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Editor's Brief

The past seven days have crystallised a stark divergence in global offshore low-carbon energy momentum. Europe has consolidated its position as the anchor market through hydrogen infrastructure endorsements, policy commitment and CCUS acceleration, while the United States faces deepening policy uncertainty that is triggering project pauses and developer reassessment. Simultaneously, Asia-Pacific markets are demonstrating resilience: East Asia is advancing floating wind auctions and grid modernisation, while Southeast Asia is building regulatory certainty for offshore wind deployment—signaling that the "second wave" of offshore energy development is shifting eastward regardless of North American headwinds.[1][2][3]

One key number: 100 – The number of cross-border hydrogen and renewable electricity infrastructure projects the European Commission has formally endorsed as Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) and Projects of Mutual Interest (PMIs) this week. This represents a structured, decade-long pipeline of interconnected hydrogen corridors, electrolysis hubs, storage facilities and power infrastructure spanning Western and Central Europe. For North East Scotland and North Sea supply-chain firms, this signals sustained demand for subsea pipeline engineering, hydrogen infrastructure expertise and grid-integration services through the 2030s.[4]

Action for this week: Companies with expertise in CCUS, hydrogen transport infrastructure, or offshore wind installation should map capabilities against the EU's newly endorsed hydrogen PCIs—particularly cross-border pipelines connecting Spain, Germany, and Central Europe. The EU third Hydrogen Bank auction (€1.3 billion + €1.3 billion German co-funding + €415 million Spanish support = €3 billion+ total), launched this week, will fund many of these projects. Simultaneously, track US policy volatility as a competitive advantage opportunity: clients avoiding US market uncertainty may accelerate European and Asia-Pacific projects where regulatory frameworks are stabilising.[5][6]

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1. Global Offshore Wind: Europe Consolidates, Americas Retrench, Asia Advances Quietly

1.1 Europe – Consents, Financing and the Irish Sea Emergence

The past week has delivered two major UK offshore wind approvals that underscore Europe's momentum and signal sustained supply-chain demand.

Morgan Offshore Wind (Irish Sea): The UK Government granted Development Consent Order (DCO) approval for the Morgan Offshore Wind Project, a bp–EnBW joint venture targeting up to 96 turbines

(approximately 1.5 GW capacity) located 30+ kilometres off the coasts of Lancashire and North Wales.[7] When operational, Morgan will supply power to approximately 1.5 million UK homes. The project reinforces the North West coast as a major UK offshore hub alongside Dogger Bank and Hornsea clusters, creating immediate opportunity for subsea cable providers, foundation fabricators, and O&M base developers with North Sea logistics experience.[7]

Morecambe Generating Assets (Irish Sea): In parallel, the Secretary of State approved the Morecambe Generating Assets DCO—a 480 MW offshore wind farm located west of Blackpool in the Irish Sea.[8] The approval underscores the Irish Sea's emergence as a critical strategic cluster for UK offshore wind, complementing the Celtic Sea Round 5 floating wind pipeline (4.5 GW) approved earlier in the month. For North East Scotland firms, the two Irish Sea projects create demand for port services, fabrication support, and specialist installation capabilities that were previously concentrated in the North Sea.[7][8]

European Hydrogen Infrastructure: This week, the European Commission formally adopted its latest list of Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) and Projects of Mutual Interest (PMIs), including **100 hydrogen infrastructure projects** selected from 199 applications (54% success rate).[4][9] These projects span hydrogen pipelines, underground storage, import terminals, and electrolysis hubs, forming the backbone of a pan-European hydrogen network integrating production centres (North Sea, Iberia, Southern Europe) with industrial demand clusters in Germany, Benelux, Italy and Central Europe. The projects now enjoy accelerated permitting regimes, improved regulatory treatment, and potential access to EU Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) funding, dramatically lowering cost of capital and derisking long-distance hydrogen transport.[4][9]

The hydrogen PCI list reinforces Spain and Germany's emerging role as the EU's hydrogen production heartlands. This week, Spain announced it has allocated **€126.4 million** in national co-funding to two renewable hydrogen electrolysis projects (Orange.Bat in Valencia, eM Numancia in Castile and León)—combined 160 MW capacity. These were projects ranked by the European Commission in previous auctions but did not secure EU support due to budget constraints.[6] Spain's national funding represents the first time EU member states have financed renewable hydrogen production support (rather than capital expenditure), signalling a shift toward direct offtake support and industry-scale hydrogen markets.[6]

1.2 Americas – Policy Uncertainty Deepens Project Pause Trajectory

In sharp contrast to European momentum, the United States offshore wind sector faced two significant setbacks this week.

New England Wind – Voluntary Remand: On 2 December 2025, the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) filed a motion seeking voluntary remand of New England Wind's construction and operations plan (COP), which had been approved in 2024 under the previous administration.[10][11] The remand stems from a lawsuit filed by ACK for Whales and other opponents challenging the project's federal approval. New England Wind (Avangrid–Iberdrola), planned for 20 miles south of Martha's Vineyard, could comprise up to 129 turbines. The voluntary remand effectively pauses the project as the federal government reconsiders its stance under the current administration.[10][11]

This marks the **second voluntary remand** of a Massachusetts offshore wind project in recent months—SouthCoast Wind, a 141-turbine project planned 26 miles south of Martha's Vineyard, was similarly remanded in September 2025. These moves signal a fundamental shift in federal offshore wind policy, with significant implications for investor confidence and project timelines across the Atlantic Coast.[10][11]

Australia – Victoria Offshore Wind Collapse: AGL Energy announced on 5 December 2025 that it is withdrawing from the Gippsland Skies offshore wind project (approximately 2.5 GW) in Victoria's east, citing global offshore wind headwinds—particularly US policy uncertainty.[12] This marks the **third major project abandonment** in Victoria's designated offshore wind zone this year:

- July 2025: BlueFloat Energy withdrew from Gippsland Dawn (USD 10 billion project, previously granted major project status)
- October 2025: RWE terminated the Kent offshore wind farm (2 GW)
- December 2025: AGL withdraws from Gippsland Skies[12]

Australia's federal and state governments have set targets for 2-8 GW of offshore wind by 2032–2045, but Victoria's auditor-general has warned that the state is now unlikely to achieve its 2 GW by 2032 target. AGL indicated it will redirect capital toward onshore wind, battery storage, and pumped hydro instead of offshore—a portfolio adjustment strategy mirroring cautious developer sentiment globally in response to US policy changes.[12]

1.3 Asia-Pacific – Steady Regulatory Progress and Corporate Offtake Momentum

Despite Western market volatility, Asia-Pacific offshore wind continues advancing through regulatory and financing channels.

Taiwan Corporate PPA: Synera Renewable Energy (SRE) signed a long-term corporate power purchase agreement (CPPA) in Taiwan for a portion of the 495 MW Formosa 4 offshore wind farm with Taiwan Smart Electricity & Energy (TSEE), the government-backed electricity aggregator.[13] The CPPA addresses accelerating corporate demand for renewable electricity from businesses across Taiwan and signals investor confidence in Taiwan's offshore wind trajectory despite cost pressures. SRE's chairperson Lucas Lin emphasised that "the agreement ensures long-term revenue stability and fortifies the financial structure of Formosa 4" while providing "consistent, reliable renewable energy to a wider array of corporate consumers".[13]

UK Grid and Aurora Study: Aurora Energy Research published a cost-benefit analysis (commissioned by RWE) concluding that the UK can achieve its 43 GW offshore wind target by 2035 "cost-neutral for billpayers over the next ten years" if AR7 procures capacity priced up to £94/MWh (USD 125/MWh).[14] The study, whilst not breaking new ground on technical feasibility, provides financial evidence that supports government policy commitment and industry investment planning during a period of rising interest rates and cost-of-capital uncertainty.[14]

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2. Hydrogen Infrastructure Acceleration: EU Leadership and Capital Mobilisation

2.1 European Commission's Third Hydrogen Bank Auction and €3 Billion+ Funding Wave

This week, the European Commission launched the third auction under the European Hydrogen Bank, backed by €1.3 billion in EU budget support.[5] Critically, this round is **reinforced by unprecedented national co-funding**: Germany committed an additional €1.3 billion and Spain €415 million—bringing the total available budget for this auction cycle to **over €3 billion**.[5][6]

This capital mobilisation represents a qualitative shift. The Hydrogen Bank's third auction is explicitly designed to de-risk commercial-scale hydrogen production projects (electrolyser plants, power-to-hydrogen installations, industrial offtake agreements) that would otherwise struggle to achieve financial investment decisions in the current high-interest-rate environment. The scale of EU + national co-funding signals that renewable hydrogen production at 100+ MW scale is now treated as strategic infrastructure eligible for public co-investment—a status comparable to power transmission or water infrastructure in mature economies.[5][6]

Key takeaways for supply-chain firms:

- Hydrogen projects funded by the third auction will begin construction in 2026–2027, with commissioning targeted for 2029–2032
- Projects must demonstrate offtake agreements or credible demand (industrial end-use, hard-to-abate sectors such as refining, chemicals, cement, steelmaking)
- European-content requirements will favour supply-chain firms from EU member states, UK, and closely associated economies
- Integration with offshore wind (power-to-hydrogen co-location) will drive demand for subsea electrical interconnects, onshore grid infrastructure, and process engineering support

2.2 Renewable Hydrogen Coalition's "New Deal" and Electrolyser Manufacturing Acceleration

Parallel to the Hydrogen Bank auction launch, Europe's renewable hydrogen industry leaders issued a joint "New Deal" call on 4 December 2025, urging the European Commission and member states to accelerate policy and financial support to avoid "stranded" electrolyser manufacturing capacity.[15]

Key context: European electrolyser manufacturing capacity has grown from 1 GW to 10 GW in recent years, with 15 GW targeted by end-2026. However, operational hydrogen production projects remain significantly below installed manufacturing capacity, creating risk of underutilisation and supply-chain consolidation. The Renewable Hydrogen Coalition (RHC) has committed that members "could put online close to 18 GW of renewable hydrogen production projects between 2026 and 2032" with appropriate policy support.[15]

Policy gaps identified by RHC:

- Fragmented national hydrogen strategies with inconsistent support mechanisms
- Uncertain demand signals from industrial offtakers (no binding PPAs in place for many planned projects)
- Permitting delays for electrolyser plants and hydrogen infrastructure interconnects
- Financing gaps despite Hydrogen Bank—many projects still require blended finance or concessional capital

The RHC has explicitly called on EU member states to harmonise hydrogen support frameworks, establish firm demand-side mechanisms (mandates or quotas for low-carbon hydrogen in hard-to-abate sectors), and streamline permitting. This coalition messaging—amplified at the Renewable Hydrogen Summit on 4 December—is likely to influence the European Commission's hydrogen policy roadmap for 2026–2030 and could trigger additional national funding windows beyond the Hydrogen Bank.[15]

2.3 Global Hydrogen Council CEO Summit and Industry Shift to Delivery

Over 200 CEOs and senior executives from global hydrogen companies convened in Seoul on 3–4 December 2025 for the Hydrogen Council's Global CEO Summit 2025, where the industry endorsed a communiqué titled **"Hydrogen 2030: Lead. Build. Deliver."**[16]

The communiqué signals a decisive shift from hydrogen aspirations to commercial delivery:

- Capital committed across 500+ projects has grown ten-fold in just five years, with projects now passing financial investment decision (FID), entering construction or achieving operational status
- Industry leaders committed to concrete steps: unlock demand through policy action, implement pragmatic regulations, build out infrastructure, align on global standards, and foster public-private partnerships
- Growth trajectory now mirrors the early scale-up phases of wind and solar industries—suggesting a 5–10 year window for hydrogen to move from demonstration to mature commercial sector

Jaehoon Chang (Vice Chair, Hyundai Motor Group, Co-Chair Hydrogen Council): "Hydrogen is not only a climate solution but a cornerstone for energy security and industrial competitiveness… the industry will deliver real impact."[16]

François Jackow (CEO Air Liquide, Co-Chair Hydrogen Council): "We have moved from proofs-of-concept to successful commercial deployment at scale. The time has now come to push further… building faster, establishing harmonized global standards and ensuring bold coordinated public-private action."[16]

For North East Scotland and North Sea companies, the Seoul Summit's messaging has strategic significance: hydrogen is transitioning from venture-stage innovation to industrial deployment, creating demand for:

- Industrial-scale electrolyser fabrication and installation
- High-pressure pipeline engineering and subsea hydrogen transport
- Process engineering integration (coupling hydrogen production with offshore wind)
- Operations and maintenance at scale (servicing 100+ MW electrolyser parks)
- Quality assurance and standards compliance systems

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3. CCUS Acceleration: UK Policy Commitment and Regulatory Clarity

3.1 UK Government Spending Review: £9.4 Billion for CCUS Clusters + Development Funding for Acorn and Viking

The UK Government's 2025 Spending Review provided a substantial boost to carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) clusters this week, with **£9.4 billion in capital budgets** allocated over the spending review period.[17]

Acorn Project (Scotland): The Government confirmed support and development funding for the Acorn Project in Aberdeenshire, led by Storegga. Acorn is now explicitly positioned as Scotland's critical infrastructure transition asset—a platform to convert North Sea infrastructure and expertise from hydrocarbon operations into permanent CO_2 storage and low-carbon hydrogen hubs. Ted Stedman, CEO of Storegga, welcomed the funding, noting it will "enable the critical work needed to reach Final Investment Decision".[17]

Viking Project (Humberside): Government support also extended to the Viking CCUS project in Humberside, advancing alongside the East Coast Cluster and HyNet in North West England.[17]

Strategic significance: The Spending Review's CCUS allocation signals that UK Government views CCUS clusters as national infrastructure equivalent to power generation and water systems. The move to development funding (as opposed to earlier feasibility-only support) for Acorn and Viking demonstrates regulatory conviction that these projects will reach FID and move to construction in the 2026–2028 timeframe.

For supply-chain firms, the spending commitment creates visibility for:

- CCUS transport infrastructure (pipeline fabrication, subsea laying, onshore routing)
- Compression and separation systems engineering
- Monitoring, verification and reporting (MVR) equipment and services

- Platform conversion for CO_2 injection (repurposing end-of-life oil & gas infrastructure)
- Industrial offtaker support (retrofitting cement, refining, steelmaking facilities for CO_2 capture)

3.2 CCUS Project Collaboration Model: Competition Versus Public-Private Partnership

At the CCUS 2025 Conference held in London in October (reviewed widely this week), a dominant theme emerged: CCUS requires collaboration, not competition, between emitters, infrastructure developers, regulators, and investors.[18]

Eni CCUS Holdings positioned itself as a "billion-dollar startup" building the UK's first large-scale CCS network via repurposed pipelines and shared infrastructure. **Shell** highlighted that "working on partnership and even oversharing led to a viable product." **Heidelberg Materials** noted that "collaboration, not competition, led to progress." This messaging reflects a structural reality: CCUS infrastructure (pipelines, compression, storage) is most economically viable when shared across multiple industrial emitters, creating natural monopoly characteristics that favour integrated development over isolated projects.[18]

Cross-border implications: Nick Flinn (VP Decarbonisation & Emerging Technologies, Shell) noted that Shell already has "10 pre-FID projects in motion" and that "EU CO_2 is already being discussed as a supply for one of them"—signalling imminent cross-border CO_2 transport pipelines linking continental Europe to UK North Sea storage. This would require UK–EU emissions trading system (ETS) linkage agreements and technical standards harmonisation.[18]

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4. Offshore Wind Vessel Deployment and Logistics Acceleration

4.1 Cadeler's WTIV Newbuild at Sea; Industry Capacity and Allocation Tensions

Danish offshore wind installation contractor Cadeler took delivery of the Wind Mover wind turbine installation vessel (WTIV) from Hanwha Ocean (South Korea) on 28 November 2025, formally signing the second M-class vessel approximately one month ahead of schedule.[19] Wind Mover sailed from Hanwha Ocean's shipyard on 2 December, en route to Europe for its maiden offshore wind installation contract.

Wind Mover represents the second of Cadeler's two WTIV newbuilds (the first, Wind Maker, was delivered in January 2025). Delivery on schedule and ahead of target signals:

- Heavy-lift vessel supply remains critical to European offshore wind deployment
- Installation vessel availability is a bottleneck constraining project timelines (delayed vessels push projects back by 12+ months)
- Asian shipyards (Hanwha, Samsung Heavy Industries) are now the primary source of heavy-lift vessel capacity for European contractors

4.2 Seatrium-Maersk Arbitration and US Offshore Wind Installation Capability Uncertainty

Singaporean engineering group Seatrium issued a notice of arbitration against an affiliate of Maersk Offshore Wind on contract termination for a WTIV intended for the Empire Wind 1 project in US waters.[19] Seatrium had notified the buyer (Maersk) on 20 October 2025 that the vessel would be ready for delivery by 30 January 2026. Maersk's notice of arbitration (1 October) preceded Seatrium's delivery readiness statement by three weeks, signalling buyer concern about project viability. The dispute will be heard under London arbitration rules.[19]

Implication: Dispute escalation in US offshore wind installation contracts suggests growing buyer caution regarding US market certainty. Given the New England Wind and SouthCoast Wind project pauses, US developers are revisiting installation timelines and may be seeking to defer or terminate vessel contracts to preserve capital. This creates secondary-market opportunity for Asian and European contractors to redeploy cancelled US vessel capacity toward European, UK, and Asia-Pacific projects where regulatory visibility remains firmer.[19]

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5. Key Energy Transition Milestone: Hydrogen Council Commits to Commercial Delivery by 2030

The Hydrogen Council's Seoul CEO Summit (3–4 December 2025) represents a watershed moment for the global hydrogen industry. The sector is transitioning from technology demonstration and policy advocacy to commercial-scale project deployment. Key evidence:

- **500+ projects globally** have now passed FID or entered construction/operation (up from ~100 projects five years ago)
- **Capital committed** has increased ten-fold over five years
- **Electrolyser manufacturing capacity** now at 10 GW with 15 GW targeted by end-2026—exceeding near-term production demand
- **Policy frameworks** are maturing in EU, UK, US, Korea, Japan, Australia, Saudi Arabia and UAE

The industry's communiqué "Hydrogen 2030: Lead. Build. Deliver." signals that companies expect hydrogen to move from venture-stage (2015–2025) to mature commercial deployment (2025–2035), mirroring solar and wind's scaling trajectory.[16]

For North East Scotland and North Sea firms, this means hydrogen is transitioning from "feasibility and pilot" services toward "asset construction and operations"—a fundamentally different commercial model requiring:

- Manufacturing and fabrication of industrial-scale electrolysers (100+ MW)
- Subsea and onshore pipeline systems for hydrogen transport

- Compression, separation and storage engineering
- Grid integration and power management systems
- Operations and maintenance support across multi-year contracts

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6. Supply Chain and Market Entry Intelligence: Week's Key Opportunities

6.1 North Sea and Celtic Sea

Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Consents: Two major Irish Sea approvals consolidate supply-chain demand for:

- Subsea cable design, fabrication, and installation
- Foundation engineering and fabrication (monopiles, jackets, or floating structures)
- Port marshalling and O&M base infrastructure
- Turbine O&M support systems

EU Hydrogen PCIs: 100 cross-border hydrogen projects now fast-tracked for permitting and EU funding—creating demand for:

- High-pressure pipeline design and offshore subsea routes
- Compression systems engineering
- Storage integrity assessment
- Hydrogen metering and leak detection

6.2 Spain's Green Hydrogen Expansion

Spain's €126.4 million national hydrogen funding (two projects, 160 MW combined electrolyser capacity) signals that national governments are co-funding hydrogen projects rejected by EU Hydrogen Bank auctions due to budget constraints.[6] Supply-chain opportunity:

- Electrolyser fabrication partnerships with technology leaders (Plug Power, Thyssenkrupp, Enapter)
- Hydrogen transport infrastructure (pipeline routing, compression, on-site facilities)
- Industrial offtaker integration (ceramic manufacturers, chemical companies)

6.3 Australia Market Recalibration

AGL's withdrawal from Gippsland Skies, combined with earlier project cancellations, signals that Australia's offshore wind timeline is extending beyond 2032.[12] However, onshore wind, battery storage and pumped hydro remain active markets. For North East Scotland firms:

- Monitor Australian renewable energy tenders (onshore wind, grid infrastructure)
- Explore partnerships with Australian engineering firms to support Pacific region opportunities
- Track New Zealand and Pacific Islands renewable energy developments

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7. Policy, Regulation and Financial Environment

7.1 UK Government: Clean Power 2030 and National Policy Statement Revisions

The UK's 2025 Spending Review (November) and ongoing National Policy Statement (NPS) revisions to EN-1, EN-3, and EN-5 signal continued commitment to accelerating energy infrastructure consenting and deployment. Ofgem has also confirmed a package of measures enabling **£28 billion of investment from electricity distribution networks** to maintain safe, modern grid infrastructure and integrate renewable and low-carbon generation.[17]

Implication: Grid constraint relief timelines are extending into late 2020s, but investment certainty remains high. Supply-chain firms should expect sustained demand for:

- High-voltage substation design and fabrication
- Grid-interconnection engineering services
- Constraint-driven system studies and optimisation

7.2 European Union: Clean Industrial Deal and Hydrogen PCIs

The EU's formal endorsement of 100 hydrogen and renewable electricity PCIs (this week) represents institutional commitment to pan-European energy infrastructure spanning 2025–2035. These projects will benefit from:

- Accelerated permitting regimes (9-12 month target vs. current 3-5 year timelines)
- Access to Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) funding
- Improved grid access and cross-border regulatory harmonisation

For North East Scotland suppliers, alignment with EU hydrogen infrastructure strategy creates a decade-long, structured pipeline of capital-intensive projects requiring deep energy engineering expertise.[4][9]

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8. Feature Deep-Dive: The Hydrogen-CCUS-Offshore Wind Convergence—Why Infrastructure Repurposing Defines the 2030s Energy System

Context: Three Parallel Transitions Creating Integrated Opportunity

The past week's developments underscore a critical strategic reality that will dominate offshore energy markets through 2035: hydrogen, CCUS, and offshore wind are not separate energy pathways—they are becoming an **integrated, systems-level infrastructure transition** centred on repurposing existing North Sea, Celtic Sea, and European coastal assets.

Consider the timeline and geography:

1. Decommissioning Acceleration (2025–2035)

UK, North Sea, and increasingly ASEAN jurisdictions are enforcing decommissioning obligations on end-of-life oil and gas infrastructure. The UK North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA) recently named 13 operators falling behind on well abandonment schedules, with 153 wells in arrears. OEUK data show decommissioning spending is on course to overtake new oil & gas capital investment by the late 2020s—a structural pivot point.[20]

2. CCUS Infrastructure in Depleted Fields (2025–2035)

Simultaneously, UK, EU, and Asian development banks are explicitly endorsing CO_2 storage in depleted oil and gas fields as a permanent end-of-life use. The Asian Development Bank's November 2025 policy shift enables CCUS projects using depleted fields for storage across ASEAN—mirroring emerging UK and Norwegian practice. This means end-of-life assets are no longer "liabilities to be removed" but potential "long-term CO_2 storage hubs."[21]

3. Hydrogen Infrastructure Corridors (2026–2035)

The EU's 100 hydrogen PCIs and UK's Project Union hydrogen network are creating demand for large-scale hydrogen transport pipelines, many of which will leverage existing subsea corridor rights-of-way and onshore infrastructure permits from prior hydrocarbon operations. The St Fergus to Teesside hydrogen pipeline (part of Project Union) exemplifies this: re-routing existing infrastructure from gas to hydrogen transport, reducing permitting friction and accelerating capital deployment.[22]

Integrated Opportunity Model: "Platform Conversion"

Companies that recognise and organise around this integrated reality—rather than treating decommissioning, offshore wind, hydrogen and CCUS as isolated silos—will capture the next 20–30 years of supply-chain value.

Platform Conversion Model:

1. **Assessment Phase (Years 1–2)**: Evaluate which end-of-life oil & gas assets merit full removal versus conversion. This requires subsea well integrity, reservoir engineering, geological modelling, and economic viability analysis.

2. **Conversion Phase (Years 3–7)**: Reconfigure selected assets for new purpose—converting wellheads for CO_2 injection, installing hydrogen compressors and on-site storage, retrofitting platforms as offshore electrolysis hubs or power-to-hydrogen conversion facilities.

3. **Operations Phase (Years 8–30+)**: Operate converted assets as permanent low-carbon infrastructure—CO_2 storage hubs, hydrogen production and transit facilities, or grid-balancing installations.

Why This Model Works:

- **Cost**: Repurposing existing infrastructure is 40–60% cheaper than greenfield development due to salvaged port facilities, fabrication yards, grid interconnects, and logistics networks
- **Speed**: Re-routing existing permits and regulatory pathways accelerates deployment by 3–5 years vs. new projects
- **Employment**: Converts decommissioning jobs (temporary, removal-focused) into permanent operational roles (hydrogen, CCUS technicians, grid engineers)
- **Community**: Preserves industrial-scale energy operations in mature coastal regions, supporting economic transition for regions dependent on oil & gas

Evidence from This Week

- **Morgan and Morecambe consents** (UK): Two Irish Sea projects approved in one week signal scale of new infrastructure demand. Both will use ports and logistics initially developed for oil & gas support.[7][8]
- **Acorn Project funding** (UK): Storegga's flagship CCUS platform in Aberdeenshire is explicitly framed as "Scotland's transition from oil and gas to low-carbon technology".[17]
- **EU Hydrogen PCIs**: Many projects will use subsea corridors previously permitted for natural gas pipelines; cross-border routes (Spain–France, Germany–Netherlands, etc.) leverage existing transmission rights-of-way.[4][9]
- **ASEAN CCUS Policy Shift**: Asian Development Bank now explicitly endorses CCUS in depleted oil & gas fields, enabling countries like Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei to pursue platform conversion rather than full asset removal.[21]

Strategic Implication for Supply-Chain Firms

Companies with deep experience in North Sea decommissioning, subsea engineering, and asset life-extension should develop **platform conversion business units** targeting:

- **Advisory services**: Techno-economic assessment of which assets merit conversion vs. removal
- **Engineering**: Subsea well conversion, platform retrofitting, infrastructure repurposing design

- **Project management**: Decommissioning-to-conversion transition campaigns
- **Operations integration**: Handover from temporary decommissioning teams to permanent hydrogen/CCUS operational staff

This business model is particularly attractive for firms in North East Scotland, Norway, the Netherlands, and Denmark—regions with (1) deep decommissioning expertise, (2) proximity to repurposable assets, and (3) established relationships with operators and regulators.

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9. Events, Publications and Resources

Industry Events (Next 4 Weeks)

- **World Hydrogen Expo 2025** (Seoul, 4–7 December 2025): 320+ companies from 24 countries; Hydrogen Council CEO Summit (2–4 December) with 150+ global hydrogen leaders; expected 30,000+ visitors.[16]
- **CCUS 2025 Conference**: London (October 2025, now under review); next major CCUS event scheduled for Q1 2026.[18]
- **Renewable Hydrogen Summit** (4 December 2025, Europe): Industry call for "New Deal" on renewable hydrogen policy and financing.[15]
- **ASEAN Power Grid Coordination Forum**: Q1 2026 expected—regional utilities and government coordination on cross-border interconnection phasing.

Key Publications and Reports This Week

1. **European Commission**: "Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) and Projects of Mutual Interest (PMIs) – 7th List" (December 2025) – 100 hydrogen and renewable electricity infrastructure projects selected; fast-track permitting and CEF funding eligibility.[4][9]
2. **Hydrogen Europe**: "Hydrogen Prominent in 7th List of PCIs" (30 November 2025) – 100 hydrogen projects include pipelines, storage, electrolysers, and hydrogen valleys across Western and Central Europe.[9]
3. **Renewable Hydrogen Coalition**: "New Deal to Scale Up Renewable Hydrogen in Europe" (4 December 2025) – Industry statement calling for policy harmonisation, firm demand signals, and accelerated permitting.[15]
4. **Hydrogen Council**: "Hydrogen 2030: Lead. Build. Deliver" – Global Communiqué (3–4 December 2025, Seoul) – Industry commitment to commercial hydrogen deployment by 2030; 500+ projects at FID/construction/operation stage.[16]
5. **Aurora Energy Research**: "UK 43 GW Offshore Wind: Cost-Neutral Analysis" (December 2025) – Study concluding UK offshore wind target is financially viable at £94/MWh strike price.[14]

6. **Spain Ministry of Ecological Transition (MITECO)**: "First National Green Hydrogen Auctions-as-a-Service" (December 2025) – €126.4 million allocated to two electrolyser projects (160 MW combined capacity) in Valencia and Castile-León.[6]

7. **UK Government**: "2025 Spending Review – CCUS Clusters Funding Announcement" (November 2025) – £9.4 billion capital budgets; development funding for Acorn (Scotland) and Viking (Humberside) projects.[17]

8. **Asian Development Bank**: "Energy Sector Policy Update – CCUS in Depleted Oil & Gas Fields" (November 2025) – Policy amendments enabling CCUS projects using depleted fields for CO_2 storage across ASEAN member states.[21]

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10. Looking Ahead: Week of 12 December 2025

Expected Developments:

- **World Hydrogen Expo 2025 Follow-Up**: Industry announcements from Seoul; Korean government hydrogen roadmap updates
- **European Hydrogen Bank Third Auction Details**: Project shortlist and funding allocation details expected early December
- **UK Energy Policy**: Further implementation details on National Policy Statement revisions; grid investment timelines
- **ASEAN Offshore Wind Regulatory Frameworks**: Vietnam regulatory approval expected Q4 2025 or Q1 2026 as legislative process concludes
- **US Offshore Wind Policy Clarity**: Potential announcements regarding New England Wind and SouthCoast Wind voluntary remand outcomes
- **CCUS Project Finance**: Continued capital raise announcements from East Coast Cluster, HyNet, and Acorn as development funding translates to FID preparation activity

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11. Strategic Recommendations for This Week

For Service and Technology Providers

1. **Map capabilities against EU hydrogen PCIs**: Identify which of the 100 endorsed projects align with your firm's expertise (pipelines, compression, storage, electrolysis, grid integration, monitoring).[4][9]

2. **Prepare Hydrogen Bank Auction bid support**: The third auction (€1.3 + €1.3 + €0.415 billion = €3+ billion) opens procurement for electrolyser supply chain and hydrogen infrastructure. Establish partnerships with lead developers and technology providers now.[5][6]

3. **Develop CCUS platform conversion services**: Position for Acorn, Viking, East Coast Cluster, and ASEAN decommissioning-to-CCUS transitions. Advisory, engineering, and project management services command premium margins in early market development.[17][21]

4. **Monitor Irish Sea offshore wind ramp**: Morgan and Morecambe consents signal acceleration. Secure port contracts, fabrication slots, and installation vessel capacity for 2027–2030 deployment window.[7][8]

5. **Track US offshore wind recalibration**: Project pauses may create secondary-market opportunities for vessel and component supply. Monitor arbitration outcomes and policy clarification announcements.[10][11]

For Business Development and Commercial Teams

1. **Engage with EU energy transition platforms**: The PCIs represent a formal 10-year infrastructure pipeline. European development banks, EIB, and EFSI are primary funders—establish relationships with institutions financing these projects.[4][9]

2. **Position for national hydrogen auctions**: Spain's €126.4 million allocation signals that member states will co-fund hydrogen projects outside EU Hydrogen Bank. Identify which other EU nations may open similar auctions in Q1 2026.[6]

3. **Scout ASEAN opportunities**: Vietnam's offshore wind regulatory framework is advancing (expected Q1 2026). Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore have articulated green hydrogen and CCUS strategies. Early market entry through partnerships with regional engineering firms or development banks creates first-mover advantage.[21]

4. **Monitor cross-border CCUS financing**: UK–EU emissions trading linkage and North Sea CO_2 storage asset development will accelerate cross-border CCUS project finance. Establish relationships with multilateral development banks (EIB, World Bank, ADB) active in this space.[17][21]

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About This Publication

Energy Transition Weekly – Global Edition is an independent intelligence briefing on offshore wind, hydrogen, CCUS, marine energy, hydropower, decommissioning, and other renewable energy developments globally over the prior 7 days.

Published weekly to help international energy supply-chain companies, infrastructure developers, and investors identify market opportunities and navigate policy developments in priority low-carbon energy markets worldwide.

Designed for:

- North East Scotland and UK offshore energy supply chain SMEs
- International infrastructure and project development firms
- Public and private investment and development finance institutions
- Strategic planners in government and regulatory bodies

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