

# Innovation call webinar Q&A

## 12 January 2024

### General questions

#### Can we get copies of this presentation?

A recording of the webinar and the slide deck is available at:

<https://www.offshoreinnovation.scot/news/register-now-our-innovation-call-webinar>

#### Would it be possible to share the contacts of the other participants to this webinar?

No, due to GDPR we cannot share the contact details of those that signed up for the webinar.

#### Are you attending SR Offshore Renewables Conference on 24/25 Jan in Glasgow?

Yes, both EMEC and West of Orkney Windfarm will be at the Scottish Renewables Offshore Wind Conference on 24/25 January 2024.

- Matthew Finn, EMEC Commercial Director, will be on the Orkney stand F8-F10.
- West of Orkney Windfarm are exhibiting on stand C4.

Please come and speak to us about your ideas for the innovation call.

### Funding queries

#### Is the maximum total funding for this call £300k across all successful applicants or is it a maximum of £300k per successful applicant?

The total programme value is £1 million.

The total funding available for the first innovation call is £300,000. This will be split between all successful applicants.

However, we are interested in hearing from applicants who feel they would require additional funding to support their innovation as we are looking to get other project developers involved in the programme and bring more sponsorship in.

## Solution-focused queries

### Do immersive training solutions fit the bill?

Yes, anything that helps improve the project in terms of reducing the time, cost, risk, and improving efficiency is of interest to the wider programme. It really depends on the impact it will have on the project; we don't want to write anything off.

For this first innovation call, you'd need to show how that lines up with the aims of the A2 and E1 specific challenges. Please download the info packs for each call for more details:

- [A2 – understanding metocean \(call pack 1\)](#)
- [E1 – Design for short window installation \(call pack 2\)](#)

### For the transportation and installation call, would an analysis of different vessel options using software be within scope?

West of Orkney Windfarm use modelling software looking at vessels and logistics that are in the market today. If you're bringing something to the table that is beyond that, in a more innovative way, that will have a positive impact on economics and efficiencies of delivering the project, then it would be something we'd be interested in looking at.

Differing vessel capabilities alongside main component design and installation techniques are a key driver for the E1 call, but comparison of vessel capability is also directly relevant to the D1, E2, E3 and F2 specific challenges, so might be considered as a 'cross-cutting' innovation that can be first put forward in the E1 category.

### For the design for short weather window installation call, I assume this is limited to XXL monopile / jacket related installation solutions? Will a later call have a similar theme but for floating foundations?

There is more detail available in the West of Orkney Windfarm document library (<https://www.westoforkney.com/document-library>) regarding the types of fixed-bottom foundations envisaged for the project.

Floating foundations are not within scope for the Offshore Wind R&I Programme at the moment but may be included in future calls should other sponsors with floating projects join the programme.

In the meantime, EMEC would be keen to hear from floating wind developers directly as it is setting out the needs case for a National Floating Wind Test Centre in the UK. More details here: <https://www.emec.org.uk/white-paper-details-needs-case-for-uk-national-floating-wind-test-centre/>

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## Collaboration queries

**Will the programme connect successful applicants who are Tier 2 and Tier 3 supply chain companies with the chosen Tier 1 OEM's for the project delivery to ensure innovation gets considered and deployed within broader packages? (turbines or cables for example)**

This innovation call is being launched ahead of West of Orkney Windfarm procurement activities although West of Orkney Windfarm are ramping up procurement activities through 2024 across all packages. It's the intention to bring the conversations together and get the innovation call solutions working with other suppliers.

**Are EMEC (or anybody else) planning to facilitate consortium-building, i.e. help those with complementary skills meet each other?**

We won't be holding any consortium-building events prior to the applications deadline, however we can provide support with project proposals and bringing consortiums together should we see opportunities to do so following application. If you'd like to discuss this prior to submitting your application, please get in touch: [emec@offshoreinnovation.scot](mailto:emec@offshoreinnovation.scot)

## Future innovation calls?

**Is there timeline for the release of other key challenge areas?**

We haven't confirmed dates for future innovation calls yet.

To register your interest in future calls, please email [emec@offshoreinnovation.scot](mailto:emec@offshoreinnovation.scot) stating which challenge areas you're interested in. We are keeping track of interest in the wider challenge areas and will take that into account in developing the next innovation call focus areas with our programme sponsor(s).

**If we have technology that fits the later calls, do we wait for those calls to come up, or submit information earlier?**

Right now, we're focused on the first innovation call. Please do not submit an application that is not intended for the open call.

We are assessing what the next call(s) will be and when to launch them. We would be interested in hearing from interested companies if there is a particular challenge area of interest. Please contact us: [emec@offshoreinnovation.scot](mailto:emec@offshoreinnovation.scot).

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## Project timescales

**I am expecting to start working on the project full time (funding dependent) in November 2024. What is the latest expected project start?**

We're aiming to start projects in mid-June 2024. Any potential for alteration of project start dates will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Any request for change of project start date should be highlighted within your application.

**For a 2-year project, what is the expected outcome or TRL / CRL? Options could include volume production ready or prototype demonstrated. Does technology have to be ready for use on the first turbine?**

We don't have any fixed expectation of TRL/CRL for innovations; we expect projects will come through at different maturity levels. We would emphasise that the innovation should be ready for use within the West of Orkney Windfarm project timescales.

**Regarding the timeline: is the two year project aimed to be finalized before start of the actual farm installation, or can the proposal work also be running during installation, as a demonstrator?**

We're aiming to wrap up the innovation projects prior to the commencement of construction.

## Intellectual property

**Is it possible to enter an NDA to protect IP under development?**

Yes, we can put an NDA in place between the call applicant(s) and EMEC to protect IP. Please reach out to us at [emec@offshoreinnovation.scot](mailto:emec@offshoreinnovation.scot) if an NDA is required.

**Can you say anything about intellectual property and if ownership remains with the originator?**

The ultimate goal of the programme is to facilitate innovation. EMEC regularly engages with novel technology developers and understands the need to protect intellectual property (IP). Non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) can be put in place on a case-by-case basis using EMEC's standard NDA.

It is not the intention of the programme to own any IP from the ideas submitted or the projects supported.

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## Local content & organisation status

### Is this innovation call open only for Scottish firms? If not, could you indicate if partnership with Scottish firms will also be evaluated?

This call is not exclusive to Scottish organisations. However, we are looking to bring a benefit to the Scottish economy and supply chain.

### Can we apply on a mini-consortium basis e.g. two partner companies?

Yes, you can apply as a consortium.

### Could you expand on what is meant by '40% or more of Scottish content'?

As part of the ScotWind leasing process, all projects submitted a supply chain development statement (SCDS); West of Orkney Windfarm SCDS is available to download here: <https://www.westoforkney.com/document-library>).

West of Orkney Windfarm has committed to work with suppliers and across industry to develop the offshore wind supply chain locally in Caithness and Orkney, across Scotland, and the rest of the UK. It is targeting 60% UK content (40% in Scotland and 20% in the rest of the UK) measured over the life of the project in line with standard industry protocols.

## West of Orkney Windfarm specific queries

### What are the project timescales - design, construction, generation, etc.

West of Orkney Windfarm intend to achieve consents by end of this year / beginning of 2025; enter Allocation Round 7 in 2025; move into FRD in 2026; start construction in 2027; and are working towards grid connection in late 2029/early 2030.

The project will need to be installed within very tight weather windows (which is the purpose of this first innovation call). Based on estimated modelling, the project can only be installed between April and November so will need to start construction of foundations in 2027 and is aiming to finish up construction in 2031. At the moment, it's a very long construction period given the short weather windows, however the less time spent constructing the more economic the project is.

### Is the location (lat/long) of the wind farm available on the website?

Site location and boundary information is available within the EIA Scoping Report, available to download from the West of Windfarm document library (<https://www.westoforkney.com/document-library>).

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## Some of the innovation topics are already commercially available - how does one provide information of those to you?

If it's commercially available, it can be procured in the market.

For the innovation call, if something is commercially available, we'd be looking for things that can be advanced further and take to the next level.

The innovation call isn't a traditional procurement exercise, this is us trying to do things a little differently and pull things through that otherwise wouldn't get a chance in a standard procurement exercise.

## As a Scottish company having already achieved innovative solutions for other offshore wind projects outwith West of Orkney, can you still apply?

Yes, you can still apply. If you've developed something on another project and think it requires an additional push into the market via the West of Orkney Windfarm project, that's exactly what we want to see (e.g. a mature commercially ready idea that we can push further).

We would need to check for any potential conflict of interest and possible funding duplications. This should be highlighted within your application.

## On foundations, can we get some rough details please? (e.g. jacket, monopile, GB, weight, height, installation start year, etc)

There are some high-level max dimensions and weights in the design envelope within the environmental impact assessment (EIA) available online:

<https://www.westoforkney.com/document-library>.

West of Orkney Windfarm are in the process of wrapping up its pre-FEED activities and will be feeding this into its FEED activities from end of Q1 2024 onwards. At that point more information may be available to share on a confidential basis to successful applicants.