



2026 January Innovation Grant Webinar

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Project Manager

26th February 2026

Funded by
**Offshore Wind
Industry Council**

Delivered by
CATAPULT
Offshore Renewable Energy

Webinar Agenda

- 1. Introductions and housekeeping**
- 2. OWGP Introduction**
- 3. 2025 Innovation Grant Outline**
- 4. Industry Champions**
 - Equinor – Andrew Foster
 - SSE Renewables – James Lightfoot
- 5. Application Process**
- 6. Q&A**

Who are we?

The UK's flagship supply chain growth funding and business support organisation dedicated to offshore wind.

- OWGP operates as an independent, not-for-profit organisation.
- Our mission is to accelerate supply chain development through targeted investment and support. Guided by the Industrial Growth Plan, we focus on the areas that deliver the greatest impact to strengthen the offshore wind sector.
- We provide funding and business support programmes to UK-based suppliers, helping to generate know-how, economic value, highly skilled jobs, and export income.

Business Transformation Programmes



Designed to address needs such as sector knowledge, business strategy, tender readiness, and increased competitiveness.

Funding Programmes



Our funding programmes aim to increase capability, capacity, innovation and technology commercialisation.



Our Programmes

Wind Expert Support Toolkit (WEST)

WEST is our sector entry and growth advisory programme, designed to give participants strategic clarity through the provision of specialist advice, market intelligence and sector insights.

- Specialist advice & market intelligence
- Short-term engagement, scalable depending on company needs
- Bespoke intervention plan for each participant

Fit 4 Offshore Renewables

Fit 4 Offshore Renewables F4OR has been designed to help the UK supply chain companies prepare to bid for work in the offshore renewables sector. 'Granted' status means the company is operating at a level that meets the needs of their potential customers.

- Shaped by senior representatives of the industry
- Specialist advice on sector-specific and business excellence
- A focus on preparation for bidding

Sharing in Growth Offshore Wind Programme (SiG)

The OWGP Sharing in Growth Offshore Programme (SiG) is a holistic competitiveness improvement programme suited to ambitious UK companies looking to accelerate growth in the Offshore Wind sector.

- Business coaching by experts with industry experience
- Focus on delivery and continuous improvement
- Strategic programme with multi-industry track record

Innovation Funding Programme

Targeted at projects that deliver new innovative technologies, products and services to the sector.

→ £25K to £200K

Development Funding Programme

Targeted at projects delivering company growth through new capability addition or expansion of existing capabilities.

→ £50K to £500K

Manufacturing Facility Support Programme

To support essential pre-investment activities, paving the way for capital investment in new or expanding manufacturing facilities.

→ £150K to £500K

Our Impact

395 projects supported across the UK to grow the offshore wind supply chain

Participating companies in our programmes have reported...

1639

Increased Jobs



£347m

Increased Turnover



237

New UK IP



£293m

In-year exports



OWGP Support Reach

Business Transformation Grant Funding BT & GF



Created with Datawrapper



Innovation Grants Funding Call



2026 Innovation Grant Scope



Innovation
Funding
Programme



Offshore
Wind
Growth
Partnership

Innovation Grant:

The latest OWGP Innovation Grant funding call is now open! Applications close on **Friday 20th March at 5pm.**

Funding of between **£25,000** and **£200,000** is available for eligible projects

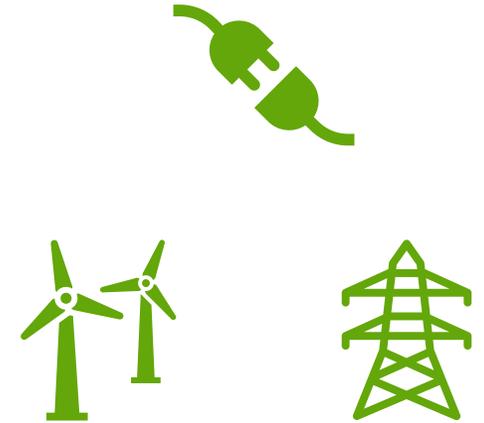
The scope of the funding call will focus on:

- **Industrial Foundations & Substructures**

- Foundations (including deepwater, floating, lightweight and low cost)
- Moorings and anchors
- Advanced materials for floating substructures
- Fatigue prevention and life extension
- Foundation installation, inspection and repair

- **Substations and electrical design**

- Offshore and onshore substations (including foundations)
- Fit out and Installation
- HV Equipment
- Electrical systems design & SCADA



Industry Champions:



Eligibility Criteria



Innovation
Funding
Programme



Offshore
Wind
Growth
Partnership

Eligibility:

- Be a UK-registered company of any size
- Project scope cannot be described as ‘business as usual’
- Show a clear intent to develop your business to offshore wind
- Have not received OWGP funding through a competition launched in the last 12 months (**Jan 2025 Dev Grant onwards**)
- Have not received 3 or more OWGP funding awards
- Demonstrate existing capability in offshore wind or plan for working in offshore wind
- Show a clear intent to grow the business (jobs, turnover, export and IP)
- Provide monetary and/or in-kind contribution
- Explain how this project would not take place without OWGP support

Scope:

- Investing in new equipment or facilities to address innovation priority areas
- Developing new technologies products and/or services to accelerate the development of industry innovation priority areas
- Investing in new technologies, products and/or services to improve operational performance, reliability and/or efficiency
- Other activity that will grow the company and lead to an increase in jobs, turnover, export and IP
- Technology development should be **near-to-market**, ready for commercialisation (this includes floating technology)

2026 Industry Champions



Innovation
Funding
Programme



Offshore
Wind
Growth
Partnership



What is the role of an Industry Champion?

- Helping to identify industry innovation priorities
- 'First sighting' to successful companies and solutions
- Providing an industry steer on solutions that are of most interest
- Recognition and inclusion on competition promotional materials (social media, press releases, webinar)
- Meaningful UK supply chain engagement activity with solution providers



Industry Champion: Equinor

Andrew Foster – Technical Project Manager



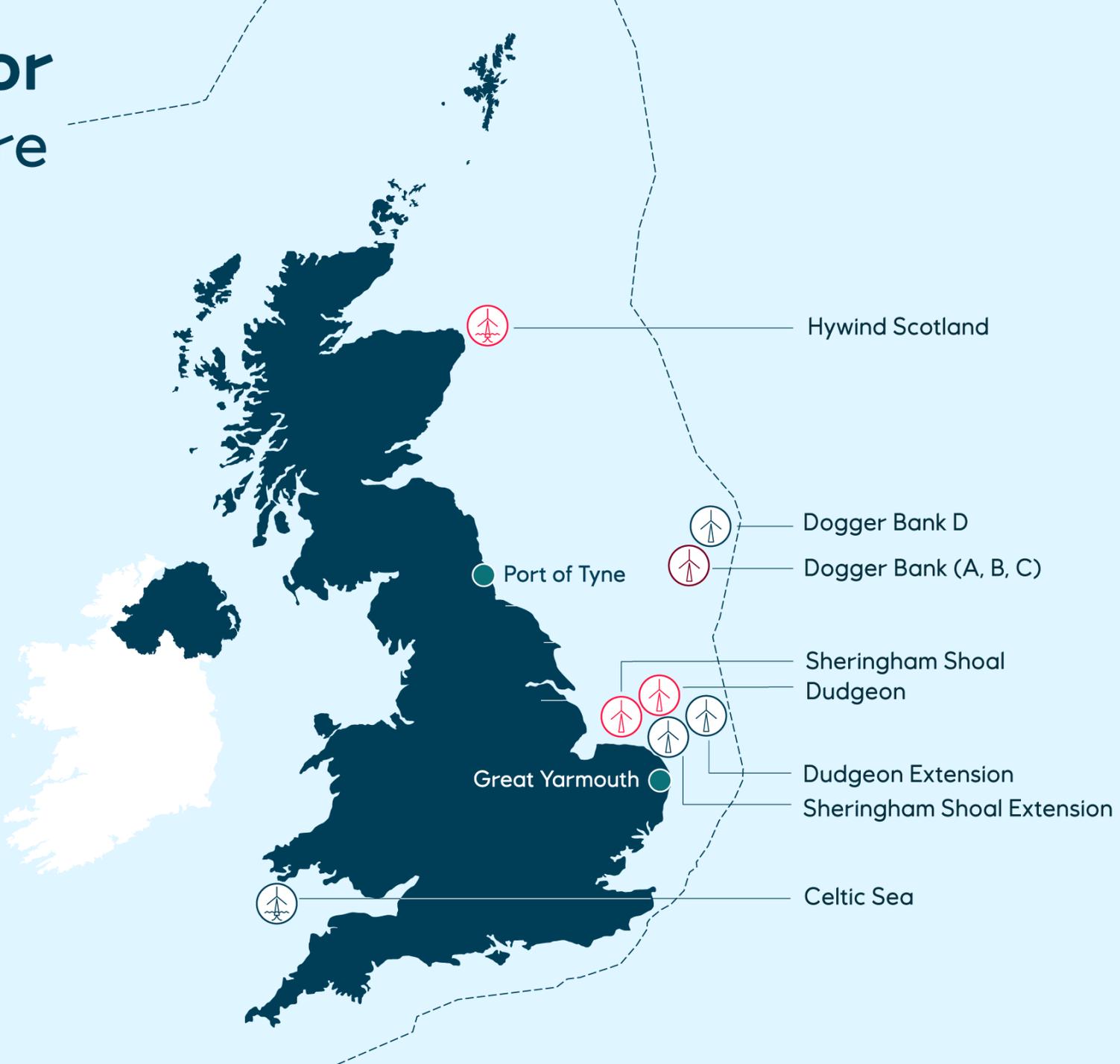
OWGP Innovation Funding Grants Webinar

Industry Champion - Equinor

Andrew Foster

February 2026

Equinor Offshore wind in the UK



Key

-  Operational wind farm
-  Wind farm producing during construction
-  Wind farm in development
-  Floating wind farm
-  O&M facility
-  Maritime border

Floating offshore wind will not scale without industrialisation and innovation

Projects will only progress at scale if we **systematically reduce LCOE – CAPEX is a huge driver.**

A significant proportion of CAPEX sits in:

- Substructures
- Mooring systems (lines + protection)
- Anchors (particularly shallow and hard bedrock conditions)
- Dynamic cables and associated ancillaries
- Port integration and heavy lift logistics

To unlock the **UK's opportunity**, innovation must:

- Reduce material intensity
- Simplify installation
- Enable serial fabrication
- Improve reliability and design life
- Lower contingency through validated technologies



Priority Technologies to Unlock Celtic Sea Deployment

Anchors in Shallow Bedrock

- Drilled and grouted anchors (currently low TRL – innovation opportunity)
- Alternative anchoring for hard ground sites
- Installation method innovation to reduce vessel time

Moorings Lines for Shallow Water Floating

- Protection concepts to ensure the full life cycle considering frequent seabed touch-down damage.

Anchors and moorings are not just components — they define installation time, vessel strategy and risk profile.

Substructure Innovation

- Semi-sub optimisation to reduce steel tonnage
- TLP / hybrid concepts if site conditions require
- Modular fabrication for serial production
- Integrated quayside assembly strategies

Substructure CAPEX in floating is significant – every tonne saved matters.



Celtic Sea – Supply Chain

Technology	UK Opportunities	Local Opportunities	Key Drivers	Focus areas
WTG	Blade Manufacturing, Marshalling, Integration.	Marshalling, Integration.	Reducing Risk	Adaption to Floating, e.g. Tower Design.
Substructure	Fabrication / Welding.	Fabrication / Welding.	Industrialised Fabrication	Cost, yard capabilities, port investment.
Electrical Systems Infrastructure	Dynamic Cables and Protection Systems, Storage & Logistics.	Storage & Logistics.	Technology (e.g. AC vs DC)	Schedule, New designs for subsea substations.
Marine & Logistics	Vessel Mobilisations, Towing.	Vessel Mobilisations, Towing.	Project Execution	Smarter/faster methods
Mooring System	Mooring Lines & Anchors	Mooring Lines & Anchors, Storage & Logistics.	Material qualification.	Project specific configurations.
Operations & Maintenance	O&M Base, O&M Services, Technicians.	O&M Base, O&M Services, Technicians.	Efficient Operations	O&M Strategy



Industry Champion: SSE Renewables

James Lightfoot – Senior Manager: Innovation & Technology



OWGP Innovation Funding Programme

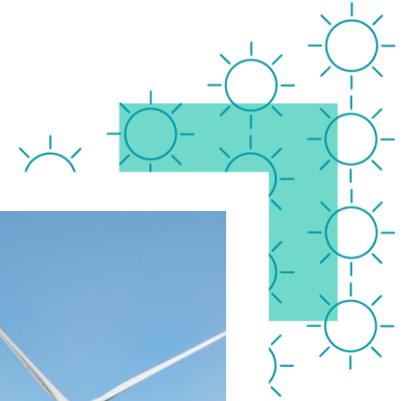
James Lightfoot

26th February 2026



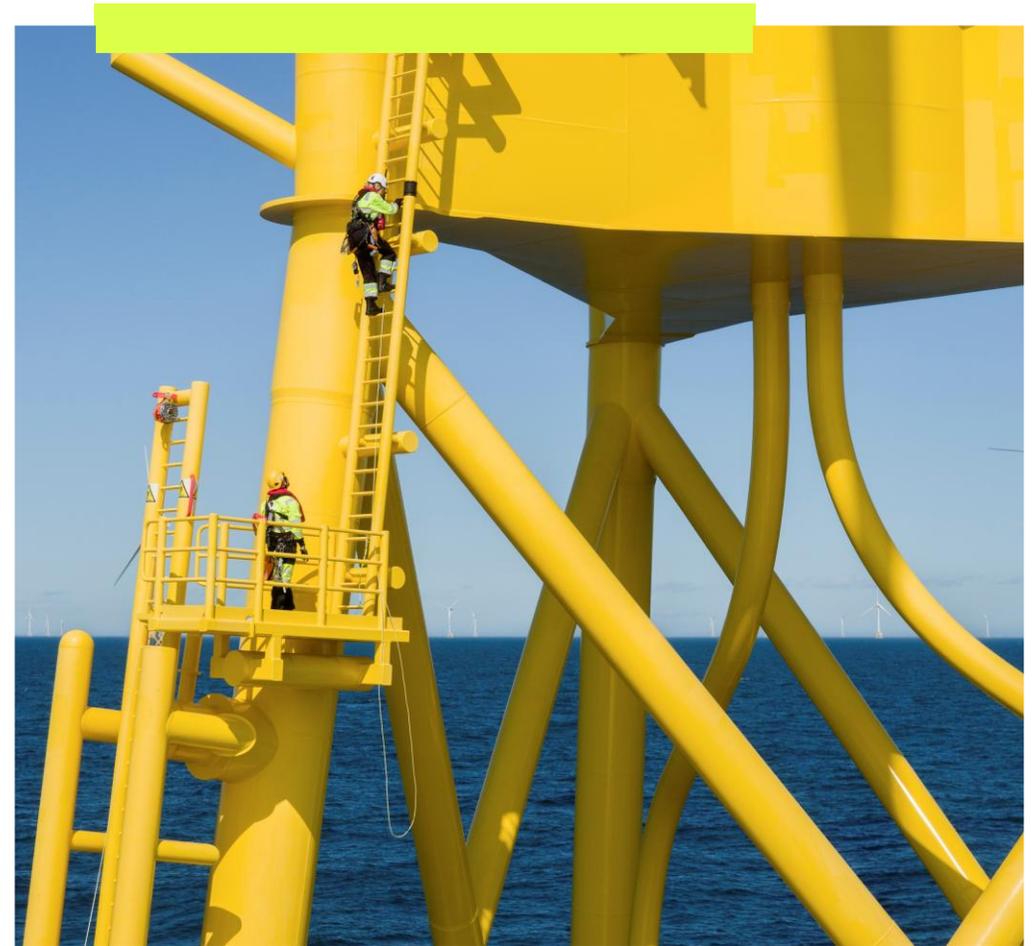
Role of Innovation in Offshore Wind

- 1. Delivering large-scale wind farms at pace** – SSE is building the 3.6GW Dogger Bank offshore wind farm, which is the largest in the world.
- 2. Expanding into deeper waters with traditional foundation technology** – SSE operates 1GW Seagreen, which is the world’s deepest fixed bottom offshore wind farm.
- 3. De-risking the future of floating offshore wind** – SSE is developing the 3.6GW Ossian wind farm.
- 4. Further driving sustainability into O&M** – SSE continues to innovate to decarbonise and promote circular practices.
- 5. Preparing for decommissioning** – SSE’s oldest offshore asset (0.5 GW Greater Gabbard) requires novel technologies to safely and sustainably decommission.
- 6. Co-existence with nature** – SSE collaborated with Microsoft and Avanade to develop “Puffin AI” for the 0.6GW Beatrice offshore wind farm to understand seabird behaviour.



Foundations and Sub-structures

- Advanced assembly technologies to reduce the CAPEX and embodied CO₂eq of monopile manufacturing
- Domestically produced low carbon steel, including using steel from recycled sources
- Fixed foundation designs for deeper water
- Offshore welfare facilities integrated into the turbine tower
- Climate control for transition pieces before WTG installation
- Bolted connections between dissimilar metals
- Low noise piling technologies



Substations and Electrical Design

- HVDC grids to support far from shore offshore wind, e.g. Dogger Bank
- Maximum cable temperature ratings to resolve thermal bottlenecks
- HV and IAC cable terminations
- In-service cable condition monitoring and cable protection systems
- Digitalisation and automated inspection of substations
- Sustainable design – SF6 free switchgear, low impact materials and alternative cooling systems.



Thank you

For more information, contact:

James.Lightfoot@sse.com

Application Process

The Innovation Grant is an online application process which is completed online via **Submittable Portal** .

- The total funding pot available - **£1 million**.
- Grants of between **£25,000** and **£200,000** are available.



- Create and account with email and password
- Collaboration
- Notes (including link to compulsory **EXCEL Workbook**)
- Eligibility form
- Main Application form

The application consist of **9 sections** with up to **41 questions** that will enable OWGP to determine the company and project eligibility



Prior to entering your responses on this form, please ensure you have fully reviewed our Innovation Grant January 2026 Scope and Guidance Document (including T&Cs) which can be found on the OWGP Website:

The Innovation Grant Scope and Guidance Document contains important information relating to the scope and aims of the programme, applicant eligibility and also explains the assessment and delivery process.

Please note:

- You will need to **DOWNLOAD** the excel workbook associated with this application via [THIS LINK](#)
- This application should be completed by the lead organisation wishing to receive funding and should not be filled-out by a third party or on behalf of another organisation.
- If your organisation has received 3 or more grant funding awards from OWGP, you are not eligible to submit into this funding round.
- Applicants must demonstrate clear alignment with at least one of the innovation priority areas.
- Applicants must demonstrate a credible route to market and ready for commercialisation.

We use Submittable to accept and review our submissions.

CONTINUE

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Weighting
Company Details	Not Assessed
Company background and market traction	5%
Clear challenge/market opportunity	15%
Alignment with scope	10%
Project Delivery – Workbook	20%
Ambition for growth	10%
Value for money	20%
Impact and Growth	20%
Confidentiality	Not Assessed

- Applicants are required to complete a Project Management Plan workbook
- Assessed by OWGP team and independent external assessors
- Final decision rests with the OWGP Board

2024 Innovation Grant – Key Dates

Key Date	Date
Call Opens	Tuesday 27 th January 2026
Online Briefing Webinar	Thursday 26 th February
Application deadline	Friday 20 th March 2026 at 5pm
Award decision	On or before 11 th May 2026
Project start date	Projects to start on or before 1 st June 2026

Contact Information

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Q&A

