# The Crown Estate commits £400 million to unlock UK offshore wind supply chain bottlenecks



The Crown Estate has unveiled a significant initiative to accelerate the UK’s offshore wind sector by committing up to £400 million in capital investments targeted at expanding and enhancing the supply chain infrastructure. This move, announced on the opening day of the Global Offshore Wind conference in London, focuses on developing essential onshore facilities, such as ports, manufacturing hubs, and research centres, to support the rapid deployment of offshore wind power across the UK’s coastline.

Recognising that limited supply chain capacity is a major barrier to scaling offshore wind, this investment is designed to unlock economic, social, and environmental benefits by enabling smoother project delivery and fostering local growth opportunities. The investment programme comprises two streams: a £350 million Supply Chain Investment Programme dedicated to financing new port and supply chain infrastructure, and a £50 million Supply Chain Accelerator that targets early-stage project development. The Accelerator recently entered its second funding round, set to distribute up to £15 million, expanding its scope to include UK ports and related infrastructure, with applications closing on 27 June 2025.

This initiative leverages new powers granted by the Crown Estate Act 2025, passed in March, enabling The Crown Estate to directly invest capital in renewable infrastructure projects. It aligns closely with broader government ambitions to decarbonise the electricity sector by 2030 by tripling offshore wind capacity to potentially power nearly 20 million homes. Coordinated efforts include partnerships with public and private sector entities such as Great British Energy—a government-backed energy company recently established to collaborate with The Crown Estate—and the National Wealth Fund, which has already invested £227 million in related infrastructure.

Stakeholders across the industry have welcomed the announcement. Ben Brinded, Head of Investment at The Crown Estate, emphasised the importance of collaboration, saying that investment in enabling infrastructure is vital to accelerate offshore wind deployment, reduce investment risks, and generate local economic opportunities. Juergen Maier, Chair of Great British Energy, underlined the UK's leadership in offshore wind and the necessity of partnerships to fully realise job creation, growth, and innovation benefits. Tim Pick, Chair of the Offshore Wind Growth Partnership, highlighted the synergy of The Crown Estate’s programmes with the Industrial Growth Plan’s goals—boosting the domestic supply chain and technology leadership. David Gwynne of the National Wealth Fund also expressed commitment to boosting financing for offshore wind infrastructure as part of the government’s clean energy and growth missions.

The broader context of the UK’s offshore wind ambitions features the launch of Great British Energy, a state-backed company receiving £8.3 billion in funding, which will co-invest and carry out early development on projects including floating offshore wind and technologies such as carbon capture. This partnership aims to attract up to £60 billion in private investment by creating a robust pipeline of renewable energy infrastructure. The Crown Estate itself manages vast seabed holdings critical for these developments and recently approved expansions for seven offshore wind farms, further supporting the clean energy transition.

However, challenges persist in the sector. Major developers like Ørsted have recently suspended large projects such as Hornsea 4 due to rising costs, supply chain disruptions, and operational risks, reflecting broader industry concerns about market conditions and government support. The UK government has reassured stakeholders of its commitment to overcoming these hurdles to meet the 2030 net-zero electricity target.

Aside from infrastructure investment, social considerations also play a role in the UK’s renewable transition. Notably, King Charles III has requested that profits from the Crown Estate’s windfarm leases be directed to public benefit rather than expanding royal funding, underscoring sensitivities during the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

Early successes from the Crown Estate’s Supply Chain Accelerator include nearly £5 million awarded to 13 organisations across the UK, enabling projects focused on floating wind platforms, mooring systems, maintenance facilities, and skills development. These initial investments are expected to catalyse over £400 million in subsequent capital expenditure, exemplifying the sector’s potential for innovation and growth.

In sum, The Crown Estate’s £400 million supply chain investment marks a determined step toward expanding the UK’s offshore wind infrastructure, addressing key supply challenges while fostering collaboration across government, industry, and financial partners to secure a sustainable, low-carbon energy future.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1–3 – [[1]](https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/news/boost-for-uk-offshore-wind-supply-chain-with-400m-investment-from-the-crown-estate), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/uks-crown-estate-invest-up-400-mln-stg-offshore-wind-2025-06-17/)
* Paragraph 4–6 – [[1]](https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/news/boost-for-uk-offshore-wind-supply-chain-with-400m-investment-from-the-crown-estate), [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/eb889a61-0160-4e94-b98b-d44cc250d739), [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/britains-gb-energy-work-with-crown-estate-clean-energy-projects-2024-07-25/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[6]](https://www.ft.com/content/7015e906-6415-4c35-a992-88f5f3e60e07)
* Paragraph 8 – [[4]](https://www.apnews.com/article/97d6c932095315627b339d95ebc584b6)
* Paragraph 9 – [[7]](https://www.offshorewind.biz/2024/12/10/the-crown-estate-awards-gbp-5-million-in-first-supply-chain-accelerator-round/), [[1]](https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/news/boost-for-uk-offshore-wind-supply-chain-with-400m-investment-from-the-crown-estate)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/news/boost-for-uk-offshore-wind-supply-chain-with-400m-investment-from-the-crown-estate> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/uks-crown-estate-invest-up-400-mln-stg-offshore-wind-2025-06-17/> - The UK's Crown Estate has announced plans to invest up to £400 million in the offshore wind energy supply chain. This initiative aims to bolster infrastructure such as ports, manufacturing facilities, and research centres to support the expanded deployment of offshore wind energy. The effort aligns with the UK government's objective to decarbonise the electricity sector by 2030 and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. The capital will be channelled through two programmes: a £350 million supply chain investment programme for new port and infrastructure development, and an additional £50 million programme supporting early-stage projects. The second funding round of the £50 million programme is open for applications until June 27, with up to £15 million in funding available. Additionally, the Crown Estate recently approved the expansion of capacity at seven offshore wind farms on existing seabed leases, further supporting the nation’s renewable energy targets.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/eb889a61-0160-4e94-b98b-d44cc250d739> - The UK government is establishing a state-owned energy company, GB Energy, to collaborate with the Crown Estate to promote offshore wind and other clean technologies, aiming to attract up to £60 billion in private investment. Expected to be operational soon under new legislation, GB Energy will undertake early development work on Crown Estate projects and may take small stakes to mitigate risks for private investors. This initiative is part of Labour's plan to reduce fossil fuel dependency and develop domestic green industries, with a target to achieve net-zero carbon emissions from electricity by 2030. The Crown Estate, which manages a substantial portfolio of land and seabed holdings, plans to lease seabed areas sufficient for 20-30GW of offshore wind capacity by 2030. GB Energy, receiving £8 billion in public funding and operating independently, will initially co-invest in early-stage renewable projects and eventually manage its own power schemes, focusing on technologies like floating offshore wind and carbon capture.
4. <https://www.apnews.com/article/97d6c932095315627b339d95ebc584b6> - King Charles III has requested that the annual profits from a £1 billion Crown Estate windfarm deal be directed to the public, rather than increasing funding for the royal family. The Crown Estate confirmed it signed leases for six offshore wind projects, which would usually boost the monarchy's funding through the Sovereign Grant, calculated as a percentage of the estate's profits. Currently at £86.3 million per year, the grant supports the royal family's official duties. Charles' request comes amid high inflation and a cost-of-living crisis in the UK. In his first Christmas message as king, he emphasised addressing public hardships and honoured charitable organisations aiding those in need.
5. <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/britains-gb-energy-work-with-crown-estate-clean-energy-projects-2024-07-25/> - Britain's newly established state-backed power company, GB Energy, will collaborate with the Crown Estate to enhance investment and development in clean energy projects. This partnership will focus on developing new offshore wind farms, potentially attracting £30-60 billion in private investment. The Crown Estate, managing large portions of Britain’s land and seabed, will create a new division to work with GB Energy. This initiative aims to generate 20-30 gigawatts of new offshore wind capacity by 2030, enough to power almost 20 million homes. Energy Security and Net Zero Minister, Ed Miliband, emphasised that this agreement signifies a commitment to cleaner power and substantial investment. The Labour government targets full decarbonisation of the electricity sector by 2030, necessitating a rapid increase in renewable energy sources. The government plans to introduce legislation to establish GB Energy, supported by £8.3 billion, as a key driver for energy investments. This move follows the Crown Estate's recent report of record profits from offshore wind seabed leases and proposed changes to permit it to borrow money to support renewable projects.
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/7015e906-6415-4c35-a992-88f5f3e60e07> - Ørsted, the world's largest offshore wind developer, has halted its Hornsea 4 project in the UK due to rising costs and risks, posing a setback to the country's clean energy ambitions. The 2.4 GW project in the North Sea was intended to power over a million homes and had secured a UK government contract for a fixed electricity price. However, Ørsted cited macroeconomic challenges, supply chain issues, and increased operational risks as reasons for suspending spending and terminating supplier contracts, leading to projected losses of £399 million to £513 million this year. Chief Executive Rasmus Errboe noted that the company retains the development rights and may revisit the project under more favourable conditions. The decision reflects wider industry struggles, including a similar move by Vattenfall in 2023, and underscores growing concern over inadequate government support amid inflation and logistical constraints. The UK government, aiming to triple offshore wind capacity by 2030, stated its intention to collaborate with Ørsted to revive the project and affirmed its commitment to expanding clean energy infrastructure.
7. <https://www.offshorewind.biz/2024/12/10/the-crown-estate-awards-gbp-5-million-in-first-supply-chain-accelerator-round/> - The Crown Estate has awarded nearly £5 million in funding to 13 organisations across England, Wales, and Scotland in the first round of its Supply Chain Accelerator. The funding will help kick-start projects drawing down from a £50 million fund established in May this year to accelerate and de-risk the early-stage development of UK supply chain projects that service the offshore wind sector. The Crown Estate’s match funding will contribute to a combined development investment of over £9 million, which, if the opportunities successfully conclude their respective development stages, could lead to more than £400 million of capital investment. Projects receiving funding include those enabling floating wind platforms, anchoring and mooring systems, operations and maintenance facilities, test facilities, and those supporting the skills transition. Organisations receiving funding include Blue Abyss Operations, Celtic Sea Power, Gabriel Engineering, HR Wallingford, Hutchinson Engineering, Marine Power Systems, Neath Port Talbot Group of Colleges, Nerth, Pembrokeshire College, Plaswire, Plymouth & South Devon Freeport, Tardra, and Tugdock.