

North East England Centre for Offshore Renewable Engineering: Tyneside



North Eastern
Local Enterprise Partnership

Contents

1. Centres for Offshore Renewable Engineering – CORE	4
2. Key Features of the North East Offshore Renewable Engineering Sector	5
3. River Tyne Sites	8
4. Support, Infrastructure and Supply Chains	12
5. Workforce Skills.....	17
6. Living Environment and Assets	20
7. Contact	21

1. Centres for Offshore Renewable Engineering – CORE

- Centres for Offshore Renewable Engineering are partnerships between Central and Local Government and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) that ensure businesses looking to invest in manufacturing for the renewables industry receive the most comprehensive support possible. We have initially focussed on five locations which we know are the focus of the investment enquiries from renewable manufacturing businesses. These areas offer:
 - The right infrastructure for offshore wind manufacturing.
 - Access to a skilled workforce.
 - Experienced local supply chain.
 - Committed local leadership.
- In addition some of the areas contain Enterprise Zones, which may provide:
 - Enhanced Capital Allowances.
 - Business rate tax relief for five years of up to £55,000 per annum.
 - Simplified planning regimes, for example, through Local Development Orders. These are flexible planning tools that provide upfront permissions for particular types of development – providing certainty for developers and reducing waiting times and costs.
- More information on the national offer for investing in offshore renewables can be found in the CORE summary

document, available from the BIS website (www.bis.gov.uk). This provides further detail on market size, national schemes of support and the research and development landscape.

- You can download brochures for the five CORE areas on the BIS website.



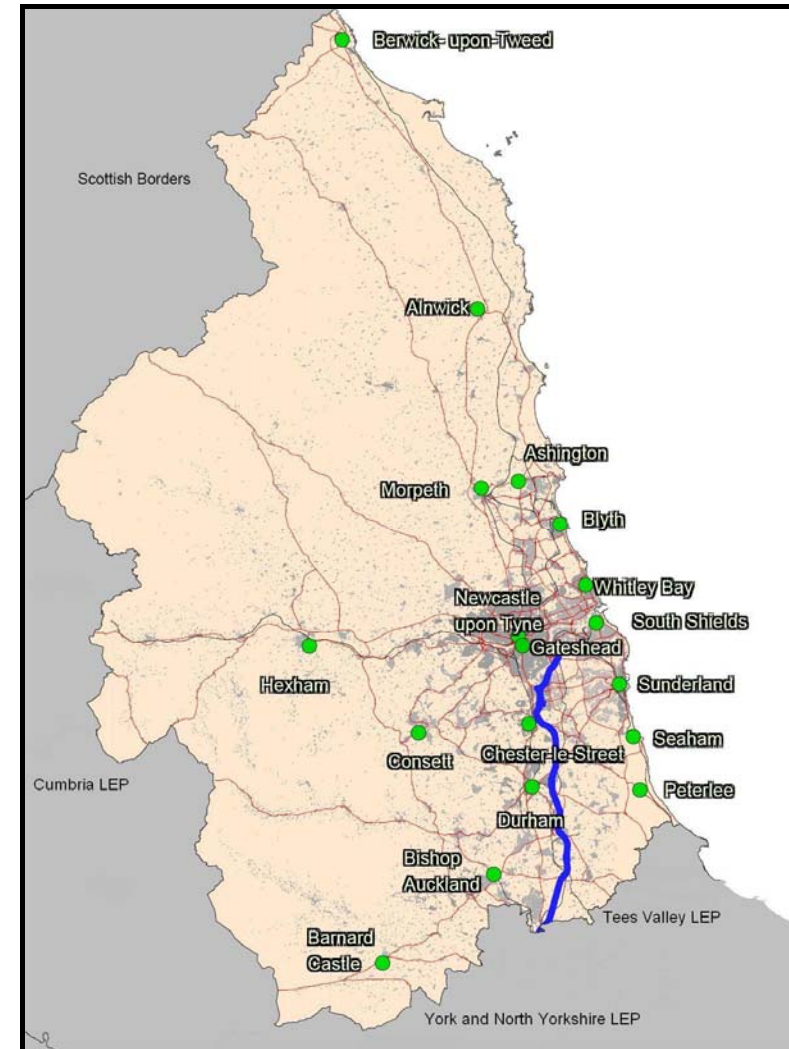
2. Key Features of the North East Offshore Renewable Engineering Sector

“Through smart, enterprising leadership between the private, public and voluntary and community sectors we will rebalance the economy, and create Europe’s premier location for low carbon, sustainable, knowledge-based private sector-led growth and jobs.”

Vision of the North Eastern Local Enterprise Partnership

The North East of England is recognised as a key strategic location to service the offshore renewables energy market. It is a unique place in terms of its geography, experience, infrastructure and technical capabilities, and it has the potential to deliver comprehensive, all-encompassing supply chain solutions for offshore renewables.

The North Eastern Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) is a new economic body covering the majority of North East England. The NELEP economy is home to approximately 2 million people, of whom over 1.2 million are of working age. Collectively, the area has 43,000 businesses and 800,000 employees. The value of total output produced is £32 billion per annum. This makes the area one of the largest ‘economic centres’ in the north of England.



As momentum towards a low carbon economy accelerates worldwide, the North East has positioned itself as the best place to build low carbon businesses and to equip those businesses with the tools to compete in the global market for low carbon goods and services. Central to this offer is the River Tyne, with its natural assets, world class port and extensive development opportunities.

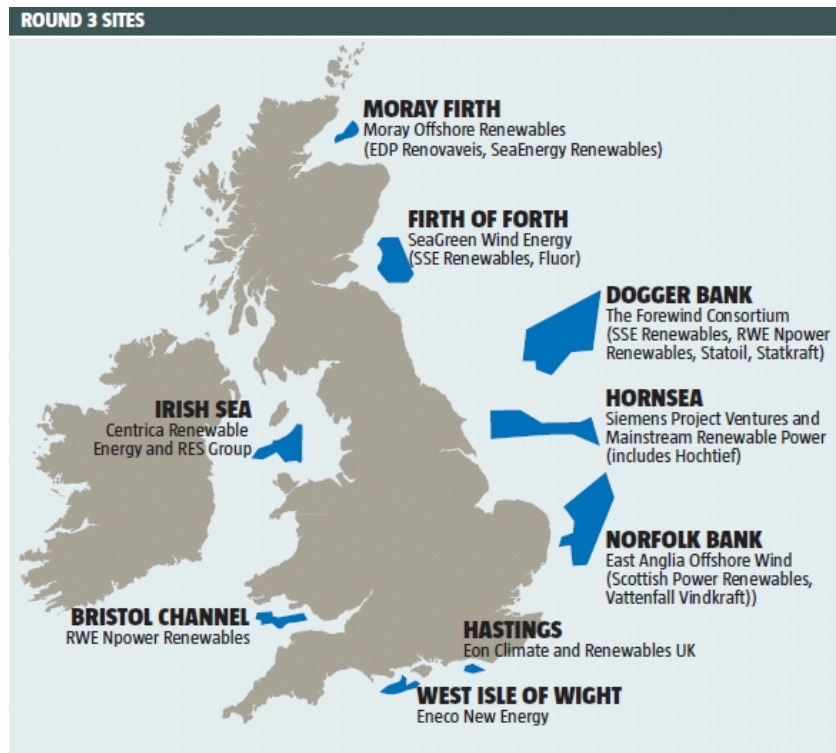
The location of the River Tyne, at the heart of the largest planned Round 3 wind farm zone, positioned directly off the North East coast, represents a major opportunity for energy companies, developers, turbine manufacturers and installation specialists. The largest zone is the Dogger Bank, which is 98 nm from the River Tyne. The geographical locations of the Round 3 Offshore Wind farms put the River Tyne in a unique central position from which companies can service over half of the zones.

The Port of Tyne offers a dredged access channel with a controlled depth to 9.1 metres below chart datum in the lower reaches of the port with a tidal variance of an additional 5 meters at spring tide. A lock free port, the Port of Tyne is situated just 4 km from the open sea and has no height / air draft restrictions, allowing it to accommodate panamax-class vessels.

Sailing Distances/Times from the Tyne

	Closest			Farthest		
	Dist	Time @ 10kts	Time @ 12kts	Dist	Time @ 10kts	Time @ 12kts
Firth of Forth	67	6.7	5.6	107	10.7	8.9
Dogger Bank	98	9.8	8.2	173	17.3	14.4
Hornsea	86	8.6	7.2	177	17.7	14.8
Aggregate	84	8.4	7.0	152	15.2	12.7

Furthermore, the area has a host of business park facilities ideal for locating project management and servicing functions linked to the development of a comprehensive offshore wind supply chain.



Source: http://www.nce.co.uk/Pictures/web/n/e/p/Round_3_sites.jpg

Within the wider economic geography of the North East, the city and urban areas, clustered in and around the River Tyne and also the River Wear, are key business and employment locations. These are complemented by a strong network of towns providing strategic economic, social and transport functions along strategic transport corridors (including A1 and A19 – now enhanced by a

new second River Tyne crossing). Newcastle International Airport, the East Coast Main Line, Tyne and Wear Metro and Durham Coast Line, and a range of port infrastructure, including the all-weather Port of Tyne, as well as the Port of Sunderland, Port of Blyth and Port of Seaham, provide important internal and external connectivity. North East England is also home to Narec (National Renewable Energy Centre). Narec is looking to be recognised world-wide as the UK's leading centre for advancing the development and integration of renewable energy through technology-led innovation. Newcastle University has world-class research expertise in the engineering and marine sectors. Together, these assets underpin a strong manufacturing base, and a diversifying, knowledge-based economy.

The ambition for the North Eastern LEP is for the area to become Europe's premier location for low carbon sustainable, knowledge-based private sector-led growth and jobs. Real progress is being made here. For example, the potential to secure greater competitive commercial advantage from the transition to a low carbon economy – through new investments in offshore wind, electric vehicles, micro-generation, and drawing upon renowned scientific research and innovation strengths in a range of low carbon technologies – is now being realised.

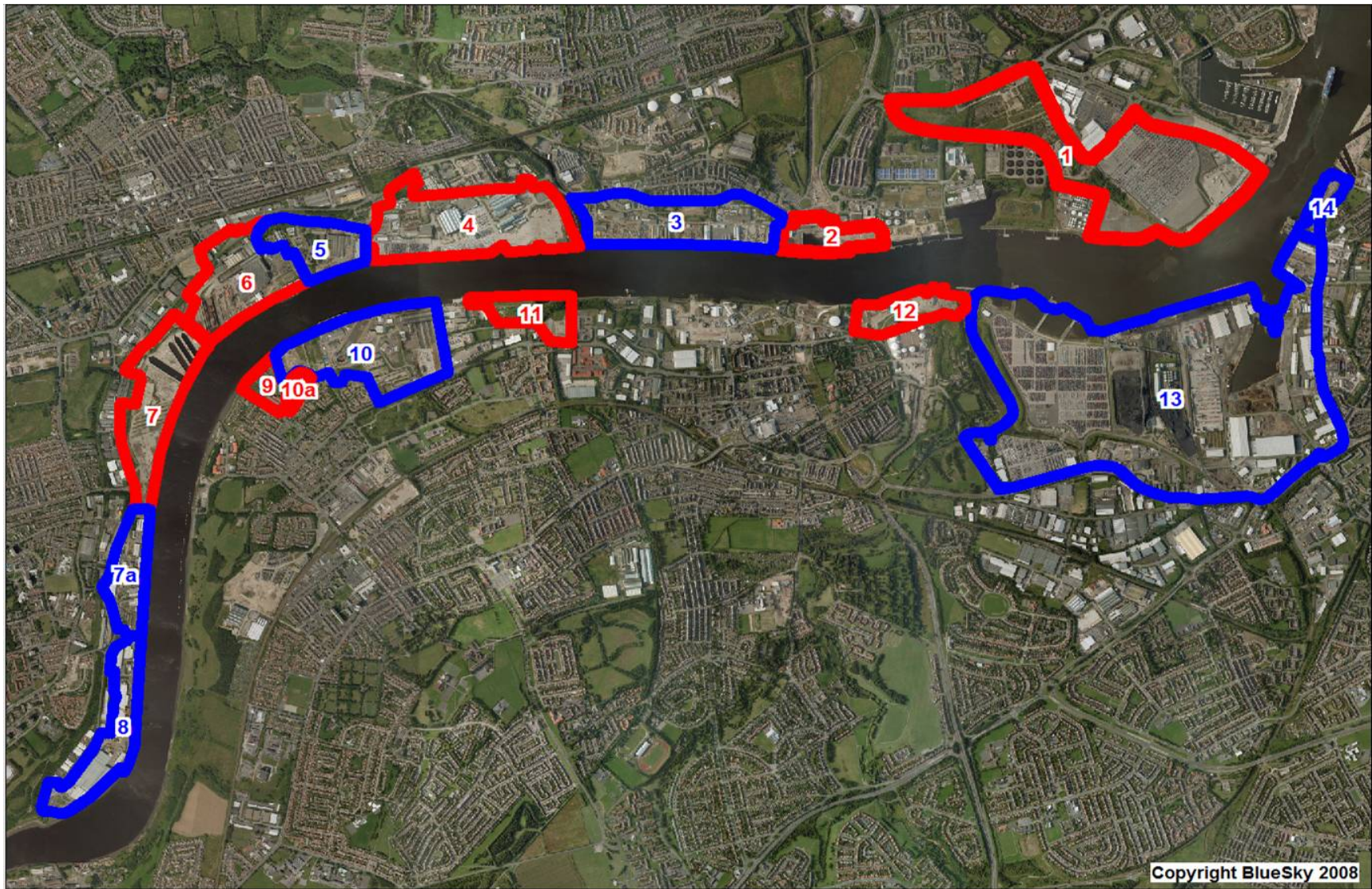
3. River Tyne Sites

The map on page 9 provides an overview of the potential sites located on the Tyne, and includes a number of brown field sites; many with existing quay and crane access, that offer a low risk, deliverable solution for potential businesses and developments with capabilities of supporting the offshore wind and renewables market.

Key sites	Area (ha) (estimate)	
1.	Port of Tyne, North Shields	40.0
2.	Howden Yard/Port of Tyne	6.7
3.	Swan Hunter Yard	19.2
7.	Neptune Energy Park	19.7
9.	Hawthorn Leslie	3.7
10a.	A&P Tyne	0.8
11.	Green Business Park	7.0
12.	Shepherd Offshore, Jarrow	7.5

Supporting sites	
3.	Hadrian East
4.	Hadrian Yard
5.	Oceana Business Park
7a	Neptune Energy Park
8.	Walker Riverside Offshore Technology Park
10.	A&P Tyne
13.	Port of Tyne, Tyne Dock
14.	McNulty Offshore

The sites on the map that are shown in **red** are key potential sites for the manufacture of wind turbines. Sites shown in **blue** are existing businesses/developments with the potential to support the offshore wind market.



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North Eastern LEP Enterprise Zone

The UK Government's approach to the 'new generation' of Enterprise Zones is based on:

- Generating and maximising a positive impact for the wider economic area.
- The long term economic success of both the Zone and the wider area beyond the Government business rate subsidy.
- Connection between the Zone and the strategic economic priorities of the wider area.
- Minimising displacement and avoiding localised competition.

The NELEP Enterprise Zone is 117 ha in size, comprising two main development areas focussing on two specific low carbon sectors:

- Offshore Wind and Renewables (River Tyne North Bank).
- A19 Ultra Low Carbon Vehicles Corridor (Nissan Sites).

The Enterprise Zone sites on the River Tyne offer real potential to attract new investment and jobs. A number of incentives have been offered to the North Eastern LEP, by the Government, including Business Rate Discounts and Enhanced Capital Allowances (tax relief) for new plant and machinery, in a limited number of investment cases, where there is a strong focus on manufacturing. The total value of investment able to secure Capital Allowances tax relief across the entire Enterprise Zone is £300 million.



River Tyne Enterprise Zone Sites

Neptune Yard - NE6 3NL

18.4 ha in size. The successful development of the Marine and Sub-sea sector along this part of the River Tyne makes the site ripe for development through large scale investors. The site is well placed to take full advantage of the Enhanced Capital Allowances incentive. The site is split into three main parts, with two sections ready for and attracting private sector interest, with the third requiring further infrastructure works.

Port of Tyne North Estate - NE29 6DW, NE29 6EE, NE29 6EG

38.8 ha in size. This significant site, situated towards the mouth of the River Tyne, is being marketed as a prime site for an inward investor seeking to take advantage of the opportunities arising in the Offshore Wind and Renewables sector. Specifically, those opportunities are arising from the Round 3 offshore wind farm fields with riverside or coastal locations required for component manufacture or final assembly plants. The aim is to utilise the Enhanced Capital Allowances incentive to attract the requisite investment to this site.

Swan Hunter - NE28 6EQ, NE28 6HF, NE28 6HQ

17.2 ha in size. Both the planning and marketing strategy for this site position it to strengthen the supply chain for sub-sea and offshore wind sectors. This site will benefit from the Business Rate Discount Incentive offered by Government.

One of the key aspects of the new generation of Enterprise Zones is the establishment of a simplified planning regime, which is based on the assumption that planning arrangements should work better in support of delivering economic growth and jobs.

The local authorities that have sites based within the designated Enterprise Zone – North Tyneside, Newcastle and Sunderland – are each considering the detail of what is required in terms of introducing simplified planning arrangements across the Zone. Local Development Orders (LDO) are the preferred tool to take forward simplified planning as it provides certainty for developers, it enables quick access to sites, and it also sets out an agreed basis for what sort of development will be permitted in the future.

The Enterprise Zone will be operational from April 2012. In advance of next April, a new marketing strategy will be produced, which will proactively promote the sites in the Zone, and will complement a broader approach to attracting new investment into the North East. The marketing strategy will build on the wealth of knowledge and excellent work done to date in marketing sectors and industries within the context of the Low Carbon Economy, including those in Offshore Wind and Renewables.

4. Support, Infrastructure and Supply Chains

Local Authority Support

Local authorities on the River Tyne – specifically Newcastle City Council, North Tyneside Council and South Tyneside Council – are committed to supporting developments that contribute to the North East economy as well as addressing the challenges presented by climate change.

The local authorities have a combined track record of working with the private sector to bring forward significant inward investment projects. In particular, they are working with private sector partners to facilitate the development of offshore wind manufacturing, operations and maintenance and supply chain ventures in Tyneside. From premises to people, the local authorities will ensure that the requirements of business and investors are exceeded.

As described in the Enterprise Zone process, the local authorities will provide local knowledge and advice through the planning process, including the introduction of simplified planning arrangements, environmental and waste management regulation support, and business support, including supply chain and skills development.

The authorities are also on hand to help potential investors identify suitable locations to base business and provide information on both industrial and commercial properties available.



Recruitment and Training Support

JobCentre Plus, the Skills Funding Agency, further and higher education and local authorities all work together to respond to recruitment and skills needs by providing tailored packages of support.

Local authorities can co-ordinate and support business so that they recruit the right people by helping with pre-employment training, recruitment and advertising of vacancies, recruitment events/shortlisting and interview support.

Private Sector Support

Energi Coast (www.energicoast.co.uk) is the representative group for the North East of England's offshore renewable sector; promoting the extensive offshore renewable energy sector expertise from the region and North East England's unique offering to the industry. Nineteen of the leading offshore renewables supply chain companies in the North East have been brought together by NOF Energy (www.nofenergy.co.uk) to form the group.

Energi Coast members have invested almost £400 million to meet the demands of the renewables market. Its members employ 6,000 people; a figure forecast to increase by 30% as Round 3 activities gather pace. Turnover of Energi Coast members is forecast to double to more than £400 million, which will have a significant beneficial impact on the North East economy and supply chain.

Energi Coast promotes:

- The capabilities of regional companies in servicing offshore renewables markets in the UK, Europe and internationally.
- The key competencies of North East England's integrated energy supply chain.
- The unique comprehensive 'balance of plant' offering from one geographical location.
- Member companies with a strong track record of collaborative working and a commitment to further strengthening those partnerships to serve offshore renewables.
- The region's excellent infrastructure and logistics capabilities enabling it to become a global hub for the offshore renewables sector.

Financial Support

Local authorities can broker and leverage in support packages to assist with business expansion and inward investment, which may include a mixture of grants, loans and equity finance.

Assisted Areas

Assisted Areas are locations where regional aid may be granted under EU legislation. Regional aid for business consists of aid for investment, or in certain limited circumstances operating aid, targeted on specific regions to redress regional disparities.

Increased levels of regional investment aid may be granted to SMEs located within the disadvantaged areas.

GBI Manufacturing Fund

A £60 million pound competition fund for port infrastructure is intended to revamp Britain's ports to handle large offshore wind turbine parts and other supply chain.

Regional Growth Fund

The UK Government has committed £1.4 billion to the Regional Growth Fund to support activity that has the greatest impact on sub-national growth. The Fund will be spread over the years 2011-12 and 2012-13 and potentially beyond.

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

The North East of England ERDF Competitiveness Programme has recently gone through a Programme Modification process. Following the modification, there will be greater opportunities for the Offshore Wind and Renewables sector to take advantage of the sizeable amounts of funds available. The changes will see significant movement of funds from Revenue to Capital investments. There will be a focus on bringing forward propositions that unlock strategic employment sites, such as Enterprise Zones, and target key sectors for the economy, including sub-sea and offshore renewables. The ERDF Programme will be an essential resource to draw down funding from all quarters in an effort to maximise impact on these key sectors and its wider economy.

Research & Development Support

Narec

The National Renewable Energy Centre (Narec), based at Blyth, is dedicated to accelerating the deployment and grid integration of renewable energy and low carbon generation technologies, utilising wind, wave, tidal, solar PV and thermal power. Narec works with global blue chip companies, SMEs, local authorities, start-ups and university spin-outs to commercialise technologies which generate electricity and heat; can be deployed into the electrical network; or form part or all of a distributed energy system.

Newcastle University - Institute for Research on Environment and Sustainability

Newcastle University has world-class research expertise in the engineering and marine sectors. It has brought these strengths together into the Newcastle Institute for Research on Sustainability, which will be located on the Science Central site in the heart of the city of Newcastle upon Tyne, providing the opportunity for co-location with business.

Supply Chains

The North East has the UK's most developed supply chain in the offshore and renewables industry, with well over £150 million orders from offshore wind already achieved and some of the UK's leading suppliers. The region benefits from a strong supply chain

with extensive experience of supporting marine and offshore sectors.

Over 250 companies, based in the North East, either have an existing commitment to offshore wind supply, or have a strong potential to diversify from existing activity. Specifically, the Tyne now hosts a number of important offshore supply companies, including IHC Engineering Business (part of IHC Merwede), Bridon International, SMD (Soil Machine Dynamics), Duco, Wellstream, Clipper, McNulty Offshore, A & P Tyne and OGN (Offshore Group Newcastle). Narec is also situated within 20km of the River Tyne.

The area is strongly supported by a significant financial, professional and business services sector, including high value logistics, design and engineering consultancy and professional services, with a concentration of services located in Newcastle City Centre.

Port of Tyne

The Port of Tyne is the principal northern gateway to the UK and a key port in the North East and North Sea. The Port operates with five business areas; Conventional & Bulk Cargoes, Logistics, Cruise & Ferries, Car Terminals and Estates over 265 hectares, ensuring a dynamic trading hub for the region.

A deep water port, with quays capable of handling vessels with a draft of 12.1 metres, the Port of Tyne offers round the clock access and excellent intermodal links via three on site rail terminals and

easy access to the UK's national motorway network bringing 22 of the UK largest towns and cities (with populations over 100,000) within two hours drive of the Port's facilities.

As the competent Harbour Authority, the Port of Tyne has the statutory responsibility for navigation on the river from one mile past the pier heads to seventeen miles upstream.

Riverside Quay (South Shields)

Currently the primary cargo quay and offers a depth of 12.1 metres at Chart Datum for the entire quay length of 750 metres. Served by one container gantry crane (35mts), four Liebherr LHM 320 Mobile Harbour Cranes (lift capability of 100mts at 17m outreach) and two Gottwald rail-mounted cranes (lift capability of 100mts at 23m outreach) as well as a number of smaller mobile cranes, the quay is linked to an overhead conveyor system for bulk cargoes. This capability ensures that Riverside Quay is a flexible and efficient facility to cater for a wide variety of vessel specifications and operational requirements.

The Port of Tyne can provide land at their North Estate alongside Royal Quays in North Shields with sufficient riverside access to allow construction of a 300 metre quay, able to handle two jack-up vessels simultaneously. It is anticipated that a new quay will need to be constructed to match the requirements of the offshore wind sector. This area of land is the largest single riverside site, and complementary to this on the north bank of the River Tyne are the former Swan Hunter site situated in and owned by North Tyneside

Council and into Newcastle is the Neptune Energy Park owned by Shepherd Offshore. These two key sites are surrounded by smaller supporting sites capable of supporting the offshore wind market.



Infrastructure

Behind and complementing Riverside Quay, the Port of Tyne offers open storage for over 500,000 mts of bulk cargoes as well as modern customs-approved warehousing which efficiently integrates the port facilities with its hinterland via both its own fleet of more than fifty trucks as well as 3rd party operators.

With three rail terminals on the estate catering to bulk, cars and containerised intermodal cargoes, and additional rail capacity available to cater for further freight growth, the Port of Tyne is able to offer cost and carbon efficient connections to the industrial hinterlands of Lancashire, Yorkshire, the English Midlands and Central Scotland, in addition to the immediate hinterland, the North East of England.

Several jack-ups have already been successfully handled on the River Tyne, offshore rigs having visited the River for both repair and reconditioning work. The Port fully expects the new purpose built berths to allow installation vessels the ability jack-up alongside to load using ships gear.

The Port of Tyne offers a large, flexible site as an anchor point to a potential cluster development, which is conveniently situated for offshore developments and sited at the heart of a region already renowned for engineering expertise.

Port of Blyth and Port of Sunderland

Complementing the Port of Tyne is the Port of Blyth and the Port of Sunderland, which have a range of services including stevedoring, warehousing and logistics.

The Port of Sunderland covers 106 hectares (264 acres) and is the UK's second largest municipally owned port; with its location, range of sites and premises, deep water berths, comprehensive cargo handling, warehousing and distribution services it is ideally positioned to complement the River Tyne offer and serve the offshore wind market.

The Port of Blyth has a strategic position on the east coast to facilitate the movement and mobilisation of project related work. The Port has deep water berths, handling expertise, heavy lift craneage, extensive storage facilities and excellent access to the distribution network. Northumberland County Council has already developed the Blyth Estuary Renewable Energy Zone (BEREZ) as an employment and energy production location with extensive industrial and business park sites and, of course, which is home to Narec.

5. Workforce Skills

An Unrivalled Skills Capability

The availability of appropriate skills is a critical factor in the successful future development of offshore wind related activity and other advanced manufacturing on Tyneside.

The area already has one of the strongest pools of relevant technician and production level, and graduate and post-graduate engineering level, skills in the UK.

This availability has been amply demonstrated in the current success of manufacturing and production in the region; with companies such as Nissan operating Europe's most productive car plant and being the UK's biggest exporter; PB Power with its world-wide reputation for power engineering; AMEC, which operates its main base for process and energy engineering; and SMD (Soil Machine Dynamics), which are world leaders in sub sea technology and have won the Queens Award for Innovation.

The availability and quality of this workforce has attracted some significant investments in recent years in the low carbon economy, such as Nissan EV and Battery manufacturing, won in the face of world wide competition, and Ensus' £400 million process investment. Hitachi has also selected the North East as its primary manufacturing centre for the next generation of high speed trains, complementing many other companies that have announced new investments in the low carbon economy.

Leading Europe in New Skills Development

The North East is now building on these existing strengths, by establishing one of the leading training and education capabilities in Europe for the low carbon economy.

At the level of technician and production skills, the National Skills Academy for Sustainable Manufacturing and Production is now being built on Tyneside. Northumberland College, and South Tyneside College, with its unrivalled maritime reputation, are developing European-leading qualifications for offshore wind construction, while Newcastle College is establishing new capacity focused on the manufacture of offshore wind equipment in North Tyneside, which will be the first phase of a Learning Village on the River Tyne North Bank.

At the graduate and post-graduate levels; Newcastle University is building on its reputation as one of the world's leading marine engineering universities by establishing the Newcastle Institute for Research on Sustainability, Northumbria University is building on its world leading design education centre, and Sunderland University is expanding its major capabilities in transport engineering.

The region is now developing the most extensive new capability in the UK for graduate engineering education, explicitly to meet the demands of new green industries. New University provision is being planned to generate 500 additional engineering graduates per year.

Supply of Skills

The North East has an excellent range of degree and other learning pathways for people entering the sector, as well as opportunities for up-skilling of the existing workforce.

Reflecting both the North East's industrial profile and the strong interest in science amongst young people, the region's schools, FE and HE providers place a great deal of importance on STEM programmes as pathways into the emerging future employment opportunities. These include foundation degrees in engineering disciplines that are offered at a number of education providers across the region.

The region's FE Colleges and training providers have a long history of excellent vocational and work-based training, with high levels of expertise in skills training and development in:

- Marine Engineering
- Aerospace and Allied Engineering Technologies
- Automotive Technology
- Engineering Construction
- Mechatronics
- Multi-Skilled Systems Maintenance Engineering
- Specialised Engineering for the Process and Manufacturing Industries
- Technical and Design Engineering
- Electrical and Mechanical Engineering
- Marine Safety

This history of excellent provision is being taken further with a number of the region's Colleges and training providers involved in the National Skills Academies programme and the Training Quality Standards initiative.

The five universities in the North East (which include Teesside University based in the Tees Valley LEP area), plus the Open University, offer:

- Almost 40 Masters level courses, including Mechanical and Systems Engineering, Design Manufacturing and Management, Renewable Energy and Clean Technology and Process Manufacturing Management.
- Almost 50 different undergraduate degrees relevant to this sector, including General Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Automotive Design and Technology.

Thus, there are 1,000 or more people graduating in the region each year with relevant degrees and masters qualifications, along with many others who have taken different routes to achieve a higher qualification for work in the sector. This represents an impressive and effective skills supply chain for the North East.

Hence, there is a large potential pool of graduates for the region's employers or inward investors seeking graduates with a broad engineering knowledge, most of who will have specialised toward the end of their course. Many students do go on to M.Sc. and other post-graduate studies.

Employment

The North East is renowned for its extensive industrial activity, with manufacturing remaining as the cornerstone of the regional economy. The region has an extensive workforce ready to undertake the challenge of offshore wind activity.

Engineering and manufacturing have traditionally been strong features of the North East economy. The number of employees working in the sector account for 12.5% of the workforce, compared with 10.9% at the national level.

Around 62,000 people work in the engineering sector, accounting for almost 6% of all employees in the region and consisting of:

- 5,580 employed in the manufacture of basic metals.
- 14,467 employed in the manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment
- 15,844 employed in the manufacture of machinery and equipment not elsewhere classified.
- 6,029 employed in the manufacture of electrical machinery and apparatus not elsewhere classified.
- 1,663 employed in the manufacture of radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus.
- 2,435 employed in the manufacture of medical, precision and optical instruments, watches and clocks.
- 12,839 employed in the manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers.
- 3,065 employed in the manufacture of transport equipment.

6. Living Environment and Assets

The North Eastern LEP area demonstrates a diverse pattern of settlements, capturing city locations and their hinterlands, and a network of towns and smaller settlements, including remote rural communities.

The diversity and contrast of city, urban, coastal and rural locations sustain strong tourism and cultural sectors, and provide high quality life-style choices. Many economic hubs in the North East contain economically valuable high quality sustainable and green infrastructure, and are situated in places surrounded by natural environments and historic attractions of global significance.

One of the strengths of the area is its ability to flex and address its constituent spatial areas in different ways in recognition of local economic geography and economic/socio-economic conditions. There are important external linkages between the North East and economies situated north in Scotland, west in Cumbria, and south in Tees Valley and North Yorkshire.



The North East economy has a number of important economic assets, including:

- Sector strengths in automotive, low carbon technology, marine and offshore, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, financial, business and professional services, cultural, creative and digital, engineering, tourism, construction and land-based industries.
- Globally competitive firms such as: Nissan Motor Manufacturing UK Ltd; Deutsche Bahn (formerly Arriva plc); Go Ahead Group plc; GlaxoSmithKline; Sage Group plc; Caterpillar; BAE Systems; RioTinto Alcan;

P&G; Thyssenkrupp Tallent Ltd; Eaga; Greggs plc; Aesica Pharmaceuticals; Rolls Royce; Komatsu; Smith Electric Vehicles; Bellway; Wellstream Holdings plc; Vertu Motors plc; Egger UK Ltd; SCA Hygiene; Siemens; Barbour; and Northumbrian Water.

- National and international centres of expertise in research and innovation (including Newcastle Science City, Sunderland Software City, Codeworks, Centre of Excellence for Life Sciences, NETPark, Centre for Process Industry, Printable Electronics Technology Centre (PETEC), National Renewable Energy Centre (narec), Design Centre for the North) and the forthcoming Low Carbon Vehicle Centre.
- Newcastle International Airport, which handles four and a half million passengers per year, and provides connectivity to major UK and international business centres.
- 5 sea ports (Port of Tyne, Port of Blyth, Port of Sunderland, Port of Berwick and Port of Seaham). Our ports allow the easy import and export of goods, and provide the UK's largest vehicle import and export operations. They also provide a base to manufacture technology products for the oil and gas industry and low carbon energy sector.
- A relatively well-connected rail network (including the East Coast Main Line).
- 4 Universities with internationally renowned, key teaching and research strengths in engineering, energy,

design, applied sciences, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, business and medicine.

- 10 Further Education Colleges, which together contributed towards the North East achieving in 2009 the best results of any English region for adult skills success rates.
- The Tyne and Wear Metro light rail system, which is benefitting from a new £350 million investment programme.
- Proximity to offshore wind sites, significant quality water and timber resources in Northumberland, and a natural and cultural environment that, as well as supporting tourism, provides a quality environment for those living and doing business in the LEP area.
- Europe's largest retail and leisure destination (Metrocentre), employing 8,000 staff and the UK's largest city centre shopping centre (Eldon Square) with 6,000 employees.

7. Contact

- Peter O'Brien,
North Eastern Local Enterprise Partnership

Telephone: 44(0)191 548 5860

Email: peter@tyneandwearcityregion.co.uk

November 2011.



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