



Offshore Wind Industry Council media release - **EMBARGO** 00.01am Thursday 25th March 2021

More than 69,000 jobs and £60 billion private investment in UK offshore wind by 2026

New research published today by the Offshore Wind Industry Council (OWIC) shows that the number of people working in direct and indirect jobs in the UK's world-leading offshore wind industry is set to rise significantly, from 26,000 currently to over 69,800 by 2026.

Most of the jobs will be created in parts of the country which urgently need levelling up, including the north east of England, Yorkshire and The Humber, East Anglia and Scotland.

The private sector will invest £60.8bn billion across the UK over the next five years in developing, constructing and operating offshore wind projects as the industry expands rapidly to help the Government to achieve its net zero emissions goal. The average annual investment will be £10.1bn between 2021 and 2026, and investment in 2026 alone will reach a peak of £10.6bn.

The Offshore Wind Skills Intelligence Report was commissioned by OWIC's Investment In Talent Group which was set up as part of the landmark Offshore Wind Sector Deal agreed with Government in 2019. The work has been done by RenewableUK, the National Skills Academy for Rail and independent data analysts Opergy Ltd.

The survey is by far the most comprehensive ever conducted in the UK into the full extent of the economic benefits of offshore wind. For the first time it includes direct and indirect jobs as well as self-employed people who make up 14% of the total workforce.

Researchers have compiled the most detailed offshore wind jobs database by inputting thousands of data points from the companies of all sizes, mapping where people are employed, what type of work they do and how the workforce will expand over the next five years. Of the 69,848 jobs by 2026, 40,700 will be direct (nearly 60%) and 29,148 will be indirect (in companies supplying other industries as well as offshore wind).

The highest percentage of responses came from supply chain companies (39%), reflecting the importance of the UK offshore wind supply chain in job creation. 29% came from offshore wind farm developers and operators. 27% were from UK companies involved in manufacturing specialist products for the sector (Original Equipment Manufacturers or OEMs).

Over 80% of offshore wind jobs are currently located outside London and the south east. Scotland currently has the highest proportion (30%), Yorkshire and The Humber has 15%, the north east of England 10% and the east of England also has 10%. Our forecast shows that regional percentages will be maintained at this level as jobs increase over the course of this decade, providing sustained long-term growth in these areas.

The wide range of jobs includes engineers, project managers, software designers, component manufacturers, turbine technicians, welders, deep sea divers, boat crews and helicopter pilots. 79% of these jobs are highly skilled, technical and management roles.

Apprenticeships make up 1.8% of the UK workforce, half of which are in Yorkshire and the Humber. The industry has committed to raising this to 2.5% as soon as possible.

The offshore wind industry is looking in particular to fill vacancies for electrical engineers, civil engineers, project managers, surveyors, data analysts and digital specialists in roles based onshore as well as offshore.

At present, women make up 18% of the workforce and the industry has committed to increasing this to at least one-third by 2030 – and to reach a stretch target of 40% if possible.

The survey also shows that the industry currently offers well-balanced range of opportunities for people with skills and qualifications at every level, from GCSEs and A-levels to Higher Education Certificates and Diplomas and university degrees. 71% of the workforce have qualifications in Higher Education (i.e. higher than A-levels or their equivalent in BTECs).

Developing the offshore wind supply chain is a key commitment in the Sector Deal; the industry is investing £100m over this decade on measures to ensure we increase the UK lifetime content of offshore wind farms from 48% currently to 60% by 2030.

The Industry Chair of OWIC Danielle Lane, UK Country Manager for Vattenfall, said: *“The UK offshore wind industry employs thousands of people in parts of the country which other sectors fail to reach and which need levelling up the most. This month GE Renewable Energy announced that it will open a massive offshore wind turbine blade manufacturing plant on Teesside, transforming a former steelworks site into a high-tech clean energy powerhouse and boosting our innovative UK supply chain.*

“We offer opportunities to people from all backgrounds and with qualifications at every level to work in an industry which is playing a crucial role in tackling dangerous climate change, enabling us to meet the Government’s net zero emissions target as fast as possible.

RenewableUK’s Deputy Chief Executive Melanie Onn, who leads on OWIC’s People and Skills work, said: *“We’ll see a surge of tens of thousands of new jobs over the next five years as offshore wind will put the rocket boosters under the UK’s green economic recovery. By investing over £60 billion of private capital between now and 2026, this industry is helping to kickstart our economy after the pandemic”.*

“Renewables are creating new opportunities for people across the UK, from school-leavers and graduates to workers leaving fossil fuel industries, and we want to ensure the right training and support is in place to harness all the talent and expertise we’ll need in the transition to clean energy”.

Energy Minister Anne-Marie Trevelyan said: *“The environmental benefits of our world-leading offshore wind sector are clear to see, but as this study shows we’ll also have tens of thousands more jobs created in the sector in just the next few years alone.*

“This is a sector with a bright future and earlier this week we published the Government’s North Sea Transition Deal which sets out how the UK will maximise the huge potential of our natural resources for clean renewable energy and attract more than £60 billion of private investment over the next five years, creating jobs while also ending our contribution to climate change by 2050.”

(ends)

For further information, including an advance copy of the report under embargo, contact:

- Luke Clark, Head of External Affairs, RenewableUK 07875 704 032
Luke.Clark@RenewableUK.com
- Robert Norris, Head of Communications, RenewableUK 07969 229 913
Robert.Norris@RenewableUK.com

Notes:

1. The [Offshore Wind Industry Council](#) (OWIC) is a senior Government and industry forum established in 2013 to drive the development of the world-leading offshore wind sector in the UK. The report will be published on OWIC's website on Thursday.
2. OWIC's Skills Intelligence Model (SIM) shows how the UK will benefit from job creation and private investment in offshore wind over the next 5 years:

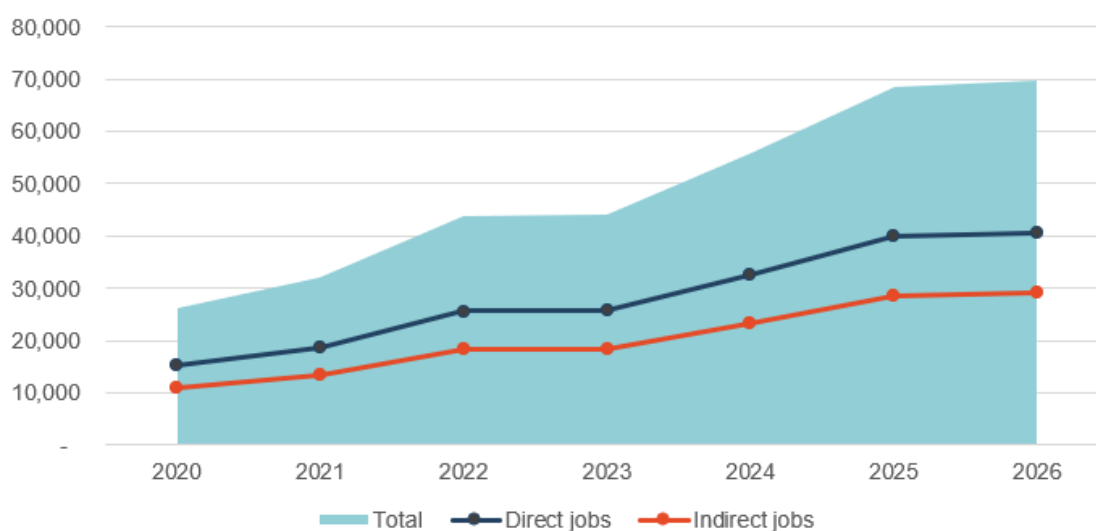
By **2026**, UK Offshore Wind is forecast to employ



69,848

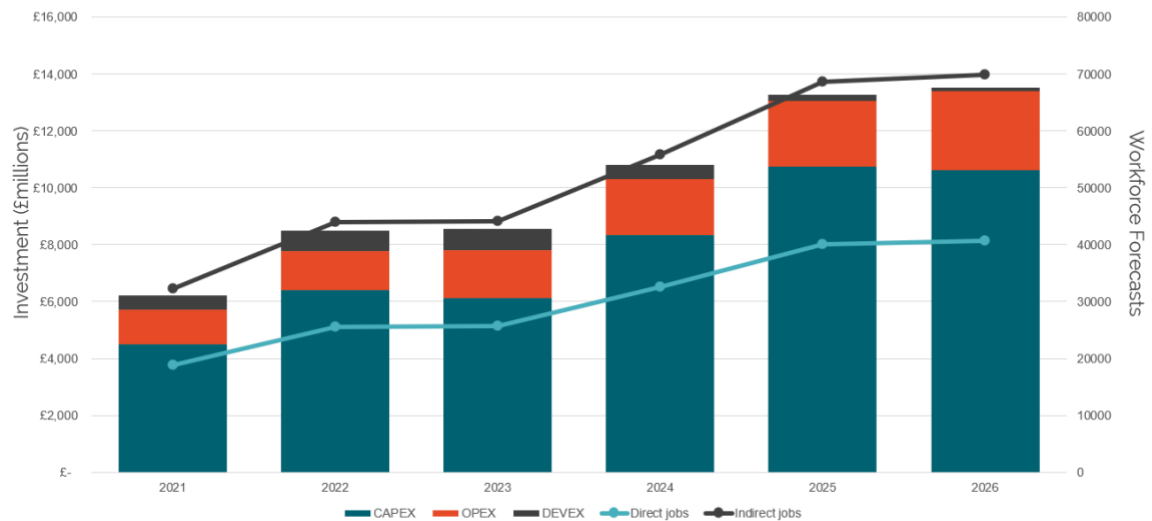
jobs. 40,700 direct jobs and 29,148 indirect jobs.

UK Offshore Wind Jobs Forecast to 2026



Source: [RenewableUK/Opergy Ltd.](#), February 2021

Jobs & Investment Forecast



Source: [RenewableUK](#)/Opergy Ltd., February 2021

3. [RenewableUK](#)'s members are building our future energy system, powered by clean electricity. We bring them together to deliver that future faster; a future which is better for industry, billpayers, and the environment. We support over 400 member companies to ensure increasing amounts of renewable electricity are deployed across the UK and to access export markets all over the world. Our members are business leaders, technology innovators, and expert thinkers from right across industry. RenewableUK's full events programme is [available here](#).