



## 30 January 2026

[Tethys](#) is a knowledge hub with information and resources on the environmental effects of wind and marine energy. The bi-weekly [Tethys Blast](#) highlights announcements and upcoming events; new documents in the [Knowledge Base](#); and international energy news. [ORJIP Ocean Energy](#) has partnered with [OES-Environmental](#) to provide additional content. [Email us](#) to contribute!

[Announcements](#)  
[Upcoming Events](#)

[Marine Energy Documents](#)  
[Wind Energy Documents](#)

[Marine Energy News](#)  
[Wind Energy News](#)

## Announcements

### New Tethys Story

### [OES-Environmental Resources for Marine Renewable Energy Developers and Regulators](#) by OES-Environmental

Over the last 15 years, [OES-Environmental](#) has been exploring the environmental effects of marine renewable energy (MRE) projects, synthesizing available data and information, and developing useful resources for developers, regulators, and other stakeholders. The latest Tethys Story highlights several OES-Environmental resources hosted on Tethys.

**Marine Renewable Energy: An Introduction to Environmental Effects**



April 2025

**Marine Renewable Energy: An Introduction to Environmental Effects**

This document provides an introduction to the environmental effects of marine renewable energy (MRE) projects. It covers various MRE technologies, their environmental impacts, and mitigation strategies. The document is intended for marine renewable energy developers, regulators, and other stakeholders.

**What is Marine Renewable Energy?**

MRE, also referred to as marine energy or marine hydrokinetic energy, is energy harvested from the movement of tides, waves, currents, or large rivers, and ocean gradients, but does not include hydroelectric dams or offshore wind. This includes energy from:

- tides
- waves
- temperature gradients
- salinity gradients
- ocean currents
- river flows

Tides, currents, and ocean currents are used to generate energy from turbines or other devices to produce electric power. These include technologies such as axial flow turbines, tidal current turbines, and tidal stream energy converters (TSECs) (Figure 1), and tidal kites (Figure 1G). Although not the focus of the work under OES Environmental, tidal energy can also be generated by harnessing energy by managing the flow of water with retaining structures, such as dams, to create differences in water height to generate energy.

Energy can also be generated by the temperature gradients in the ocean through ocean thermal energy conversion, and by the mixing of saltwater and freshwater (Figure 1H).

For more information on MRE and device types, see the [Marine Energy Devices](#) page on [Tethys](#).

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**Stressors and Receptors**

Interactions between MRE systems and the marine environment can be described by identifying stressors and receptors. Stressors are external factors that can cause harm or stress to a marine animal or the environment. Receptors are the components of the environment that may be affected by stressors. Stressors can include physical interactions (e.g., noise, vibration, or changes in water flow), chemical interactions (e.g., pollutants or changes in water chemistry), and biological interactions (e.g., predation or competition). Receptors include the marine animals living in and traversing the vicinity of an MRE development area, the physical environment in which the device is deployed, and the ecosystem processes. The complex relationships between stressors and receptors can be examined through observations, laboratory and field experiments, and modeling studies. The environmental effects of MRE interactions as defined by OES Environmental are collision with structures, noise, changes in habitat, changes in oceanographic systems, entanglement, and displacement.

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## California Coastal Commission Seeks Comments

The California Coastal Commission has published the [Statewide Strategy for the Coexistence of California Fishing Communities and Offshore Wind Energy](#) for public review and comment. The Statewide Strategy will be presented as an informational briefing at the Coastal Commission meeting on 5 February 2026. The Commission is [accepting comments](#) until 23 February 2026.

## ORISE Applications Open

The [Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education \(ORISE\) Marine Energy Fellowship Program](#), which offers [graduate students](#) and [postgraduates](#) the opportunity to engage in marine energy research while embedded at selected host facilities for up to 12 months, is accepting applications for its Fall 2026 Cohort (August – October 2026) through 27 March 2026.

## Calls for Abstracts

The Call for Abstracts for the [22nd Physics of Estuaries and Coastal Seas \(PECS 2026\)](#) is open until 30 January 2026. PECS will take place on 9-14 August 2026 in Portland, Maine, USA.

The [Call for Speakers](#) for [Clean Currents 2026](#) is now open until 15 February 2026. Clean Currents will take place 22-24 September 2026 in Phoenix, Arizona, USA.

The Call for Abstracts for the [10th Offshore Energy and Storage Symposium \(OSES\)](#) has been extended to 20 February 2026. OSES will take place on 8-10 July 2026 in Delft, Netherlands.

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) has opened the [Call for Abstracts](#) for the [ICES Annual Science Conference \(ASC\)](#) through 25 February 2026. ASC 2026 will take place on 15-18 September 2026 in Brest, France.

The [Call for Abstracts/Papers](#) for the [7th International Conference on Renewable Energies Offshore \(RENEW 2026\)](#) is open through 28 February 2026. RENEW will take place on 20-22 October 2026 in Lisbon, Portugal.

The [Call for Abstracts](#) for the [8th Asian Offshore Wind, Wave and Tidal Energy Conference \(AWTEC 2026\)](#) is now open until 6 March 2026. AWTEC will take place on 6-10 September 2026 in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

The Supergen Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Hub has opened the [Call for Abstracts](#) for its [2026 Annual Assembly](#) until 20 March 2026. The Annual Assembly will take place on 22 April 2026 at the University of Warwick in Coventry, England. The 2026 Early Career Forum will also take place on 21 April 2026.

The [Call for Abstracts](#) for the [International Conference on Ocean Energy \(ICOE\) / Ocean Energy Europe \(OEE\) 2026](#) is now open until 31 March 2026. ICOE/OEE will take place on 5-7 October 2026 in The Hague, The Netherlands.

The Pacific Ocean Energy Trust is accepting [Workshop and Session Topic submissions](#) for the [2026 Ocean Renewable Energy Conference \(OREC\)](#) until 20 March 2026. OREC, in partnership with the 2026 Marine Energy Collegiate Competition (MECC), will take place on 18-21 May 2026 in Portland, Oregon, USA. Early bird registration is available by 31 March 2026.

The Society for Underwater Technology's (SUT) Offshore Site Investigation and Geotechnics (OSIG) Committee has opened the [Call for Abstracts](#) for the [10th International SUT OSIG Conference on Geophysics, Geoscience & Geotechnics for Energy and Resource Resilience](#) until 30 April 2026. The conference will take place on 14-16 September 2027 in London, England.

Marine Technology Society (MTS) has opened the Call for Abstracts for the [2026 Global eDNA Conference](#) until 29 May 2026. The conference will take place 28-30 October 2026 in Seattle, Washington, USA.

### Funding & Testing Opportunities

The [Long-Term Joint EU-AU Research and Innovation Partnership on Sustainable Energy \(LEAP-SE\) program](#), co-funded by the European Commission under Horizon Europe, aims to develop a long-term partnership between Europe and Africa in Research and Innovation on sustainable energy. Pre-proposals are due by 5 February 2026.

The U.S. Testing Expertise and Access for Marine Energy Research (TEAMER) program, which supports marine energy testing and development projects, has extended the deadline for [Request for Technical Support \(RFTS\) 17](#) applications until 6 February 2026. TEAMER recently added [Commercialization Support](#) to all future RFTS rounds as well.

VentureWell is accepting applications for its [Spring 2026 Ocean Enterprise Accelerator Stage 1 Program](#), which seeks innovators and ventures developing key marine and coastal sector industries, including ocean data technologies and services. Apply by 12 February 2026

Horizon Europe has several open Calls for Proposals, including 1) [Understand and minimise the environmental impacts of offshore wind energy](#), 2) [De-risking wave energy technology development through transnational pre-commercial procurement of wave energy research and development](#), and 3) [Improved reliability and optimised operations and maintenance for wind energy systems](#). Proposals are due by 17 February 2026.

BlueActionBANOS (Baltic and North Sea) has launched a [Community-Led Actions Open Call](#), which is designed for multi-partner projects that will scale up and deploy established solutions, and its [1st Transition Agendas Open Call](#), which is for foundational planning and strategic development at the local level. Submit your project idea form by 16 March 2026.

In preparation for the upcoming European tender for bird detection systems in the North Sea, Rijkswaterstaat Central Information Services (Netherlands) is organizing a [market consultation](#) to gather early input. Submissions are due by 31 March 2026.

## Career & Internship Opportunities

The University of Minnesota is hiring a [Research Program Manager for Marine Science and Technology](#) to lead program development, coordination, and implementation of a diverse portfolio focused on marine and large-lake systems science, marine engineering, underwater acoustics, underwater technology innovation, and sustainable maritime operations.

Seaturns is recruiting a [Marine Renewable Energy Project Manager](#) to lead offshore wave energy projects, from feasibility studies to pre-industrial deployment. Responsibilities will include conducting techno-economic feasibility studies, analyzing the value chain and defining operating scenarios, and integrating environmental, regulatory and HSE constraints.

Intertek is looking for a [Senior Marine Environmental Consultant](#) to undertake and manage a range of environmental studies across a portfolio of projects and sectors including subsea cables, offshore renewables, and oil and gas. Apply by 30 January 2026.

France Energies Marines is hiring a [Head of Biodiversity and Interactions Department](#), which studies physical and chemical changes in the marine environment related to offshore wind farms, habitat changes, and interactions with marine fauna. Apply 31 January 2026.

The Centre for Ocean Energy Research (COER) at Maynooth University, Ireland is recruiting a [Senior Postdoctoral Researcher](#) to work on a the SHY (Seawater HYdraulic PTO using dynamic passive controller for wave energy converters) project. Apply by 1 February 2026.

Oregon State University (OSU) is inviting applications for a combined position as [Pacific Marine Energy Center \(PMEC\) Director and Associate or Full Professor](#). The PMEC Director at OSU will work with the other PMEC co-Directors and the Directors of other labs and test sites to lead the program. Apply by 4 February 2026.

France Energies Marines is looking for a [Post-Doctoral Researcher](#) to support the FISHOWF+ project and develop movement models to simulate the migratory movements of fish on the French coastlines. Apply by 10 February 2026.

The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) is hiring three Environmental Scientists. Apply for the [Biodiversity Program Manager](#) and [Biodiversity Program Manager & Coordinating Tribal Liaison](#) positions by 10 February 2026. Apply for the [Coastal Resilience Program Manager](#) position by 11 February.

The University of Manchester is offering a [funded PhD position for UK students](#) which aims to provide a comprehensive characterization of offshore turbulent conditions that define the performance and siting of offshore renewable energy devices. Apply by 28 February 2026.

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## **Upcoming Events**

The [Tethys Events Calendar](#) highlights key events from around the world related to wind and marine energy, including conferences, webinars, workshops, and more.

### Upcoming Webinars

INSITE North Sea is hosting a webinar, “[Introducing INSITE Phase 3](#)”, on 5 February 2026 from 1:00-2:30pm UTC to introduce the next phase of the INSITE Programme, an independent science programme examining the environmental and social impacts of Marine Artificial Structures in the North Sea.

The National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR) is hosting the first webinar in its [Marine Energy Microgrid and Power Electronics Webinar Series](#), “[Introduction to Microgrid Research and Marine Energy Technology Integration](#)”, on 9 February 2026 at 12:00pm MST (7:00pm UTC).

TEAMER is hosting a webinar, “[Quality Management Systems and TEAMER](#)”, on 11 February 2026 from 11:00am-12:30pm PST (7:00-8:30pm UTC). This webinar will provide a review of international Quality Management Standards and their use in Quality Management Systems, including the ISO 9000 and ISO/IEC 17000 series of standards.

Pacific Marine Energy Center (PMEC) is hosting the next two seminars in its series, “[PMEC Seminar: Lily Wain on European Marine Energy Center Deployments](#)”, on 12 February 2026 at 9:00am PST (5:00pm UTC), and “[PMEC Seminar: Ben Loeffler on the Bladerunner Iterative Deployments](#)” on 4 March 2026 at 2:30pm PST (10:30pm UTC).

Renewable Energy Wildlife Institute (REWI) is hosting the first webinar in its [REWI Technology Catalog Series](#), “[From Ideation to Validation: Assessing the Landscape for Validating Wildlife Collision Risk Minimization Technologies](#)”, on 19 February 2026 from 2:00-3:30pm EST (7:00-8:30pm UTC).

Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) is hosting a webinar, “[IBAT Webinar: How to navigate biodiversity reporting](#)”, on 26 February 2026 at 8:00am and 2:00pm GMT. This session will explore the current biodiversity reporting landscape, including key regulatory frameworks, and demonstrate how authoritative biodiversity data can support robust, credible disclosures.

### Upcoming Masterclasses & Short Courses

The Supergen ORE Hub has launched a series of [Offshore Renewable Energy Masterclasses](#) designed by world-leading researchers and held at its core partner universities. The [Masterclass on Virtual Prototyping of Offshore Renewable Energy Technologies](#) will take place on 29-30 April 2026 at the National Decommissioning Centre in Newburgh, Scotland. The [Masterclass on Environmental Contours and Extreme Value Analysis](#) will take place on 14-15 May 2026 at the University of Exeter in Exeter, England.

Atlantic Marine Energy Center (AMEC) is hosting a marine energy short course, [Introduction to Marine Energy](#), from 31 May to 6 June 2026 at the Coastal Studies Institute in Wanchese, North Carolina, USA. This course is designed for undergraduate and early graduate students from a

range of backgrounds. It covers the fundamentals of marine energy through lectures, lab work, projects, and field trips. Apply by 31 January 2026.

AMEC is also offering two graduate-level courses that require knowledge in marine energy, engineering, and other technical skills. [Marine Energy Structures, Materials, and Foundation Systems](#) will be held on 22-26 June 2026 at Stony Brook University in Long Island, New York, USA. [Tidal & Water Current Energy Conversion](#) will close out the series on 10-14 August 2026 at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire, USA. Application forthcoming.

### Upcoming Conferences & Meetings

Dutch Marine Energy Centre (DMEC) is hosting a [DMEC Deep Dive on Environmental Monitoring](#) on 3 March 2026 from 5:00-7:00pm CET (4:00-6:00pm UTC) at the DMEC office in The Hague, Netherlands. [Register here.](#)

The [4<sup>th</sup> Pan-American Marine Energy Conference \(PAMEC 2026\)](#) will take place on 10-15 April 2026 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The [Environmental Interactions of Marine Renewables \(EIMR\) Conference 2026](#) will take place on 13-17 April 2026 at the Scottish Association for Marine Science in Oban, Scotland.

The [TIDES Conference 2026: Igniting Innovation in the Blue Economy of the Pacific Northwest](#) will take place on 23 April 2026 at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington, USA.

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## **New Documents on Tethys**

[Tethys](#) hosts thousands of documents on the environmental effects of marine and wind (land-based and offshore) energy, including journal articles, conference papers, and reports.

### **Marine Energy**

#### [Ocean renewable energy for equitable energy access in a Blue Economy](#) – Cisneros-Montemayor et al. 2026

Offshore and coastal renewable energy could be a key contributor to energy sovereignty, decarbonization efforts, and co-benefits to other sectors of a Blue Economy. However, current development is predominantly focused on large-scale sites to offset emissions to meet national climate action targets, not on providing energy access where it can deliver more direct community benefits and support equity goals. We undertake a global analysis to identify where offshore renewable energy could contribute to an equity-focused goal of providing energy access to coastlines unconnected to existing electric grids, i.e., “last-mile” electrification. Results show that these energy resources are widely distributed throughout the world, and could particularly benefit coastal areas in Oceania, South America, southern and eastern Africa, western Australia, and the Arctic.

### **PNNL-TUNAMELT: Toward automating the detection of interactions with marine energy devices using acoustic camera sensors** – Nowak et al. 2026

Acoustic cameras, or imaging sonars, are often used to monitor marine energy sites in regions where the water is too dark or turbid for optical sensing. To do so more effectively, scientists are investigating automated detection methodologies to use on these data. However, prior work has found that existing automated detection approaches struggle with the dynamic image background around marine energy devices—such as moving turbine blades. While open-access datasets, methods, and standard evaluation metrics are needed to quickly develop and compare novel automated detection methods, none yet exist for this domain. Using previously collected data, in this work we created a labeled dataset of possible marine life interactions in acoustic camera video around an operating tidal turbine.

### **WP11 Boat Based Seabird and Marine Mammal Survey - 2023 Interim Report** – Falch & Waggitt 2023

Measuring spatial and temporal variation in diving animals (seabirds and marine mammals) occupancy of tidal stream energy development sites help assess how populations could interact with installations (Waggitt and Scott 2014). This information is conventionally provided with boat-based surveys. To measure spatial and temporal variation in diving animals use of the Morlais Demonstration Zone (MDZ) in northwest Anglesey, 2 complementary boat-based surveys (observations and hydrophones) have been performed per calendar month since May 2022. Spatial variations of relevance are differences in animal densities (individuals per km<sup>2</sup>) within and outwith the MDZ; temporal variations of relevance are differences in animal densities amongst months.

## **Wind Energy**

### **Mapping benthic biodiversity to facilitate future sustainable development** – Cooper et al. 2026

Human activities in the marine environment are expanding rapidly, with much of the growth in the Northeast Atlantic driven by offshore wind development. While offshore wind is critical for achieving net zero carbon targets, planning decisions must also address the twin challenge of conserving and restoring biodiversity. We combined open-access data from hundreds of grab and core surveys with random forest modeling to provide new insights into patterns of benthic biodiversity across the Northeast Atlantic continental shelf. Multiple dimensions of biodiversity were mapped using Hill numbers ( $q = 0, 1, 2$ ) and raw abundance, assessed within the Whittaker framework (alpha-, beta-, and gamma-diversity) to reveal patterns at different spatial scales.

### **A global decision framework for reducing bat fatalities at wind energy facilities** – Frick et al. 2026

Ensuring wind energy development does not cause biodiversity loss is a global priority. Wind turbines kill large numbers of bats, raising concern that global expansion of wind energy increases the threat of extinction of vulnerable bat species. Uncertainty about bat population size and status has hindered efforts to implement regulatory policies based on solutions known to reduce bat fatalities at wind energy facilities, in large part because the amount of fatality reduction necessary to protect bats has been difficult to define. Adoption of the full mitigation hierarchy for bats is urgently needed, including informed siting to avoid impacts to bats, minimization of bat fatalities using fatality thresholds to set operational conditions (e.g. curtailment) and compensation through offsets. We introduce a method to adapt the use of potential biological removal (PBR) to establish bat fatality thresholds at a project scale even with high uncertainty about bat populations.

### **Recommendations for the chemical risk assessment of cathodic protection systems in the marine environment – Dussauze and Caplat 2025**

In the context of massive deployment of offshore renewable energy (ORE) in France, the potential impact of cathodic protections (CP) was highlighted as an environmental concern due to the chronic release of chemicals in the water column. Based on this issue, the ECOCAP R&D project, was launched in 2021 and completed in 2024. It has produced a knowledge base to enhance the definition of environmental pressures and potential associated impacts related to the chronic releases of elements from galvanic anode (GACP) and impressed current (ICCP) cathodic protections. This document synthesises the results obtained in the ECOCAP project by producing a report with conclusions and recommendations addressed to offshore wind stakeholders.

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## **News & Press Releases**

### **Marine Energy**

#### **Offshore operations at MeyGen's tidal array – European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC)**

Last month, EMEC were invited to join the MeyGen and Proteus Marine Renewables teams to observe a series of offshore operations in the Pentland Firth. The campaign involved cable works, turbine recovery and re-installation, maintenance and upgrades, providing a valuable opportunity to see a tidal energy array in action and experience firsthand how offshore activities are delivered at sites beyond EMEC. MeyGen has been operating a 6 MW tidal energy array in the Pentland Firth since 2018, with earlier iterations of the tidal turbines tested at EMEC's Fall of Warness demonstration site in Orkney. This visit builds on our long-standing collaboration including a reciprocal visit to the Fall of Warness last year, alongside recent joint industry-wide efforts to address consenting challenges and accelerate progress through the Marine Energy Taskforce.

#### **Scottish wave energy firm to launch demo projects in Taiwan and Guam – Offshore Energy**

Scotland-based marine energy company ZOEX Power has secured the first-ever sale of its wave energy prototype device, after completing real-world sea trials on the Turkish Black Sea coast. The purchase order was secured from a fully owned subsidiary of Türkiye's Ordu municipality, named Oren Ordu Enerji A.S., following long-term sea trials at Belde Park. The municipality had invested a six-figure sum to build a new test platform and control room for hosting the ZOEX, and will now convert the Belde Park test site into a microgrid. According to ZOEX, the prototype set a sector benchmark by generating meaningful energy from sea-states as low as 50 cm thanks to its patented hinge mechanism. It also withstood storms up to three meters, matching its design limits, and boosting robustness to handle eight-meter storms is declared feasible.

#### **European Investment Bank (EIB) backs Minesto in developing an investment case for the EU's first Tidal Energy Dragon Farm – Minesto**

Minesto, leading ocean energy developer, has on a complementary basis been selected for in-depth investment advisory support by the European Investment Bank (EIB) under the PDA (Project Development Assistance) programme. The program offers extensive free of charge financial advisory support to a few carefully selected investment opportunities within the renewable energy sector in the EU. The Minesto investment case chosen for the programme is a 10MW Dragon Farm (tidal energy array) located at a new targeted site within EU waters. The EIB advisory support focus's on increasing the financial attractiveness and overall quality of the investment offer, aiming to raise 25 M EUR in capital. The programme commences immediately.

#### **Eco Wave Power Reports Strong December 2025 Wave Energy Performance at Jaffa Port, Reinforcing Scalability of Its Wave Energy Technology – Eco Wave Power**

Eco Wave Power Global, a global leader in onshore wave energy technology, is pleased to report strong wave energy production performance at its EWP-EDF One wave energy project at Jaffa Port, Israel, during December 2025. Since the beginning of 2025, the EWP-EDF One system at Jaffa Port has maintained zero downtime, with stable operation recorded in wave conditions of 1 meter and above. During December 2025, over approximately 12 days characterized by moderate wave heights ranging between 1 and 2 meters, the project produced over 2,000 kWh of clean, renewable electricity. These results further demonstrate the system's ability to generate energy reliably under real-world sea conditions and provide valuable operational data supporting the continued advancement of wave energy technology.

#### **From Beta to Data: Marine Energy Analysis Tool Is Now Stable and Ready – NLR**

A team of national laboratory researchers recently released [version 1.0 of the Marine Hydrokinetic Toolkit](#) (MHKiT)—a free, publicly available software tool used to process, analyze, visualize, and standardize marine energy data. MHKiT was initially released on GitHub in 2019. Between then and 2025, the team continually improved and updated the tool. Now, NLR researchers, along with collaborators from Sandia National Laboratories and PNNL, have released version 1.0, a stable, reliable tool that offers equivalent

functionality in two platforms: MHKit-Python and MHKit-MATLAB. Version 1.0 features upgraded installation and run procedures that make the code more accessible in MATLAB.

## Wind Energy

### [North Sea Summit ‘Investment Pact’ to mobilise €1tn in offshore wind investments for Europe](#) – WindEurope

Seven Heads of State and Government and the Energy Ministers of the 9 North Seas countries gathered in Hamburg recently to boost the expansion of offshore wind. Together with industry and transmission system operators they signed the “Investment Pact for the North Seas”. Governments commit to building 15 GW of offshore wind per year over 2031-2040 and de-risking offshore wind investments. The industry, in return, pledges cost reductions, 91,000 additional jobs and generating €1tn of economic activity. With the Investment Pact, Europe is charting the massive offshore wind buildout it needs to deliver on its energy security and competitiveness objectives. They confirmed their ambition to build 300 GW of offshore wind in the North Seas by 2050.

### [Two offshore wind projects enter lease with The Crown Estate in boost for UK's clean power goals](#) – The Crown Estate

Two offshore wind projects have entered into lease with The Crown Estate after just three years, helping to support the government's clean power ambitions. The Morecambe and Mona projects, located in the Irish Sea, were successful in The Crown Estate's Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 auction in 2021 and have been in Agreements for Lease since 2023. The projects have a combined capacity of nearly 2GW which is enough electricity to power the equivalent of two million homes across the UK with clean, homegrown energy. The Crown Estate confirmed it is working through arrangements for the Morgan offshore wind project following the announcement from JERA Nex bp and EnBW that they were no longer looking to continue with the project. The Crown Estate is now reviewing options and will update the market separately in due course.

### [Victoria's First Offshore Wind Auction To Go Live In August](#) – Premier of Victoria

The Allan Labor Government is building Victoria's energy future by progressing the country's first offshore wind industry, which will deliver cheaper, more reliable power for every Victorian household and business. Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio recently announced the Request for Tender (RFP) for Victoria's first offshore wind industry auction will open in August 2026 for an initial 2 gigawatts (GW) of capacity. In December, Australia's Energy Ministers provided in-principle support for the Electricity Services Entry Mechanism (ESEM), providing a pathway for new renewable energy projects, including offshore wind, that support Victoria meeting our renewable energy targets.

## **Next phase of UK deepwater wind test site development begins – EMEC**

EMEC has commenced an 18-month project to advance its proposed deepwater and floating wind test facility – DeepWind. Backed by 50% match funding through The Crown Estate's Supply Chain Accelerator, the programme will build on EMEC's earlier concept design for a national floating wind test site. As UK offshore wind projects scale into deeper waters, developers require a representative environment to prove, refine and de-risk technologies before full commercial deployment. However existing test sites across Europe lack the necessary metocean conditions for the offshore wind projects in the UK's pipeline. To address this gap, EMEC has identified a site 20 km west of Orkney with ideal water-depths, seabed conditions and wind speeds.

## **Thor offshore wind farm receives green light for electricity production from the Danish Energy Agency – RWE**

The Danish Energy Agency recently granted a 30-year electricity production licence to Thor offshore wind farm, marking a significant milestone for what will become Denmark's largest offshore wind project. With a total installed capacity exceeding one gigawatt, Thor is expected to supply renewable electricity to the equivalent of approximately one million Danish households once fully operational in 2027. Construction of Thor is progressing according to plan. Last year, the offshore substation and all foundations for the 72 wind turbines were successfully installed 22 kilometres off the west coast of Jutland. Turbine installation is scheduled to commence from the Port of Esbjerg, Denmark this spring.