MUIR MHÒR
OFFSHORE WIND FARM

A joint venture between Fred. Olsen Seawind & Vattenfall

Spring 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to the latest project newsletter from the Muir Mhòr Offshore Wind Farm project team - a joint venture between Fred. Olsen Seawind and Vattenfall.

With our established track record in Scotland, we are committed to securing Scotland's energy future and green economy through the delivery of this highly innovative floating offshore wind farm.

Project news

Supporting the environment

As we develop our wind farm, we want to ensure that we minimise any impact on the surrounding environment. That is why we are proud to be funding an important study to monitor the behaviour of minke whales in the North Sea.

The project, which we are leading in partnership with three other ScotWind developers and in collaboration with Crown Estate Scotland and NatureScot, will gather comprehensive data on the presence of the whales for almost two years, starting this summer.

It will involve the deployment of passive acoustic monitoring devices within the Southern Trench Marine Protected Area off the Aberdeenshire coast, which covers an area of almost 240,000 hectares stretching from Buckie in the west to Peterhead in the east.

The data gathered during the project will give us a better understanding of how construction activities related to offshore wind projects might affect minke whales, and help us design mitigations.

The project is being led by Muir Mhòr and Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm, and will be delivered by SAMS Enterprise.

Leading Scotland's offshore wind revolution

The consent applications for both the offshore and onshore elements of our project - submitted to the Scottish Government and Aberdeenshire Council at the end of 2024 - are progressing well.

As things stand, we remain on track to deliver one of the world's first commercial scale floating wind projects, generating energy in the early 2030s.

The statutory consultations by each body closed in the early part of 2025, with a number of responses received from interested organisations, to which we are responding fully.

We also continue to engage locally, most recently at a pre-determination hearing for our onshore application, in Peterhead on April 16. It was a good discussion, and our team presented our project and answered questions.

This consent application will be discussed again at Aberdeenshire Council's Buchan Area Committee on May 13, before a final determination is made at the Infrastructure Services Committee on June 19, 2025.

Determination for our offshore consent application is anticipated late 2025 or early 2026. Once operational, our wind farm will be able to generate up to 1 gigawatt of clean and renewable power every year, providing enough green energy for the equivalent of up to 1.2 million homes.

Inspiring the workforce of the future

Some of the most rewarding work we do is in Aberdeenshire schools, where we are able to give pupils an insight into the clean energy revolution developing on their doorsteps and boost STEM learning in the process. In April, some of our team spent a brilliant two days working with around 40 pupils from Fraserburgh Academy, helping them learn how to design and plan their own wind farms.

Working in teams, the S3 students were each given a defined role in their project, before designing the layout of their wind farms using 2D maps and bespoke 3D computer software. They had to consider issues such as turbine size, power output, financial viability, and how to connect their projects to the National Grid.

Once the pupils had explored their designs using a virtual reality headset, they pitched their projects to their teachers and our team members, competing for the best overall design. As well as STEM learning, the course helped them develop important skills such as leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving.

Edward Walton, depute head teacher at Fraserburgh Academy, described the workshop as “a huge boost to our developing renewables curriculum” which gave pupils “a turbo-charged insight into the big picture planning and development stage of the new energy sector”. He added: “As a school at the heart of offshore wind, we leapt at the opportunity and were not disappointed. “Having industry professionals in the room all day enabled our young people to gain a deep insight into career pathways, as well as the application of curriculum skills into a potential future career.”

As well as our partnership with Fraserburgh Academy, we’ve also been working with Mintlaw Academy to provide practical activities for students enrolled in the Girls in Energy course, which offers young women real-world exposure to the energy industry.

Investing in offshore wind talent

Renewable energy is all about the future, which is why we are investing in the next generation of engineers by helping two promising students fund their studies. We have awarded scholarships worth a total of £10,000 to two students who are keen to pursue careers in Scotland's wind industry.

Filoteea Moldovan and Shahim Asad, are both studying for their Masters degrees at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow.

Four more students will be awarded similar scholarships over the next two years, as part of our £30,000 educational partnership with the university.

Filoteea said: "As an environmental scientist, I'm fascinated by the Scottish offshore wind industry and its potential to lead the revolution we are seeing in renewable energy. I strongly believe that there will be a shift towards floating offshore wind farms in the coming years and am determined to contribute to this emerging technology."

Shahim added: "As an aspiring offshore engineer, I am committed to developing innovative solutions that enhance the efficiency and sustainability of offshore wind projects. My goal is to contribute to Scotland's transition to a sustainable energy future by finding solutions to some of the challenges faced by offshore wind farms, such as maximising their structural resilience in harsh marine environments."

Supply chain

Ripple effect of procurement

It doesn't matter how big or small your business is – you can still be a part of Scotland's offshore wind revolution. That was the message that our Procurement and Commercial Manager, Stephen Kennedy, took to the Renewable Energy Supply Chain Conference in Aberdeen in March.

We are committed to building a supply chain that will contribute millions of pounds to the local and wider Scottish and UK economies, and we have been encouraging firms of all sizes to get in touch with us through our online supplier portal.

We have had well over 200 businesses register their interest with us already, most of them based in Aberdeenshire, the beating heart of the offshore wind industry. They cover dozens of specialisms, showing just how many sectors stand to benefit from these projects.

When people think of floating offshore wind farms they tend to focus on headline capital expenditure and big contracts, but forget that these in turn will create a ripple effect, generating huge opportunities for SMEs further down the supply chain.

Meet the consents team

Martha Lovatt, Senior Development and Consent Manager

Martha joined Fred. Olsen Seawind from SSE Renewables, where she worked for 12 years. She has experience of consenting onshore and offshore wind projects across the UK and Europe, and has supported wind farm projects through the seabed lease, development, and construction process.

Miles McConville, Consenting Manager

Miles has six years of experience in the renewable energy sector, focusing on GIS and project management. He has worked on the development of both onshore and offshore wind projects, supporting site selection and early-stage planning.

John Kennedy, Land Manager

John has worked as a land manager for six years in the energy and transportation sectors. He specialises in land assembly, spatial planning, stakeholder engagement and working with statutory undertakers.

Giulia Agnisola, Offshore Consents Manager

Giulia previously worked for Marine Scotland, where she was responsible for organising the consenting and licensing applications for offshore and marine renewable projects. Her expertise in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) means she can ensure our project meets stringent environmental standards.

Rachel O'Donnell, Onshore Consents Manager

With six years of experience in the renewable energy sector, Rachel began her career in onshore wind, focusing on site development and EIA. She now is responsible for the onshore elements of Muir Mhòr, with an interest in community and stakeholder engagement, as well as managing the EIA and planning application process.

The year ahead

Throughout 2025, members of the Project team will be attending industry conferences, some of which include 'meet the buyer' events.

Meet the team at

All-Energy, Glasgow on the 14 - 15 May

Global Offshore Wind, London on the 17 - 18 June

Book a meeting by emailing info@muirmhor.co.uk

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