

Fact Sheet for Stakeholders

Forewind, development partner for Dogger Bank

Forewind is a joint venture consortium made up of four partners: SSE (Scottish and Southern Energy plc); RWE npower renewables, the UK subsidiary of RWE Innogy; and two of Norway's largest companies, Statkraft and Statoil. The consortium is committed to securing all the necessary consents for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the largest Round 3 offshore wind farm zone – Dogger Bank.

Forewind has agreed with The Crown Estate a target installed capacity of 9GW by 2020, though the zone has the potential to deliver closer to 13GW, which equates to around 10 per cent of the total projected UK electricity requirements. If fully developed it will be the world's largest offshore wind project.

The Dogger Bank zone is located off the east coast of Yorkshire between 125 and 290 kilometres offshore. It extends over approximately 8660km² with its outer limit aligned to the UK continental shelf limit as defined by the UK Hydrographic Office. The water depth ranges from 18–63 metres.



Stakeholder engagement

Dogger Bank is a huge geographic area and it is recognised that not all of it is suitable for wind farm development. Forewind has now begun its Zone Appraisal Phase – a zone characterisation process comprising a series of studies, surveys and assessments, research and ongoing consultation that will help with the selection of suitable sites for wind farm development.

A key component in this process is consultation with the groups, organisations and individuals, that is, stakeholders, likely to be affected by any developments on Dogger Bank.

Forewind began this extensive consultation with an introductory letter to around 270 stakeholders in January 2010. This has been followed with a number of meetings with key statutory stakeholders and invitations to all stakeholders to attend one of three tailored workshops held in late April.

Stakeholder workshops are an important part of Forewind's consultation process. From an early stage of development they will provide an opportunity to present Forewind's development objectives while determining the key interests and concerns of as many stakeholders as possible. The outcomes of the workshops will be taken into consideration during the selection of the wind farm sites.

As the zone characterisation process continues, Forewind will initiate further targeted engagement activities and communications towards stakeholders, which will continue throughout the development of the project.

DOGGER BANK FACTS

SIZE

8660km² (3343 square miles)
Largest of the Round 3 zones
Equivalent to Size of North Yorkshire

DISTANCE FROM SHORE

125 to 290 kilometres (77 to 180 miles)

WATER DEPTH

18-63 metres (59 to 206 feet)

DEPTH DISTRIBUTION

Approximately 4GW in less than 30m water depth and 8 GW in less than 35m water depth

ESTIMATED CAPACITY

Agreed target 9GW by 2020, with the potential for approximately 13GW

WIND SPEEDS

High wind speeds >10m/s
Average wind speed consistent across the zone



FAQs

Q: How is Round 3 different from Round 2?

In Round 2, developers bid for individual wind farm sites identified by The Crown Estate. In Round 3, The Crown Estate nominated much larger zones, and the successful development partners have the opportunity to select the most viable sites within those zones for development. Forewind is now in the initial development phase – to identify the most suitable sites through a comprehensive Zonal Appraisal Phase – a characterisation of the whole zone.

Q: What are the key issues for the site?

A great number of factors need to be considered when looking at any offshore wind farm site. Forewind will be undertaking zone-wide studies of Dogger Bank to start to identify the range of possible impacts the wind farm could have on wildlife (birds and sea mammals), sea habitat and users of the sea, such as fishermen, and use the outcomes to inform the selection of sites.

Each wind farm site, which is identified for development through this process, will be subject to more detailed surveys, which will comprise the comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The EIA will be presented in the form of an Environmental Statement (ES). The ES will be submitted with the wind farm planning applications and will provide a description of the proposed development, summarise its potential impact, and where appropriate will describe in detail the measures to be taken to mitigate any potentially negative effects.

Q: How will the sites be chosen?

Forewind has begun its Zone Appraisal Phase (ZAP), which aims to characterise the zone through a series of studies, consultations and surveys, and building on the desk-based assessments undertaken to date. Through this characterisation process Forewind expects to identify individual projects, which will be taken forwards to development. This process will maximise the development opportunity of the zone, enable an effective consenting strategy for the whole zone and increase efficiency by reducing duplication of effort and easing pressure on developers, consenting authorities, stakeholders and industry resources.

Sites will be identified over a number of years allowing the zone to be developed in stages with each stage being subject to its own application process with the Infrastructure Planning Commission. EMU Limited has been appointed to the role of ZAP Co-ordinator and will assist in the identification of sites for development to the Forewind team.

Q: What is the programme for delivery of the first projects?

Forewind is in the very early stages of the planning process. An indicative programme for the delivery of the first projects is:

- Summer 2010 – Identification of first project/s
- 2010-2012 – EIA and pre-application consultation activities for first project/s
- Late 2012 – Submission of first application
- Late 2013 – Determination of application
- Late 2014 – First investment decision
- 2015 (to 2023) – Start of construction
- 2016 – First grid connection

This programme is subject to a number of factors including the outcome of pre-application development activities, availability of points of connection into the onshore electricity network and supply chain capacity.

Q: How can stakeholders have their say?

Stakeholder engagement and consultation is a vital component of Forewind's development process and will help team members to understand key issues as they mature the zone development strategy.

In late April 2010, Forewind held an initial series of workshops for all stakeholders who were given the opportunity to learn more about the development objectives and to identify associated issues and concerns. In follow-up to these, there will be one-to-one meetings, direct communications and additional consultation activities, including further stakeholder workshops, forming part of a comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan. For further information, or to register as a stakeholder, please contact the relevant project team member:

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