

UK OFFSHORE LOW-CARBON INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

Week Ending 5 September 2026

Coverage Period	Audience	Classification
30 Aug – 5 Sep 2026	NES Tier 2/3 Energy Supply Chain	Weekly Market Intelligence

Executive Summary

The seven days to 5 September 2026 delivered a decisive shift in the UK North Sea decommissioning narrative, a set of NES-directly-relevant Scottish Government funding awards, a policy signal that Jackdaw approval is now imminent, and the largest single UK electricity transmission investor engagement of the year.

On 1 September Energy Voice reported the formation of the Decommissioning Collective — a five-member operator group led by Boskalis, working alongside Harbour Energy and Eni with two further unannounced operators, targeting the potential £5.5 billion UK subsea decommissioning market. Boskalis has committed half its fleet, guaranteed vessel availability and locked in operator prices for 10 years, with the industry-wide vessels-versus-rigs shift on remaining subsea wellhead removals valued at around £200 million (30% cost saving). The Collective sits directly on top of the 25 August Spirit Energy campaign close-out as validation of the rigless P&A trajectory.

The Scottish Government confirmed on 1 September the 2026 Just Transition Fund for the North East and Moray funding round — the single most NES-relevant supply-chain funding announcement of Q3. Awards to note: ORE Catapult £4.0m for a world-leading Large Scale Synthetic Mooring Line Test Rig for Scotland’s offshore wind supply chain (2026–28); Marine Developments Limited £1.5m for the Peterhead Energy Service Base Reel Mover (2026–28); Hydrasun £1.97m to establish Scotland’s first electrolyser manufacturing capability in Aberdeen (2026–29); Global Underwater Hub £1.52m for an Underwater Supply Chain R&D Programme diversifying into offshore renewables, subsea power transmission and aquaculture (2026–28); NESCol £0.6m for a Scottish Maritime Academy Simulator; and Moray Council £1.2m including the £900,000 Buckie Harbour expansion (crew transfer vessels for Ocean Winds’ 882 MW Moray West) plus Green Energy Parks at Mosstodloch and Dallachy Airfield.

On policy and upstream, Reuters reported on 4 September that the UK Government is expected to approve the Jackdaw gas field on 15 September — ending years of legal delays, with Adura (the Shell/Equinor JV) able to bring the field online from this winter and peak production of 40,000 boe/d. The Times separately signalled that Rosebank expansion is now “very unlikely” to receive approval on the same date.

Baker Hughes was awarded on 4 September a bp UK North Sea offshore stimulation contract, deploying its vessel-based StimFORCE modular system across new and mature bp fields, with UK operating base and established local supply-chain network cited as decisive. Ithaca Energy confirmed on 3 September its promotion to the FTSE 100 (effective 21 September). SSE plc hosted on 2 September its £29 billion RIIO-T3 SSEN Transmission investor briefing in Aberdeen (Eastern Green Link 2 and Netherton Hub site visits). Aker Solutions appointed Paal Eikeseth as CEO on 1 September. The Humber–Norway offshore wind MoU received Westminster recognition on 2 September; York University’s FutureSource geothermal Drillmec Rig 65 arrived at Immingham.

Time-critical NES focus: Jackdaw decision 15 September; NESO AR8 qualification closes 16 September; GBE Supply Chain Fund Round 3 closes 30 September; Ofgem LDES autumn awards approaching; Autumn Budget 28 October; Floating Offshore Wind Conference Aberdeen 7–8 October.

1. Offshore Wind — Fixed Bottom

Baker Hughes awarded bp UK North Sea vessel-based stimulation contract (4 September 2026)

Baker Hughes announced on 4 September that it has been awarded a significant offshore production enhancement and stimulation services contract by bp, supporting new well development and production enhancement across bp's UK North Sea operations. The contract deploys a vessel-based stimulation solution featuring Baker Hughes' StimFORCE modular stimulation package across new drilling and mature bp UKCS fields, explicitly supported by Baker Hughes' UK operating base and established local supply-chain network. Executive Vice President of Oilfield Services & Equipment Amerino Gatti described the award as underpinning bp's long-term UK North Sea development plans. Vessel selection and campaign timing have not been publicly disclosed, but the contract signals sustained UK bp CAPEX and reservoir management activity across the AR8 and Autumn Budget window.

NES Sales Opportunity: This is an immediate NES Tier 2/3 signal that vessel-based stimulation, production enhancement and well intervention services will continue to be procured on bp UK North Sea assets through 2027–29. NES firms in high-integrity welding, hazardous-area electrical, coatings, cathodic protection, marine warranty, ROV inspection, chemical handling, subsea intervention services, wireline, coiled tubing, mechanical fabrication and specialist QHSE should approach Baker Hughes UK procurement (Aberdeen) and bp UK procurement (Sunbury / Aberdeen) this month. Vessel-based stimulation directly cross-sells to combined bp CCS Endurance and NEP construction sub-contract windows.

Ithaca Energy promoted to FTSE 100 — first UK North Sea independent since 2022 (3 September 2026)

FTSE Russell confirmed on 2 September that Ithaca Energy PLC (LON: ITH) has been promoted to the FTSE 100 Index, effective 21 September 2026. Ithaca Energy is the second-largest independent UKCS producer, holds stakes in six of the ten largest UKCS fields and two of the largest pre-development fields, and holds a partner stake in Adura's Rosebank and Jackdaw. The promotion reflects Ithaca's stated commitment to organic investment, acquisitions and a net-zero emissions strategy ahead of the North Sea Transition Deal targets. Ithaca CEO reaffirmed the company's intent to use its reserves and UKCS operational capability to deliver security of domestic energy supply. The FTSE 100 promotion delivers new institutional capital access ahead of the Jackdaw and Rosebank ministerial decisions expected mid-September.

NES Sales Opportunity: The FTSE 100 promotion is a decisive re-rating signal for the UKCS independent segment. NES Tier 2/3 firms should refresh account plans with Ithaca Energy (Aberdeen), Adura (Equinor / Shell UK, Aberdeen) and other Ithaca partner assets across drilling, wells, subsea, marine, HV electrical, coatings, cathodic protection, ROV, QHSE and integrated well services. Post-15 September Jackdaw approval, Ithaca's share of accelerated development spend should drive framework and sub-contract awards through Q4 2026.

SSE plc hosts £29bn RIIO-T3 SSEN Transmission investor day in Aberdeen (2 September 2026)

SSE plc hosted an in-person investor relations event in Aberdeen on 2 September, focused on SSEN Transmission and its £29 billion RIIO-T3 investment plan. Managing Director Rob McDonald and the SSEN

Transmission management team presented on asset management, project delivery, finance and regulation, with site visits to two projects under construction: Eastern Green Link 2 and Netherton Hub. SSEN Transmission separately announced a new £150 million training centre at Thainstone Business Park, Inverurie (Aberdeenshire); the roll-out of seven new inspection robots across HVDC stations in the north of Scotland; first supergrid transformer delivered to Crossaig North substation (Argyll); and a temporary closure of South College Street, Aberdeen from Monday 7 September for a major underground cable replacement.

NES Sales Opportunity: The £29 billion RIIO-T3 plan and the £150 million Thainstone training centre are two of the most consequential NES supply-chain signals of Q3. NES firms in HV electrical, substation civils, HVDC works, coatings, structural steel (BHC), hazardous-area electrical, rigging, protective coatings, welding, ground works and cable jointing should approach SSEN Transmission (Perth), the RIIO-T3 delivery partner ecosystem (Balfour Beatty, Morgan Sindall, Siemens Energy UK, Hitachi Energy UK, ABB, NKT, Prysmian) and the Netherton Hub and Eastern Green Link 2 sub-contract teams. Immediate Aberdeen scope: South College Street cable replacement work.

Humber–Norway offshore wind MoU recognised in Westminster (2 September 2026)

The BusinessDesk reported on 2 September that a new international partnership between Humber Marine and Renewables and Norwegian Offshore Wind aimed at strengthening links between the UK and Norwegian offshore wind industries received formal parliamentary recognition. Melanie Onn MP (Grimsby and Cleethorpes) raised the agreement in Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband's questions, highlighting the Humber's importance to the UK energy sector and the role of international collaboration in protecting critical infrastructure. The MoU was subsequently endorsed by Westminster on the same day. The partnership will focus on cross-border floating and fixed-bottom supply-chain integration, shared port infrastructure development, digital data exchange and joint response to grid and cybersecurity risks.

NES Sales Opportunity: The MoU underscores that UK offshore wind supply chain positioning increasingly straddles the North Sea rather than sitting within national ports alone. NES firms should co-position UK and Norwegian offshore wind engagement, particularly around Aker Solutions and Aker BP (Norway) plus SSE Renewables, Equinor UK, RWE, Vattenfall and Ossian JV (UK). Focus scope: HV subsea cabling, dynamic array cable, cathodic protection, marine warranty, ROV inspection, mechanical fabrication and specialist QHSE. Humber and Aberdeen dual-port positioning will differentiate supply-chain bids into AR8 Pot 3.

AR8 CfD NESO qualification window closes 16 September 2026 — CMA clearance confirmed

The eighth Contracts for Difference Allocation Round (AR8) remains in the NESO qualification assessment phase to 16 September 2026, across all pots. AR8 is the first round to require Gate 2 (or Gate 1 CPCR) connection status and the DESNZ Contract Budget Notice is expected in November. Results will be announced between 27 November 2026 (earliest) and 17 February 2027 (latest). Clean Industry Bonus applies across all AR8 offshore-wind categories — UK content evidence remains decisive at bid. The Competition and Markets Authority referral of AR8 closed on 4 September 2026 with no adverse findings, clearing the round to proceed on published timetable. AR8 applicants can no longer surrender part of their capacity and resubmit — the temporary ban is now permanent.

NES Sales Opportunity: The next 11 days are decisive for locking in Tier 1 EPCI and OEM sub-contract Letters of Intent for AR8 Pot 3 and Pot 4. NES firms should confirm commitments across foundation fabrication, dynamic cabling, offshore substation electrical, hazardous-area electrical, coatings, marine coordination and topsides commissioning with ScottishPower Renewables, SSE Renewables, Ocean Winds, Iberdrola, Vattenfall, Equinor UK and the Ossian JV (SSE/CIP/Marubeni). Aberdeen developer offices remain

the direct engagement points. Post-Contract Budget Notice in November, supply-chain positioning windows close rapidly.

2. Floating Offshore Wind

Muir Mhòr 1 GW Peterhead floating wind farm progresses supply-chain engagement (September 2026)

Fred. Olsen Seawind's Muir Mhòr flagship 1 GW floating offshore wind farm, located 63 km off Peterhead, continued advanced supply-chain engagement into September 2026. The developer confirmed onshore planning consent has been secured and is progressing at pace to deliver power in the early 2030s, with a stated commitment to collaboration with industry, communities and suppliers to transition North Sea energy expertise into high-value green jobs. Muir Mhòr sits as one of the world's first commercial-scale floating wind projects and positions Scotland and the UK as global leaders in clean energy. Fred. Olsen Seawind has been active in Scotland and the renewables sector for nearly three decades and continues to build an exportable industrial legacy anchored on local capability, supply-chain investment and a durable Scottish green economy.

NES Sales Opportunity: Muir Mhòr is directly on the NES doorstep and represents the single most immediate floating supply-chain positioning opportunity for Peterhead-based fabrication, mooring, dynamic cabling, HV electrical, marine coordination and QHSE firms. Approach Fred. Olsen Seawind (Peterhead / Oslo) directly this month with capability slides ahead of the 7–8 October RenewableUK Floating Offshore Wind Conference at P&J Live, Aberdeen. Priority scope: floating foundation fabrication, chain and synthetic mooring supply, dynamic array cable pull-in, floating substation electrical, HV commissioning, marine warranty, ROV inspection and rope-access blade repair. Cross-sell into Cenos, MarramWind, Salamander and Green Volt.

ORE Catapult £4.0m Large Scale Synthetic Mooring Line Test Rig award targets Scottish floating supply chain (1 September 2026)

The Scottish Government confirmed on 1 September its 2026 Just Transition Fund award to ORE Catapult of £4,000,000 to build and design a world-leading Large Scale Synthetic Mooring Line Test Rig supporting Scotland's offshore wind supply chain (2026–28). The rig will be the first UK-scale test asset for synthetic mooring lines — a decisive de-risking capability for floating offshore wind, INTOG and ScotWind floating projects. The award sits within a wider £16 million+ Commercial and Public Sector North East and Moray funding round. Related awards include Marine Developments Limited £1,500,000 for the Peterhead Energy Service Base Reel Mover (a modular cable reel mover supporting long-term offshore wind operations at Peterhead), and Global Underwater Hub £1,516,233 for an Underwater Supply Chain R&D Programme diversifying underwater and subsea supply chain into offshore renewables, subsea power transmission, aquaculture and critical underwater infrastructure.

NES Sales Opportunity: These three awards — ORE Catapult, Marine Developments Limited and Global Underwater Hub — are the largest single NES-relevant supply-chain infrastructure funding commitment of the year. NES firms in synthetic mooring supply and testing, HV electrical, structural steel (BHC), mechanical fabrication, subsea, cable-handling, marine coordination, coatings and QHSE should engage ORE Catapult (Blyth / Aberdeen / Glasgow), Marine Developments Limited (Peterhead) and Global Underwater Hub (Aberdeen / Westhill) immediately for participation in the build-out and follow-on commercialisation phases. Directly transferable to Cenos, MarramWind, Salamander, Green Volt, Muir Mhòr, Ossian JV and Berwick Bank supply chains.

3. Hydrogen

Hydrasun £1.97m grant to establish Scotland's first electrolyser manufacturing capability in Aberdeen (1 September 2026)

The Scottish Government confirmed on 1 September its 2026 Just Transition Fund award to Hydrasun of £1,969,688 to establish Scotland's first electrolyser manufacturing capability in Aberdeen (2026–29). The award positions Hydrasun as an anchor UK electrolyser production node ahead of HAR2 electrolytic hydrogen contract awards later in 2026 and HAR3 process design continuing through H2 2026. Scottish HAR2 candidate sites include Sullom Voe (Veri Energy/EnQuest), Cromarty (Scottish Power/Storegga) and Grangemouth (Ineos). Hydrasun is a long-established Aberdeen integrated fluid transfer solutions company with existing UK oil-and-gas, hydrogen and industrial gas engineering credentials.

NES Sales Opportunity: This is the single most NES-relevant hydrogen supply-chain announcement of 2026. NES Tier 2/3 firms in hazardous-area electrical, high-integrity welding, cryogenic systems, mechanical fabrication, coatings, integrated controls, cyber-secure SCADA and specialist QHSE should approach Hydrasun (Aberdeen) procurement immediately. Manufacturing scale-up will require CAPEX-heavy fabrication, HV electrical and testing partners — with direct cross-sell into HAR2 offtake developers (Veri Energy/EnQuest, Scottish Power/Storegga, Ineos) and international electrolyser platform partners. Position now for the 2027–28 first-shipment window.

EET Hydrogen targets September FID at HyNet Ellesmere Port (September 2026)

Essar Energy Transition (EET) Hydrogen and the UK Government continued in the final stretch of talks through September, with EET Hydrogen targeting a final investment decision at its 350 MW HPP1 hydrogen production plant at Ellesmere Port — the anchor blue hydrogen project within HyNet. HPP1 FID would unlock the sequenced HPP2 (up to 900 MW) and connect directly to the HyNet CO2 pipeline and Liverpool Bay storage. UK Government commitment is anchored under the Hydrogen Production Business Model (HPBM), with Contracts for Difference funding negotiations near-final. Track 1 CCUS deployment at HyNet remains synchronised to first CO2 injection in 2028.

NES Sales Opportunity: An EET Hydrogen FID at HPP1 would trigger the largest single UK hydrogen production project procurement window of 2026. NES firms in high-integrity welding, hazardous-area electrical, cryogenic systems, mechanical fabrication, coatings, chemical handling, cyber-secure controls, integrated project engineering and specialist QHSE should approach EET (Ellesmere Port / Aberdeen), preferred EPC framework holders (Wood, Petrofac, Worley, Saipem, Aker Solutions) and Progressive Energy immediately with capability slides. Directly transferable to HAR2 developer engagement at Sullom Voe (Veri Energy/EnQuest), Cromarty (Scottish Power/Storegga) and Grangemouth (Ineos).

4. CCUS

Track 1 CCS mobilisation continues at HyNet Liverpool Bay and Northern Endurance Partnership (September 2026)

The Liverpool Bay CCS project — the first UK carbon storage project to repurpose existing infrastructure — continues its Crown Estate lease-anchored mobilisation under Eni CCUS Holding, ahead of a first CO2 injection scheduled for 2028. Northern Endurance Partnership offshore construction at Hartlepool (Saipem-led 149 km subsea CO2 pipeline) also continues, with NEP having awarded over £2 billion to more than 260 UK companies. Track 2 (Acorn, Viking) awaits final development consent — Acorn Peterhead expected to reach FID in 2026. No major new UK CCUS consent event was published in the 30 August – 5 September window, but supply-chain

qualification and Track 2 pipeline design remain active. The Carbon Capture Global Summit 2026 (22–23 September, QEII Centre London) is the next primary UK CCUS industry engagement window.

NES Sales Opportunity: Track 1 supply-chain window remains open through mobilisation. NES firms with subsea pipeline installation, ROV support, geotechnical, high-integrity welding, coatings, marine coordination and NDT credentials should continue to approach Saipem (Aberdeen and London), Eni CCUS Holding, Wood, Petrofac and Worley procurement. Track 2 positioning (Acorn Peterhead and Viking Humber) remains open through 2027. Aberdeen firms with subsea gas-field decommissioning credentials have directly transferable capability into UK CCUS pipeline installation and storage-well construction. Prioritise CCGS 2026 attendance and Acorn Peterhead FID preparation.

5. Marine & Tidal

UK marine and tidal supply chain reference points hold steady — EMEC, CorPower, Orbital, Mocean (September 2026)

The UK marine and tidal delivery pipeline held steady through the week ending 5 September, with continued 2026 reference points from CorPower Ocean's C4 wave energy converter with DNV certification, EMEC Orkney demonstrator deployments, Orbital Marine Power's Fall of Warness tidal work, Marine Energy Wales activity around the Menter Môn Morlais Tidal Demonstration Zone and Mocean Energy's Blue Core project. Marine Energy Council policy engagement continues to focus on Contracts for Difference Pot 2 tidal-stream ring-fenced budget access and the AR8 Pot 4 mechanism. Inyanga Marine Energy Group's HydroWing (10 MW AR7 CfD award) continues in delivery. No new in-window UK marine or tidal award or consent was published this week, but supply-chain qualification cycles at EMEC, CorPower, Orbital, Mocean Energy and HydroWing remain live.

NES Sales Opportunity: Marine and tidal remains an adjacent-market opportunity for NES firms with floating platform, mooring, cabling, marine coordination and offshore commissioning credentials. Mocean Energy (Edinburgh), CorPower Ocean, EMEC Orkney and Orbital Marine Power remain the priority Scottish engagement points. Keep marine and tidal in monthly sales pipeline reviews — the AR8 Pot 2 tidal-stream ring-fence is under active review and will shape AR9 planning through H1 2027.

6. Geothermal

University of York Drillmec Rig 65 arrives Immingham for FutureSource four-km geothermal well (1 September 2026)

The University of York announced on 1 September that its Drillmec swing-lift electric drilling rig — known as Rig 65, rated at 2,000 horsepower with a 500-tonne hoisting capacity — is sailing to the UK on the BBC Bangkok cargo ship from Isdemir, Turkey, via the Mediterranean, Strait of Gibraltar, Atlantic and Bay of Biscay, at 11 knots. The rig is due at the Port of Immingham, North East Lincolnshire in early September, before onward transfer to a specialist yard and delivery to University Campus East in early 2027 for assembly. The rig will drill a four-kilometre deep geothermal well at the University of York as part of the FutureSource project, aimed at cutting the University's fossil fuel consumption by 78%. FutureSource is the UK's first university-scale deep geothermal project and will serve as an active site for geoscience research and training and a proof-of-concept for clean energy innovation across the region.

NES Sales Opportunity: FutureSource is the second major UK deep geothermal reference project after Cornish Lithium's Cross Lanes and United Downs, and directly signals sustained UK demand for deep drilling capability outside oil and gas. NES firms with deep drilling, downhole tools, wireline, cementing, HV

electrical, mechanical fabrication, welding, coatings, HSE and integrated well engineering should approach the University of York FutureSource project team, Drillmec UK, and Immingham port logistics contractors. Directly transferable to Cornish Lithium (Redruth) Cross Lanes and Baldhu, United Downs geothermal power and future NHS/university/city deep-heat schemes.

7. Decommissioning

Boskalis-led Decommissioning Collective forms with Harbour Energy and Eni — targets 30% subsea cost saving (1 September 2026)

Energy Voice reported on 1 September the formation of the Decommissioning Collective — a new five-member operator group led by Boskalis, working alongside Harbour Energy and Eni with two further unannounced operator members. The Collective is a direct response to the record £2.6 billion 2025 UKCS decommissioning spend, an ultimate UK forecast of £43.4 billion and the estimated £5.5 billion (approximately 12%) subsea share. Boskalis has committed half its fleet, guaranteed vessel availability and locked in operator prices for 10 years. Industry analysts continue to cite a 15–25% cost reduction potential from vessel-based versus rig-based subsea decommissioning campaigns — with approximately 22,000 vessel days required for UK subsea decommissioning. The NSTA Well Decommissioning Charter (13 August) signed by 17 UKCS operators complements the Collective, with the industry saving from vessels-versus-rigs on remaining subsea wellhead removals put at around £200 million (30%). Boskalis-Anasura preferred partnership frame agreement (signed in July) covers inspection, repair and maintenance, decommissioning and construction. Boskalis maintains a Westhill remote operations base supporting 50 jobs.

NES Sales Opportunity: The Decommissioning Collective is the single most consequential UK decommissioning market structure change of 2026 — a direct NES Tier 2/3 supply-chain call to action. NES firms in rigless P&A, subsea cutting, dredging, ROV support, cathodic protection, high-integrity welding, coating removal, waste-stream engineering, structural surveying and QHSE should approach Boskalis Subsea Services (Westhill), Harbour Energy (Aberdeen), Eni UK, plus the wider 17-operator NSTA Charter cohort (INEOS Energy Europe, Shell UK, Adura and 13 others) this month for framework and sub-contract inclusion. Directly builds on 25 August Spirit Energy campaign proof-point. Positioning window: full Q4 2026.

Baker Hughes bp UK North Sea stimulation contract reinforces mature-field workbook (4 September 2026)

Baker Hughes' 4 September bp UK North Sea offshore stimulation and production enhancement contract award (see Section 1) also signals continued mature-field intervention and late-life production optimisation activity — a decisive precursor to eventual bp asset P&A campaigns and post-COP asset handovers. The vessel-based StimFORCE deployment across new drilling and mature fields keeps late-life bp UKCS assets in production longer, deferring but not cancelling the eventual decommissioning workbook. NES firms should treat late-life production optimisation and P&A as adjacent workbooks with common vessel, HSE, hazardous-area electrical, ROV and specialist welding requirements.

NES Sales Opportunity: Bridge intervention scope now with Baker Hughes UK and bp UK procurement to position for the P&A workbook that follows once mature bp assets reach cessation-of-production. Aberdeen wells and marine capacity remains directly transferable and framework inclusion secured on stimulation supports P&A framework inclusion two-to-five years later.

Spirit Energy £40m North Sea decommissioning close-out follow-through (through 5 September 2026)

The Spirit Energy £40 million North Sea decommissioning campaign close-out (25 August) continues to reverberate through UK trade press in the week to 5 September as the primary vessel-plus-jackup rigless P&A commercial reference — 234+ tonnes of subsea infrastructure removed and three wells P&A'd across Seven Seas (60 km off East Yorkshire) and Grove G5 and Grove Deep (131 km east of Norfolk) using DeepOcean's Edda Freya and Well-Safe Solutions' Protector. The Protector's return to Aberdeen has now re-armed the local rigless P&A stack for immediate follow-on campaigns. Combined with the Decommissioning Collective formation on 1 September, the industry model is decisively shifting toward vessel-led, framework-based, multi-operator decommissioning execution.

8. Hydropower & Pumped Storage

Ofgem LDES Window 1 autumn cap-and-floor awards remain scheduled — 5 pumped storage anchor projects (September 2026)

Ofgem's Long Duration Electricity Storage Window 1 process remains on track for final cap-and-floor awards in autumn 2026. The Window 1 minded-to portfolio (16 projects, 7,645 MW / 136.9 GWh) includes five pumped storage hydro projects: SSE Renewables Coire Glas 1,440 MW, Statera Loch Kemp 660 MW, Gilkes Earba 1,800 MW plus two further schemes. Also on the list are 11 Li-ion BESS projects (including Field Rígifa 200 MW 18-hour); TeesCAES 50 MW compressed-air; and Frontier Legacy 65 MW vanadium/zinc flow. Citizens Advice's 24 August consultation response continues to shape Ofgem's final award design on Back Stop Delay Factor, availability targets and cost overrun treatment. The next steps for UK energy storage regulatory policy event is scheduled for 17 September 2026.

NES Sales Opportunity: The autumn LDES Window 1 award announcement is the single most consequential UK long-duration storage supply-chain event of 2026. NES firms in HV electrical, mechanical fabrication, tunnelling, hydraulic engineering, coatings and welding should confirm supply-chain LOIs now with SSE Renewables (Coire Glas), Statera (Loch Kemp) and Gilkes (Earba). Combined 3,900 MW Scottish pumped storage anchor pipeline. Directly transferable to Field, Statera, Zenobe, TeesCAES and Frontier Li-ion / CAES / flow-battery BESS sub-contract scope.

SSE plc RIIO-T3 investor engagement reinforces UK long-duration transmission supply-chain workbook (2 September 2026)

The SSE plc 2 September Aberdeen investor day (see Section 1) reaffirmed the £29 billion RIIO-T3 SSEN Transmission programme, alongside the SSE Renewables portfolio of Coire Glas 1,440 MW pumped storage, Beaully-Denny reinforcement, Dogger Bank offshore wind, Seagreen and Berwick Bank. The combined SSE pipeline sits as the largest single UK long-duration and transmission supply-chain workbook of the decade. The Netherton Hub and Eastern Green Link 2 (Peterhead-Drax subsea HVDC) site visits keep supply-chain positioning windows open across HVDC, HV electrical, cable, substation civils, coatings and specialist QHSE. RIIO-T3 spend is anchored across the next five-to-eight years.

NES Sales Opportunity: Combined SSE Renewables and SSEN Transmission workbook is a decade-long anchor for NES supply-chain positioning. Refresh SSE Renewables (Perth), SSEN Transmission (Perth) and Coire Glas project team engagement across HV electrical, tunnelling, hydraulic engineering, HVDC works, substation civils and specialist QHSE. Cross-sell to Beaully-Denny reinforcement and Peterhead-Drax Eastern Green Link 2 sub-contract windows.

9. Policy

UK Government expected to approve Jackdaw gas field on 15 September — Rosebank expansion “very unlikely” (4 September 2026)

Reuters reported on 4 September, citing The Times, that Britain is expected to approve bringing the Jackdaw gas field online on 15 September 2026 — ending years of legal delays. Jackdaw (operated by Adura, the Shell / Equinor JV) was originally consented in 2022 before the 2025 court ruling. Adura has stated that Jackdaw and Rosebank development would generate £1.4 billion (\$1.9 billion) in tax revenues by 2029. Peak Jackdaw production is 40,000 boe/d of natural gas; much of the infrastructure required to produce gas from Jackdaw has already been built and gas could start producing this winter if approval is granted. Times sources also indicate Rosebank expansion is now “very unlikely” to receive approval — a separate ministerial decision to be announced later. Ithaca Energy holds a stake in Rosebank. Energy Secretary Miatta Fahnbulleh continues to hold the ministerial decision.

NES Sales Opportunity: The 15 September Jackdaw approval is the single most consequential UKCS upstream ministerial decision of Q3 2026. NES firms should confirm post-consent mobilisation Letters of Intent this fortnight with Adura (Equinor-Aberdeen), Shell UK and Ithaca Energy frameworks across marine, subsea, wells (rigless P&A and intervention), ROV, coatings, cathodic protection, hazardous-area electrical, high-integrity welding, integrated controls and QHSE scope. Winter start-up implies rapid supply-chain scale-up in October and November. Rosebank block scenario would accelerate combined decommissioning workbook — continue positioning across both pathways.

Scottish Government confirms £16m+ Just Transition Fund awards for North East and Moray (1 September 2026)

The Scottish Government confirmed on 1 September the 2026 Just Transition Fund awards for the North East and Moray. Commercial and Public Sector awards include: ORE Catapult £4,000,000 (Large Scale Synthetic Mooring Line Test Rig); Opportunity North East £3,200,000 (Future Foods Innovation Accelerator); Hydrasun £1,969,688 (Scotland’s first electrolyser manufacturing capability in Aberdeen); Global Underwater Hub £1,516,233 (Underwater Supply Chain R&D Programme); Marine Developments Limited £1,500,000 (Peterhead Energy Service Base Reel Mover); Moray Council £1,200,000 (Just Transition Programme including £900,000 Buckie Harbour expansion supporting Ocean Winds’ 882 MW Moray West CTVs, plus Mosstodloch and Dallachy Airfield Green Energy Parks); NESCol £600,000 (Scottish Maritime Academy Simulator). Community and Social Enterprise awards include Camphill Wellbeing Trust £500,000, Community Food Initiatives North East £197,285 and NESCAT £227,070.

NES Sales Opportunity: This is the single most NES-relevant Q3 supply-chain funding announcement of 2026. NES firms should immediately map their capability against each named awardee: ORE Catapult and Marine Developments Limited (floating wind, mooring, cable-handling), Hydrasun (electrolyser manufacturing), Global Underwater Hub (subsea and underwater diversification), Moray Council (Buckie Harbour, Mosstodloch, Dallachy), and NESCol (maritime training). Priority engagement: ORE Catapult, Marine Developments Limited, Global Underwater Hub and Hydrasun over the next 60 days ahead of Q1 2027 mobilisation.

Botley West 840 MW solar consent deadline extended to 10 November 2026 (September 2026)

The UK Government confirmed in early September that the decision deadline for the Botley West Solar Farm — a proposed 840 MW / 1,000-hectare / £800 million project on three sites near Oxford (Woodstock, Kidlington, Botley), potentially supplying 330,000 homes — has been extended from September to no later than 10 November 2026. Martin McCluskey, Minister for Local Energy and Jobs, stated the extension is to allow the Department and stakeholders to evaluate additional information submitted by developer Photovolt Development Partners (PVDP). The eventual development consent decision remains with Energy Secretary Miatta Fahnbulleh.

The extension follows the earlier delay of the decision from an original 2025 timeline to September 2026 by former Energy Secretary Ed Miliband.

NES Sales Opportunity: The Botley West extension underscores that Fahnbulleh's consenting workbook is being managed to a highly deliberate cadence with adequate stakeholder evaluation time. NES firms should treat this as directional signalling for solar-plus-BESS NSIP timelines through 2027. Cross-sell Botley West engagement to Photovolt Development Partners (PVDP) and preferred solar+BESS EPC framework holders on HV electrical, BESS enclosure fabrication, structural steel, thermal management, fire protection, coatings and QHSE. Directly transferable to future Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) large-scale solar consents.

Ofgem 4% domestic price cap rise from 1 October reflects geopolitical premium (1 September 2026)

Al Jazeera reported on 1 September that Ofgem's 4% domestic energy price cap increase from 1 October reflects a sharp rise in wholesale gas prices resulting from geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. A typical household will pay approximately £60 more per year. 35% of households in England, Scotland and Wales are on fixed-rate energy plans and will not be immediately affected. The UK Government announced a tax cut on monthly electricity bills through end of the 2027 financial year, meaning gas-free households will fare better. The Ofgem price cap is scheduled for the next quarterly review in January 2027. Wholesale energy prices rose 11% over the past three months. Prime Minister Andy Burnham confirmed on 27 August that VAT will be removed from electricity bills as the government's first energy policy.

NES Sales Opportunity: The geopolitical premium underlines that UK Clean Power 2030 delivery must accelerate on cost and speed as well as build-out. For NES Tier 2/3 firms, refresh cost-out narratives with SSE Renewables, ScottishPower, Iberdrola, Ossian JV, Ocean Winds, Eni CCUS Holding, Saipem and Adura procurement now, ahead of Autumn Budget on 28 October and any post-Budget procurement re-baselining. Directly signal UK-content, cost-out and delivery-speed evidence in every AR8, LDES, HAR2, Track 1 CCS and RIIO-T3 bid submission and framework refresh.

Aker Solutions appoints Paal Eikeseth as new CEO with prior UK responsibility (1 September 2026)

Aker Solutions confirmed on 1 September the appointment of Paal Eikeseth as new President & CEO, effective immediately. Eikeseth succeeds Kjetel Digre, who has decided to step down after six years in the role. Before becoming CEO, Eikeseth had held responsibility for Aker Solutions' operations and growth in the UK, as well as in Angola, Canada and Asia; since 2022 he had headed the company's Life Cycle business. Eikeseth confirmed he will work with Aker Solutions' 11,700 colleagues around the world. Aker Solutions is a major UK Aberdeen-based EPC contractor across floating and fixed-bottom offshore wind foundations, subsea, hydrogen and CCUS.

NES Sales Opportunity: Eikeseth's UK operations background is a positive signal for continued Aker Solutions UK investment across floating wind (Ossian JV, Bellrock, Muir Mhòr-adjacent), subsea, hydrogen and CCUS EPC scope. NES firms should refresh Aker Solutions Aberdeen account plans this month across HV electrical, structural steel (BHC), hazardous-area electrical (Dron & Dickson), mechanical fabrication, welding, coatings, marine coordination and QHSE. Directly relevant to AR8 Pot 4 floating and Round 6 fixed-bottom sub-contract windows.

10. Key Upcoming Events for NES Companies

Time-critical UK events, deadlines and windows for NES Tier 2/3 supply chain over the next 8 weeks:

Date	Event / Deadline	Location / Body	NES Action
15 Sep 2026 (expected)	DESNZ approval of Jackdaw gas field development (Times/Reuters 4 Sep)	DESNZ / OPRED / Adura	Confirm post-consent mobilisation LOIs with Adura, Shell UK, Ithaca
16 Sep 2026	NESO AR8 qualification assessment window closes	NESO	Support Tier 1 bid submissions
17 Sep 2026	Next steps for UK energy storage — policy, regulation, market	UKERC / DESNZ	Attend for LDES autumn-award positioning
21 Sep 2026	Ithaca Energy FTSE 100 promotion effective	FTSE Russell / LSE	Refresh Ithaca / Adura account plans
22-23 Sep 2026	Carbon Capture Global Summit 2026 (CCGS2026)	UKCCS / QEII Centre London	Position with Saipem, Eni CCUS, NEP procurement
30 Sep 2026	GBE Supply Chain Fund Round 3 closes	Great British Energy	Submit fabrication / manufacturing bids
30 Sep 2026	NSTA Abandonment Fee Rules commence	NSTA	Confirm decommissioning framework positioning
1 Oct 2026	Domestic energy price cap +4%; VAT off electricity live	Ofgem / HMT	Refresh commercial cost narratives
7-8 Oct 2026	RenewableUK Floating Offshore Wind Conference 2026	P&J Live Aberdeen	Attend; confirm LOIs with Muir Mhòr, Cenoss, Ossian JV, Salamander
28 Oct 2026	Autumn Budget 2026	HM Treasury	Monitor energy tax measures
Autumn 2026	Ofgem LDES Window 1 final cap-and-floor awards	Ofgem	Confirm supply-chain LOIs with Coire Glas, Loch Kemp, Earba
Autumn 2026	DESNZ HAR2 electrolytic hydrogen contract awards	DESNZ	Position with Veri/EnQuest, SP/Storegga, Ineos, Hydrasun
Nov 2026 (expected)	DESNZ AR8 Contract Budget Notice	DESNZ	Track pot allocations
10 Nov 2026	Botley West 840 MW solar decision deadline (extended)	DESNZ / PVDP	Track co-located BESS + solar precedent
27 Nov 2026 – 17 Feb 2027	AR8 results announcement window	DESNZ / LCCC	Prepare post-award mobilisation

11. Grant Funding & Support Mechanisms Active This Week

Active UK grant, contract and support windows relevant to NES Tier 2/3 supply chain:

Mechanism	Body / Sponsor	Deadline / Status	NES Relevance
Just Transition Fund 2026 (NE & Moray)	Scottish Government	Awards confirmed 1 Sep; delivery 2026-29	ORE Catapult £4m mooring rig; Marine Devs £1.5m reel mover; Hydrasun £1.97m electrolyser; GUH £1.52m subsea; Buckie £0.9m
AR8 CfD Allocation Round	DESNZ / LCCC / NESO	Qualification closes 16 Sep; results 27 Nov – 17 Feb 2027	Support Tier 1 bids during NESO qualification
Clean Industry Bonus (AR8, all OW)	DESNZ	Payments on delivery	Demonstrate UK content evidence in bids
DRIVE 35 Programme	DBIST / APC / Innovate UK	Cross Lanes £7.2m live; further calls through 2026	Position for geothermal drilling and DLE-adjacent work
LDES Cap-and-Floor Window 1	Ofgem	Both windows closed; final awards autumn 2026	Position for Coire Glas, Loch Kemp, Earba, Li-ion BESS
GBE Supply Chain Fund Round 3	Great British Energy	Closes 30 Sep 2026	Submit fabrication / manufacturing bids
GBE-Nuclear £4.6bn commercial pipeline	Great British Energy Nuclear	Contracts across 2026-28	Register interest with GBE-Nuclear procurement
HAR2 electrolytic hydrogen contracts	DESNZ	Awards later in 2026	Position with Sullom Voe, Cromarty, Grangemouth developers
Track 1 / Track 2 CCS supply chain	DESNZ / Eni CCUS / NEP	Track 1 live; Acorn Peterhead FID 2026	Approach Saipem, Eni CCUS, Wood, Petrofac, Worley
NSTA Well Decommissioning Charter	NSTA / 17 UKCS operators	Live from 13 Aug; multi-year framework	Rig-to-vessel P&A capability positioning
Decommissioning Collective	Boskalis / Harbour Energy / Eni	Formed 1 Sep; 10-yr operator price lock	Vessel-plus-jackup framework inclusion
CfD Pot 2 marine and tidal	DESNZ / LCCC	AR8 open for tidal stream ring-fenced budget	Approach Mocean Energy, CorPower, Orbital, EMEC
NSTA 2nd Offshore CO2 Storage Licensing Round	NSTA	Open through 2026	Position for CO2 storage well/pipeline services
SSE Community Investment Fund	SSE plc	£24.9m FY26 live to 1,284 projects	Local partnership positioning near Beauldy-Denny + Coire Glas

12. Business Development Opportunity Summary for NES Supply Chain Companies

Prioritised opportunities from this week's activity. Star rating: ★★★★★ = time-critical this fortnight; ★★★★ = active this quarter; ★★★ = position for 2027; ★★ = watch.

Opportunity	NES Supply Chain Action	Contact / Body	Priority
Jackdaw approval expected 15 Sep	Confirm post-consent mobilisation LOIs with Adura (Equinor-Aberdeen), Shell UK, Ithaca Energy across marine, subsea, wells (rigless P&A + intervention), ROV, coatings, hazardous-area electrical, welding, integrated controls, QHSE. Winter start-up implies rapid Oct-Nov scale-up.	Adura; Shell UK; Ithaca; DESNZ	★★★★★
Decommissioning Collective formed (1 Sep)	Approach Boskalis (Westhill), Harbour Energy (Aberdeen), Eni UK and 17-operator NSTA Charter cohort on rigless P&A, subsea cutting, dredging, ROV, cathodic protection, welding, coating removal, waste-stream engineering, QHSE. 10-yr operator price lock creates framework window.	Boskalis; Harbour; Eni UK; INEOS; Shell UK; Adura	★★★★★
Just Transition Fund NE & Moray awards (1 Sep)	Immediately map NES capability against ORE Catapult (mooring), Marine Developments Ltd (Peterhead reel mover), Hydrasun (electrolyser), Global Underwater Hub (subsea diversification), Moray Council (Buckie, Mosstodloch, Dallachy), NESCol (maritime training). Engagement window Q4 2026 ahead of Q1 2027 mobilisation.	ORE Catapult; Marine Devs; Hydrasun; GUH; Moray Council; NESCol	★★★★★
Baker Hughes bp UK North Sea stimulation contract (4 Sep)	Approach Baker Hughes UK (Aberdeen) and bp UK (Sunbury/Aberdeen) procurement immediately for vessel-based StimFORCE campaign sub-contracts across new and mature bp fields. NES scope: high-integrity welding, hazardous-area electrical, coatings, cathodic protection, marine warranty, ROV, chemical handling, subsea intervention, wireline, coiled tubing, QHSE.	Baker Hughes UK; bp UK	★★★★★
SSE plc £29bn RIIO-T3 investor day + Thainstone training centre (2 Sep)	Approach SSEN Transmission (Perth), RIIO-T3 partner ecosystem (Balfour Beatty, Morgan Sindall, Siemens Energy UK, Hitachi Energy UK, ABB, NKT, Prysmian) and Netherton Hub / Eastern Green Link 2 sub-contract teams on HV electrical, HVDC, substation civils, coatings, structural steel, cable jointing. Immediate Aberdeen scope: South College Street cable replacement.	SSEN Transmission; Balfour; Morgan Sindall; Siemens; Hitachi	★★★★★
Ofgem LDES Window 1 autumn cap-and-floor awards	Confirm supply-chain LOIs with SSE Renewables (Coire Glas), Statera (Loch Kemp), Gilkes (Earba) on HV electrical, mechanical fabrication, tunnelling, hydraulic, coatings, welding. 3,900 MW Scottish pumped storage anchor pipeline.	SSE; Statera; Gilkes; Zenobe; Frontier; TeesCAES	★★★★★
Ithaca Energy FTSE 100 promotion effective 21 Sep	Refresh Ithaca Energy (Aberdeen) and Adura account plans across drilling, wells, subsea, marine, HV electrical, coatings, cathodic protection, ROV, QHSE and integrated well services. Post-Jackdaw approval Q4 2026 spend surge.	Ithaca Energy; Adura	★★★★

Opportunity	NES Supply Chain Action	Contact / Body	Priority
Hydrasun £1.97m Aberdeen electrolyser manufacturing (1 Sep)	Approach Hydrasun (Aberdeen) procurement on hazardous-area electrical, high-integrity welding, cryogenic systems, mechanical fabrication, coatings, integrated controls, cyber-secure SCADA, specialist QHSE. Position for 2027-28 first-shipment window. Cross-sell to HAR2 developers.	Hydrasun; HAR2 developers (Veri, SP/Storegga, Ineos)	★★★★
ORE Catapult £4m Large Scale Synthetic Mooring Test Rig	Engage ORE Catapult (Blyth / Aberdeen / Glasgow) on mooring test rig build-out and commercialisation. NES scope: synthetic mooring supply and testing, HV electrical, structural steel (BHC), mechanical fabrication, subsea, cable-handling, coatings, QHSE. Directly transferable to floating wind projects.	ORE Catapult	★★★★
Marine Developments Ltd £1.5m Peterhead Reel Mover	Engage Marine Developments Limited (Peterhead) on modular reel mover build-out for offshore wind cable operations. NES scope: mechanical fabrication, HV electrical, hazardous-area electrical (Dron & Dickson), coatings, welding, integrated controls, marine coordination, QHSE.	Marine Developments Ltd; Peterhead Port	★★★★
Global Underwater Hub £1.52m Subsea R&D Programme	Engage Global Underwater Hub (Aberdeen / Westhill) on subsea supply-chain diversification into offshore renewables, subsea power transmission, aquaculture, critical underwater infrastructure. Direct transferability from oil-and-gas.	Global Underwater Hub	★★★★
Muir Mhòr 1 GW Peterhead floating wind farm	Approach Fred. Olsen Seawind (Peterhead / Oslo) directly with capability slides ahead of 7-8 October Floating Offshore Wind Conference. Priority scope: floating foundation fabrication, mooring, dynamic array cable, floating substation electrical, HV commissioning, marine warranty, ROV, blade repair.	Fred. Olsen Seawind	★★★★
Buckie Harbour £0.9m expansion funding (1 Sep)	Approach Moray Council and Ocean Winds (Moray West 882 MW CTV base) on quayside civils, coatings, HV electrical, hazardous-area electrical, welding, QHSE. Directly transferable to Peterhead, Aberdeen, Montrose, Nigg port scope.	Moray Council; Ocean Winds; Crown Estate Scotland	★★★★
AR8 CfD NESO qualification closes 16 Sep + CMA clearance	Lock in Tier 1 EPCI and OEM sub-contract LOIs across foundation fabrication, dynamic cabling, offshore substation electrical, hazardous-area electrical, coatings, marine coordination, topsides commissioning with ScottishPower Renewables, SSE Renewables, Ocean Winds, Iberdrola, Vattenfall, Equinor UK, Ossian JV.	DESNZ; NESO; LCCC; developers	★★★★★

Opportunity	NES Supply Chain Action	Contact / Body	Priority
Humber–Norway offshore wind MoU (2 Sep)	Co-position UK / Norwegian offshore wind engagement with Aker Solutions, Aker BP, SSE Renewables, Equinor UK, RWE, Vattenfall, Ossian JV on HV subsea cabling, dynamic array cable, cathodic protection, marine warranty, ROV, mechanical fabrication, QHSE. Humber + Aberdeen dual-port pitch.	Humber Marine and Renewables; Norwegian Offshore Wind	★★★
EET Hydrogen HPP1 FID targeted September (HyNet)	Approach EET (Ellesmere Port / Aberdeen), preferred EPC framework holders (Wood, Petrofac, Worley, Saipem, Aker Solutions) and Progressive Energy immediately with capability slides. Cross-sell to HAR2 developers.	EET Hydrogen; Wood; Petrofac; Worley; Saipem; Aker Solutions	★★★★★
University of York FutureSource geothermal Drillmec Rig 65	Approach University of York FutureSource project team, Drillmec UK and Immingham port logistics contractors on deep drilling, downhole tools, wireline, cementing, HV electrical, mechanical fabrication, welding, coatings, HSE, integrated well engineering. Aberdeen wells expertise transferable.	University of York; Drillmec UK	★★★
Botley West 840 MW solar consent deadline 10 Nov	Cross-sell to PVDP and preferred solar+BESS EPC framework holders on HV electrical, BESS enclosure fabrication, structural steel, thermal management, fire protection, coatings, QHSE. Directly transferable to future NSIP large-scale solar.	PVDP; Low Carbon; DESNZ	★★★
Aker Solutions Paal Eikeseth CEO appointment (1 Sep)	Refresh Aker Solutions Aberdeen account plans across HV electrical, structural steel (BHC), hazardous-area electrical (Dron & Dickson), mechanical fabrication, welding, coatings, marine coordination, QHSE for AR8 Pot 4 floating and Round 6 fixed-bottom sub-contract windows.	Aker Solutions	★★★★★
Ofgem 4% price cap rise from 1 Oct + geopolitical premium	Refresh cost-out narratives with SSE Renewables, ScottishPower, Iberdrola, Ossian JV, Ocean Winds, Eni CCUS Holding, Saipem, Adura procurement ahead of Autumn Budget 28 Oct and any post-Budget procurement re-baselining.	SSE; ScottishPower; Iberdrola; Ossian JV; Ocean Winds	★★★
UK marine and tidal (CfD Pot 2 tidal stream)	Keep on quarterly sales calendar. Mocean Energy Edinburgh, CorPower Ocean, Orbital Marine Power, EMEC Orkney, Inyanga HydroWing priority engagement. Floating platform, mooring, cabling, marine coordination.	Mocean; CorPower; Orbital; EMEC; Inyanga	★★
CCGS 2026 (22-23 Sep) + Acorn Peterhead FID	Attend CCGS 2026 (QEII Centre London). Position with Saipem, Eni CCUS Holding, NEP procurement on Track 1 mobilisation and Track 2 Acorn Peterhead and Viking Humber FID windows.	Saipem; Eni CCUS; NEP; UKCCS	★★★

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