insert themselves into supply chains that are demonstrably short of capacity. The five simultaneous campaigns are not an anomaly — they are the beginning of an installation era that will only intensify as AR7 and ScotWind projects progress.

8. Events & Forward Look

8.1 Events

Date	Event
10 March	Marine Energy Conference, Newcastle[139]
13 March	NOF/GBE Supply Chain Fund Webinar (online)[140]
19 March	OEUK Share Fair, P&J Live, Aberdeen[141]
24 March	NSTA CO_2 Storage Licensing Round 2 closes[142]
24–26 March	FOWT Conference, Montpellier[143]

8.2 Forward Look: What to Watch Next Week

[138] WindEurope Annual Statistics, 26 February 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/

[139] Global Underwater Hub, March 2026, https://www.globalunderwaterhub.com/events/event/?id=Marine_Energy_Conference_2026_-_Newcastle1756371512

[140] NOF Events, March 2026, https://www.nof.co.uk/events/nof-engage-online-with-great-british-energy-march-2026/

[141] OEUK, March 2026, https://oeuksharefair.co.uk

[142] NSTA, Licensing Round 2, https://www.nstauthority.co.uk/regulatory-information/licensing-and-consents/licensing/

[143] FOWT Conference Montpellier, https://fowt-conferences.com

- Resolution of the Strait of Hormuz shipping crisis — duration will determine whether energy price spikes are transient or structural, with major implications for winter gas storage costs and the political case for renewable energy investment.
- Brazil's CNPE offshore wind regulation meeting (12 March) — could unlock Latin America's largest offshore wind market.
- Scottish election timeline and finalisation of the Climate Change Plan.
- Q3 Ofgem cap trajectory: wholesale gas prices and Hormuz developments will determine July pricing.
- US offshore wind permitting: court briefings in project-level injunction appeals continue through March.
- East Anglia Three first turbine installation — expected around 18 March.

Conclusion

This was a week defined by two forces: crisis and delivery. The Hormuz crisis has transformed the abstract concept of "energy security through renewables" into a lived reality. While European gas prices doubled, shipping routes closed, and Middle East energy infrastructure came under direct military attack, the offshore low-carbon sector pressed ahead with industrial-scale deployment that no geopolitical chokepoint can disrupt.

The €2.2 billion EGL3 cable contract, the five simultaneous installation campaigns, and every offshore wind turbine being installed this week are investments in energy independence. They represent electrons that will never need to transit the Strait of Hormuz, gigawatt-hours of power insulated from the kind of supply shock that is currently upending European energy markets. The strategic case has never been clearer.

For NE Scotland companies, the dual narrative of this week — delivery accelerating against a backdrop of geopolitical crisis — reinforces the urgency of positioning now. The OEUK Share Fair on 19 March, the GBE Supply Chain Fund, and the NSTA's CO_2 storage licensing round are all entry points into supply chains that are demonstrably short of capacity and more strategically important than ever. The work is happening now. The contracts are being let now. And this week, the world was reminded why it matters.

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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