

Cenos Offshore Windfarm Limited



# Cenos EIA

## Chapter 6 – Stakeholder Engagement

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## REVISIONS & APPROVALS

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## ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
BT	BT Group Plc (formerly British Telecom)
CES	Crown Estate Scotland
CNS	Central North Sea
DSFB	District Salmon Fishery Board
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
FID	Financial Investment Decision
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HRA	Habitats Regulations Appraisal
INTOG	Innovation and Targeted Oil & Gas
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
MCA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team
MD-MAU	Marine Directorate - Marine Analytical Unit
MD-SEDD	Marine Directorate - Science, Evidence, Data and Digital
MLA	Marine Licence Applications
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NATS	National Air Traffic Services
NECRIFG	North and East Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group
NLB	Northern Lighthouse Board
NSTA	North Sea Transition Authority
PAC	Pre-Application Consultation
RIAA	Report to Inform the Appropriate Assessment
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
RYA	Royal Yachting Association
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SFF	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot)
SSEN	Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics



ACRONYM	DEFINITION
SWFPA	Scottish White Fish Producers Association
UK	United Kingdom
UKCoS	United Kingdom Chamber of Shipping

## GLOSSARY

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>2023 Scoping Opinion</b>	Scoping Opinion received in June 2023, superseded by the 2024 Scoping Opinion.
<b>2023 Scoping Report</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report submitted in 2023, superseded by the 2024 Scoping Report.
<b>2024 Scoping Opinion</b>	Scoping Opinion received in September 2024, superseding the 2023 Scoping Opinion.
<b>2024 Scoping Report</b>	EIA Scoping Report submitted in April 2024, superseding the 2023 Scoping Report.
<b>Area of Opportunity</b>	The area in which the limits of electricity transmission via High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) cables can reach oil and gas assets for decarbonisation. This area is based on assets within a 100 kilometre (km) radius of the Array Area.
<b>Array Area</b>	The area within which the Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs), floating substructures, moorings and anchors, Offshore Substation Converter Platforms (OSCPs) and Inter-Array Cables (IAC) will be present.
<b>Cenos Offshore Windfarm ('the Project')</b>	'The Project' is the term used to describe Cenos Offshore Windfarm. The Project is a floating offshore windfarm located in the North Sea, with a generating capacity of up to 1,350 Megawatts (MW). The Project which defines the Red Line Boundary (RLB) for the Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence Applications (MLA), includes all offshore components seaward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) (WTGs, OSCP, cables, floating substructures moorings and anchors and all other associated infrastructure). The Project is the focus of this Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).
<b>Cenos Offshore Windfarm Ltd. (The Applicant)</b>	The Applicant for the Section 36 Consent and associated Marine Licences.
<b>Cumulative Assessment</b>	The consideration of potential impacts that could occur cumulatively with other relevant projects, plans, and activities that could result in a cumulative effect on receptors.

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Developer</b>	Cenos Offshore Windfarm Ltd., a Joint Venture between Flotation Energy and Vårgrønn As (Vårgrønn).
<b>Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b>	The statutory process of evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed project or development. Assessment of the potential impact of the proposed Project on the physical, biological and human environment during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning.
<b>Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations</b>	This term is used to refer to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations which are of relevance to the Project. This includes the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended); and the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007.
<b>Environmental Impact Assessment Report</b>	A report documenting the findings of the EIA for the Project in accordance with relevant EIA Regulations.
<b>Export/Import Cable</b>	High voltage cable used to export/import power between the OSCP and Landfall.
<b>Export/Import Cable Bundle (EICB)</b>	Comprising two Export/Import Cables and one fibre-optic cable bundled in a single trench.
<b>Export/Import Cable Corridor (EICC)</b>	The area within which the Export/Import Cable Route will be planned and the Export/Import Cable will be laid, from the perimeter of the Array Area to MHWS.
<b>Export/Import Cable Route</b>	The area within the Export/Import Export Corridor (EICC) within which the Export/Import Cable Bundle (EICB) is laid, from the perimeter of the Array Area to MHWS.
<b>Floating Turbine Unit (FTU)</b>	The equipment associated with electricity generation comprising the WTG, the floating substructure which supports the WTG, mooring system and the dynamic section of the IAC.
<b>Flotation Energy</b>	Joint venture partner in Cenos Offshore Windfarm Ltd.

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Habitats Regulations</b>	The Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/ECC) and the Wild Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC) were transposed into Scottish Law by the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 ('Habitats Regulations') (up to 12 NM); by the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 ('Offshore Marine Regulations') (beyond 12 NM); the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (of relevance to consents under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989); the Offshore Petroleum Activities (Conservation of Habitats) Regulations 2001; and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The Habitats Regulations set out the stages of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) process required to assess the potential impacts of a proposed project on European Sites (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, candidate SACs and SPAs and Ramsar Sites).
<b>Habitats Regulations Appraisal</b>	The assessment of the impacts of implementing a plan or policy on a European Site, the purpose being to consider the impacts of a project against conservation objectives of the site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of the site.
<b>High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC)</b>	Refers to high voltage electricity in Alternating Current (AC) form which is produced by the WTGs and flows through the IAC system to the OSCP. HVAC may also be used for onward power transmission from the OSCP to assets or to shore over shorter distances.
<b>High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC)</b>	Refers to high voltage electricity in Direct Current (DC) form which is converted from HVAC to HVDC at the OSCP and transmitted to shore over longer distances.
<b>Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)</b>	An engineering technique for laying cables that avoids open trenches by drilling between two locations beneath the ground's surface.
<b>Innovation and Targeted Oil &amp; Gas (INTOG)</b>	In November 2022, the Crown Estate Scotland (CES) announced the Innovation and Targeted Oil & Gas (INTOG) Leasing Round, to help enable this sector-wide commitment to decarbonisation. INTOG allowed developers to apply for seabed rights to develop offshore windfarms for the purpose of providing low carbon electricity to power oil and gas installations and help to decarbonise the sector. Cenos is an INTOG project and in November 2023 secured an Exclusivity Agreement as part of the INTOG leasing round.
<b>Inter-Array Cable (IAC)</b>	The cables which connect the WTGs to the OSCP. WTGs may be connected with IACs into a hub or in series as a 'string' or a 'loop' such that power from the connected WTGs is gathered to the OSCP via a single cable.



TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Joint Venture</b>	The commercial partnership between Flotation Energy and Vårgrønn, the shareholders which hold the Exclusivity Agreement with CES to develop the Cenosis site as an INTOG project.
<b>Landfall</b>	The area where the Export/Import Cable from the Array Area will be brought ashore. The interface between the offshore and onshore environments.
<b>Marine Licence</b>	Licence required for certain activities in the marine environment and granted under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and/or the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.
<b>Marine Protected Area (MPA)</b>	Marine sites protected at the national level under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 out to 12 NM, and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 between 12-200 NM. In Scotland MPAs are areas of sea and seabed defined so as to protect habitats, wildlife, geology, underseas landforms, historic shipwrecks and to demonstrate sustainable management of the sea.
<b>Marine Protected Area (MPA) Assessment</b>	A three-step process for determining whether there is a significant risk that a proposed development could hinder the achievement of the conservation objectives of an MPA.
<b>Mean High Water Springs (MHWS)</b>	The height of Mean High Water Springs is the average throughout the year, of two successive high waters, during a 24-hour period in each month when the range of the tide is at its greatest.
<b>Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS)</b>	The height of Mean Low Water Springs is the average throughout a year of the heights of two successive low waters during periods of 24 hours (approximately once a fortnight).
<b>Mitigation Measures</b>	<p>Measures considered within the topic-specific chapters in order to avoid impacts or reduce them to acceptable levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary mitigation - measures that are an inherent part of the design of the Project which reduce or avoid the likelihood or magnitude of an adverse environmental effect, including location or design;</li> <li>• Secondary mitigation – additional measures implemented to further reduce environmental effects to ‘not significant’ levels (where appropriate) and do not form part of the fundamental design of the Project; and</li> <li>• Tertiary mitigation – measures that are implemented in accordance with industry standard practice or to meet legislative requirements and are independent of the EIA (i.e. they would be implemented regardless of the findings of the EIA).</li> </ul>

TERM	DEFINITION
	Primary and tertiary mitigation are referred to as embedded mitigation. Secondary mitigation is referred to as additional mitigation.
<b>Mooring System</b>	Comprising the mooring lines and anchors, the mooring system connects the floating substructure to the seabed, provides station-keeping capability for the floating substructure and contributes to the stability of the floating substructure and WTG.
<b>Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NCMPA)</b>	NCMPA designated by Scottish Ministers in the interests of nature conservation under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.
<b>Offshore Substation Converter Platforms (OSCPs)</b>	An offshore platform on a fixed jacket substructure, containing electrical equipment to aggregate the power from the WTGs and convert power between HVAC and HVDC for export/import via the Export/Import Cable to/from the shore. The OSCP's will also act as power distribution stations for the Oil & Gas platforms.
<b>Onward Development</b>	Transmission projects which are anticipated to be brought forward for development by 3 <sup>rd</sup> party oil and gas operators to enable electrification of assets via electricity generated by the Project. All Onward Development will subject to separate marine licensing and permitting requirements.
<b>Onward Development Area</b>	The area within which oil and gas assets would have the potential to be electrified by the Project.
<b>Onward Development Connections</b>	Oil and gas assets located in the waters surrounding the Array Area will be electrified via transmission infrastructure which will connect to the Project's OSCP's. These transmission cables are referred to as Onward Development Connections.
<b>Project Area</b>	The area that encompasses both the Array Area and EICC.
<b>Project Design Envelope</b>	A description of the range of possible elements that make up the Project design options under consideration and that are assessed as part of the EIA for the Project.
<b>Study Area</b>	Receptor specific area where potential impacts from the Project could occur.
<b>Transboundary Assessment</b>	The consideration of impacts from the Project which have the potential to have a significant effect on another European Economic Area (EEA) state's

TERM	DEFINITION
	environment. Where there is a potential for a transboundary effect, as a result of the Project, these are assessed within the relevant EIA chapter.
<b>Transmission Infrastructure</b>	The infrastructure responsible for moving electricity from generating stations to substations, load areas, assets and the electrical grid, comprising the OSCP, and associated substructure, and the Export/Import Cable.
<b>Vårgrønn As (Vårgrønn)</b>	Joint venture partner in Cenoss Offshore Windfarm Ltd.
<b>Wind Turbine Generator (WTG)</b>	The equipment associated with electricity generation from available wind resource, comprising the surface components located above the supporting substructure (e.g., tower, nacelle, hub, blades, and any necessary power transformation equipment, generators, and switchgears).
<b>Worst-Case Scenario</b>	The worst-case scenario based on the Project Design Envelope which varies by receptor and/or impact pathway identified.

## 6 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

### 6.1 Introduction

Engaging with stakeholders is an essential aspect of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, with early and ongoing engagement encouraged as best practice and important for the development of a project. Robust stakeholder engagement allows for the incorporation of concerns raised and opinions by the public and stakeholders to be implemented within the EIA. It enables stakeholders a means to provide information that can help inform the development process and ensures that the local community are fully informed on the Project. Since award of the Exclusivity Agreement for the Project, the Applicant has carried out consultation with stakeholders and will continue their pro-active engagement throughout the lifecycle of the Project.

The stakeholder engagement that has been undertaken by the Applicant to inform the EIA is detailed within this Chapter. More detail on the public consultations that have been undertaken can be found in the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report (**PAC Report**) accompanying the Application to the regulator, Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT).

The Applicant acknowledges that meaningful consultation is important for the development of the Project and is committed to a transparent approach to consultation and stakeholder engagement. The Applicant's main objectives for stakeholder engagement are:

- To identify and actively engage with statutory bodies, non-governmental organisations, other national and international organisations and members of the public who may be affected by the Project;
- Maintain open and honest communications with all stakeholders; and
- Recognise the interests and viewpoints of stakeholders and where appropriate, use their feedback to inform the Project including the Scoping process and EIA.

### 6.2 Legislation and regulation requirements

Table 6-1 lists the legislation and regulatory requirements for consultation. The Project has gone above and beyond the legislation and regulatory requirements for consultation in order to ensure a robust and informative engagement process.

*Table 6-1 Legislation and regulatory requirements for consultation*

Legislation / regulation	Statutory requirements for consultation
<b>Marine Licences under Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (Part 4)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Applicant must give notice that an application for a marine licence is to be submitted;</li> <li>• A period of at least 12 weeks must elapse between giving the notice and the submission of the application;</li> <li>• The notice must contain:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A description in general terms of the activity to be carried out;</li> <li>– A plan or chart showing the outline of the location at which the activity is to be carried out, which is sufficient to identify the location;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Legislation / regulation	Statutory requirements for consultation
<b>Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Details as to how the prospective applicant is to be contacted; and</li> <li>– Such other information as may be prescribed by Scottish Ministers.</li> </ul> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Applicant must give notification that an application for a marine licence is to be submitted to the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish National Heritage (SNH) (now NatureScot), and any delegate for a marine region (where the activity is wholly or partly to be carried out);</li> <li>• The Applicant must hold at least one PAC event, where the above stakeholders and members of the public may provide comments;</li> <li>• The Applicant must publish in a local newspaper containing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A description, including the location, of the licensable marine activity for which the marine licence is to be sought;</li> <li>– Details as to where further information may be obtained;</li> <li>– The date and place of the PAC event;</li> <li>– A statement explaining how persons wishing to provide comments to the prospective applicants may do so and the date by which this must be done;</li> <li>– A statement that comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the Scottish Ministers and that there will be an opportunity for representations to be made to the Scottish Ministers;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A PAC event must be held no earlier than six weeks after the later of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The date on which the notification of the event is given;</li> <li>– The date of notification that an application for a marine licence is to be submitted; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A Pre-Application Report must be in the form prescribed as in Schedule 1 of the PAC Regulations.</li> </ul>
<b>The EIA Regulations</b>	<p>Scottish Ministers must consult the consultation bodies and other public bodies prior to adopting the Scoping Opinion and on publication of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).</p>

## 6.3 Consultation on the EIA

Stakeholder consultation has helped contribute to the Project site selection process (detailed further in **EIAR Vol. 2, Chapter 4: Site Selection and Alternatives**), inform supply chain planning, and helped develop the Project concept. The following Sections outline the consultation undertaken in relation to the EIA.

### 6.3.1 Pre-Application Advice

Stakeholders were mapped by the Applicant prior to Crown Estate Scotland (CES) awarding an Exclusivity Agreement to develop the Project.

The Applicant met with Aberdeenshire Council on the 1<sup>st</sup> June and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021. Discussions included a Project update and working collaboratively with NorthConnect in regard to the inshore and onshore elements of the Project (outwith the scope of this Application).

The Applicant held meetings, workshops and requested pre-application advice from MD-LOT between 2023 and 2024, as described in Table 6-2.

Table 6-2 Pre-application consultation with MD-LOT

TOPIC	DATE (S)	COMMUNICATION TYPE	DETAIL
<b>Quarterly Meetings</b>	February 2024 March 2024 June 2024 September 2024 December 2024	Online Meetings	Quarterly updates on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project progress and timescales;</li> <li>• Consent strategy; and</li> <li>• Surveys and EIA methodology.</li> </ul>
<b>Scoping Workshop</b>	February 2024	Online Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided a Project update and detailed the proposed approach to scoping;</li> <li>• Subject matter experts summarised key receptors and potential impact pathways;</li> <li>• Overview of proposed assessment methodologies to be used during the EIA was presented;</li> <li>• Consultees offered feedback throughout the workshop; and</li> <li>• Follow-up sessions were arranged to discuss specific topics in more detail where relevant.</li> </ul>
<b>Scoping Report</b>	April 2024	Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submitted 2024 Scoping Report to MD-LOT, superseding the 2023 Scoping Report.</li> </ul>
<b>Post-Scoping Consultation Meeting 1</b>	October 2024	Online Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided a Project update;</li> <li>• Discussion on the consenting strategy for the Project, specifically in relation to Onward Development;</li> <li>• Provided the methodology for Cumulative Effects Assessments;</li> <li>• Provided the approach for Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Assessment (including discussion on data sources).</li> </ul>
<b>Post-Scoping Consultation Meeting 2</b>	October 2024	Online Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided information on the methodology utilised for the Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA);</li> <li>• Provided information on the methodology for the MPA Assessment;</li> <li>• Discussed the development of a without prejudice Derogation Case.</li> </ul>
<b>Post-Scoping Consultation Meeting 3</b>	November 2024	Online Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TOG Electrification Coordination &amp; Consents Discussion: A meeting coordinated by the Applicant to bring</li> </ul>

TOPIC	DATE (S)	COMMUNICATION TYPE	DETAIL
			together members of the North Seas Transition Authority (NSTA), MD-LOT, The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), and NatureScot to discuss the process of coordinating development and consents of the two key, separate industries of oil and gas and offshore wind.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	November 2024	Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice received on the Project Cumulative Effects Assessment Methodology and Cumulative Long List (agreement on Marine Mammals Cumulative Effects Assessment Screening agreed with NatureScot in October 2024).</li> </ul>

### 6.3.2 NorthConnect consultation

The Applicant has entered into a binding agreement to acquire NorthConnect Limited (the “Acquisition”). Completion of the Acquisition is subject to receipt of customary regulatory approvals. Once this acquisition is complete, the Applicant will hold the benefit of the Marine Licences granted in respect of the NorthConnect project as well as the planning permissions that have been granted for the onshore substation and cable infrastructure.

In relation to the NorthConnect project, consultation has been ongoing for a number of years. In February 2015, the NorthConnect Community Information Day introduced the Joint Venture Developers and the Project, presented the site selection methodology, and sought advice on community consultation and initial views on the potential impact from the Project. The event also provided an overview of next steps and timescales. Following this, the NorthConnect Communication Plan identified engagement objectives, stakeholders, and outlined the proposed communication strategy. In 2018, a Fisheries Consultation questionnaire was conducted to gather insights from the fishing community, understand local activities, and identify potential mitigation measures. This was followed by a NorthConnect Open Day in May 2018, which informed the community about the project’s goals, progress, and timeline, and gathered feedback. Between 2016 and 2020, eleven newsletters were issued to keep the community informed about project updates and milestones.

### 6.3.3 Onward Development Stakeholder Consultation

Since the inception of the Project, the Applicant has actively engaged and continues to consult closely with the oil and gas sector, the oil and gas regulator (NSTA) and key government bodies to promote and enable the electrification of oil and gas assets through the Project. As potential developers of the Onward Development Connections to the Project, there has been significant engagement with the oil and gas operators located around the Project.

Consultation is guided by the NSTA, with whom the Applicant has regular meetings to discuss the Project and how it can optimise delivery of electrification of existing Central North Sea (CNS) assets.

### 6.3.4 EIA Scoping

The Applicant submitted an EIA Scoping Report in February 2023 (referred to as the '2023 Scoping Report') to Scottish Ministers to support a Scoping Opinion request. A Scoping Opinion was received by the Applicant in June 2023, which provided valuable feedback from the Scottish Ministers. Following the submission of the 2023 Scoping Report, the Project evolved significantly and, subsequently, a new Scoping Report, the 2024 Scoping Report was submitted to MD-LOT in April 2024. As part of the process, relevant stakeholders were consulted. The Scoping Opinion was received in September 2024. The 2024 Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion supersedes the 2023 Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion for the Project.

A Scoping Workshop was held by the Applicant in February 2024 and was attended by MD-LOT and statutory advisors, including Marine Directorate - Marine Analytical Unit (MD-MAU), Marine Directorate – Science, Evidence Data and Digital (MD-SEDD), JNCC, and NatureScot. The Scoping Workshop provided an opportunity for consultees to provide feedback and opinions on Project updates and approach to Scoping. Follow-up sessions were arranged to further discuss topics in more detail, if necessary. The proposed approaches for Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA), Marine Protected Area (MPA) assessment, cumulative effects assessment, and transboundary effects assessments were also presented and discussed during the Scoping Workshop. The feedback provided was used to inform the 2024 Scoping Report.

Following the Scoping Workshop, the Applicant received advice from NatureScot (in consultation with the JNCC, where relevant), in response to queries raised during the workshop. The questions raised, stakeholder's advice, and the Applicant's responses are detailed in the 2024 Scoping Report, Volume II, Appendix 6A: Cenosis Offshore Windfarm Scoping Workshop - Discussion Topics and Questions.

The Scoping Opinion provides a summary of the key advice from Scottish Ministers and consultees on the proposed scope of the EIAR. A list of those consulted and who responded are presented in Table 6-3.

*Table 6-3 Organisations that were consulted on the Scoping Report for the Project. Those in **bold** have responded to the consultation.*

Organisation
Aberdeen Airport
<b>Aberdeenshire Council</b>
Aberdeen City Council
Angus Council
Bellrock Offshore Wind
Boddam Community Council
Bowdun Offshore Windfarm
Broadshore, Scaraben and Sinclair Buchan Offshore Wind
<b>BT Group Plc (BT)</b>



## Organisation

Buchanhaven Harbour Trust

CampionWind Offshore Windfarm

Civil Aviation Authority

Central North Sea Electrification Project

Cerulean Winds

Crown Estate

Cruden Community Council

Cruise Association

Culzean Floating Wind (Total Energies)

Dee District Salmon Fishery Board (DSFB)

### Defence Infrastructure Organisation DIO (MoD)

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Don DSFB

Dundee City Council

### Edinburgh Airport

Fisheries Management Scotland

Fishery Office - Aberdeen

Fishery Office - Fraserburgh

Fishery Office - Peterhead

Forth Ports

The Highland Council

### Historic Environment Scotland (HES)

Hywind (Scotland) Limited

### Joint Radio Company (JRC)

Marine Planning & Policy

### Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Marram Wind

Morven Offshore Wind Limited

Muir Mhor Offshore Wind Farm

### National Air Traffic Services (NATS)

National Trust for Scotland

### NatureScot

### North and East Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (NECRIFG)

North Sea Transition Authority

## Organisation

NorthConnect

**Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB)**

Northlink Ferries

**Norwegian Environment Agency**

Offshore Energies UK

Ossian Wind

Peterhead Community Council

Planning

Ports and Harbours

Royal National Lifeboat Institution

**The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland**

**The Royal Yachting Association (RYA)**

**Salamander Offshore Wind Farm**

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Transmission

Scottish Canoe Association

Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation

**Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)**

**Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)**

Scottish Fishermen's Organisation

**Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission (SHET)**

Scottish Surfing Federation

**Scottish Water**

Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWFPA)

Scottish Wildlife Trust

Sport Scotland

Surfers Against Sewage

The Fisheries Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group

**Ugie District Salmon Fishery Group**

**United Kingdom (UK) Chamber of Shipping**

Visit Scotland

Whale and Dolphin Conservation

Ythan DSFB

Specific advice was also sought from Marine Directorate – Science, Evidence, Data and Digital (MD-SEDD), Marine Directorate – Marine Analytical Unit (MD-MAU) and Transport Scotland. In total 24 responses were received, including advice from MD-SEDD, MD-MAU and Transport Scotland. The Project has continued to engage with stakeholders throughout the EIA process.

The Scoping process is further detailed in **EIAR Vol. 2, Chapter 7: EIA Methodology**. The comments that have been received and are applicable to specific receptors are detailed in the relevant topic-specific chapters within the EIAR (**EIAR Vol. 3, Chapters: 8-22**).

### 6.3.5 Consultation with statutory and non-statutory consultees

The Applicant has aimed to consult with all stakeholders that may have an interest in the Project, including organisations, individuals, and communities. Stakeholder experience and expertise plays an important role in the project development process and any concerns or feedback received have been used to shape the Project. To date, the Applicant has engaged with statutory and non-statutory stakeholders and will continue this engagement throughout the lifecycle of the Project.

The Applicant is also a member of The Peterhead Developers Forum, which was set up with the following aims:

- To share understanding between developers and asset owners with projects making landfall, or potentially making landfall in the Peterhead area; and to
- Consider the possibility of collaborating in relevant areas.

As members of the Peterhead Developer Forum, the Applicant is committed to aligning the Project with regional objectives and best practices, whilst fostering strong relationships with local stakeholders.

The Applicant has and continues to attend conferences relevant to the Project. These are used as opportunities to consult with relevant stakeholders and to provide updates on the Project.

Each EIA technical chapter includes a summary of the relevant consultation that has been undertaken for specific topics. Further information on consultation that occurred during the pre-application stage is also documented in the PAC Report.

### 6.3.6 Pre-Application Consultation

The PAC process refers to the statutory requirement to undertake public consultation before the final submission of planning and marine licence applications for certain developments. The PAC process aims to “improve the quality of planning and licence applications, and to provide, where possible an early opportunity for community views to be reflected in proposals” (Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2011). The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 requires the Applicant to give notice that an application for a marine licence to be submitted, followed by submission of the application of a period of at least 12 weeks after the submission of the notice. Section 7 of the Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 requires that the Applicant must host at least one PAC event prior to the submission of the Marine Licence Applications (MLA) to allow members of the public to provide any feedback or comments regarding the Project to the prospective applicant on a proposed licensable marine activity.

The PAC event was held across two sessions at Peterhead Football Club on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October from 12-3pm and 4-7pm, in accordance with the Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013. The event was attended by 23 individuals, including representatives of the SFF and the SWFPA, individuals and representatives of businesses from Peterhead's fishing industry, a representative of an offshore wind developer, and local residents from nearby towns.

Overall, nine feedback forms were submitted at the event and to date, one feedback form has been submitted online. The key discussion points included:

- Potential impacts of the Project on inshore fishing close to the landfall point;
- Potential impacts of the offshore Export/Import Cable on offshore fishing;
- Potential impacts on offshore fishing in the Array Area; and
- Impact of Landfall and onshore export/import cable plans on local residents, including traffic on A90.

A PAC Report has been prepared and submitted alongside the EIAR.

## 6.4 Public and community engagement

The Applicant aims to raise awareness about the significance of renewable energy, explain the unique features of an Innovation and Targeted Oil & Gas (INTOG) windfarm, and spotlight career opportunities within the offshore wind industry. The Applicant is committed to maintaining open communication by regularly attending community council meetings and promoting our community benefits fund.

As well as hosting a PAC event, which was open to the public and advertised in newspapers, the Applicant has collaborated with Peterhead's Men's Shed to create an interactive INTOG display model, with the aim to engage young people with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Creating the model inspires innovation and prepares the next generation for STEM careers, which will support the future technological advancements and economic growth.

The Applicant is already engaging with local communities and to date has had a staff member volunteering to support local community events, such as at a local café and a program that was established to combat isolation and loneliness within the community.

## 6.5 Additional consultation methods

### 6.5.1 Media updates

The Project website <https://cenosoffshorewind.com/> is updated regularly with Project updates and news articles. There is also the ability to register interest to become a supplier and download relevant documentation on the Project, including the EIA. As the Project progresses, a regular newsletter will be produced and issued on the website.

## 6.5.2 Community benefit

The Applicant is fully committed to delivering a community benefit fund in line with upcoming UK Government guidance, which was expected to be published in 2024. In anticipation of this guidance, the Applicant has been collaborating with local people, businesses, and organisations to identify key themes and projects that will deliver strategic benefits and directly support the local community and its priorities. We welcome further input from the local community to help shape the community benefit fund and encourage you to reach out to the project team via [hello@cenosoffshorewindfarm.com](mailto:hello@cenosoffshorewindfarm.com).

## 6.5.3 Supply chain

In November 2023, several locations along the east coast of Scotland were visited by a Project delegation to establish connections with key ports and pioneering supply chain businesses, which would play a crucial role in providing support during the construction phase of the Project. Representatives from Cromarty Firth, Port of Nigg, and Methil, as well as welding and fabrication companies, were met with to discuss port infrastructure and future investment.

The Project represents a significant infrastructure development, offering numerous opportunities for businesses of all sizes across various disciplines. The Applicant is committed to supporting the development of a supply chain for floating offshore wind projects in the North Sea, aiming to utilise as many UK-based suppliers as reasonably practicable throughout all stages of development.

Supply chain opportunities would be available during the ongoing development phase and, pending relevant consents, licences and a positive Financial Investment Decision (FID), would increase significantly as we move into the construction phase. For instance, identifying suitable ports and bases to support project construction and operations would involve assessing the suitability, capacity, and availability of ports within the North Sea and surrounding areas.

Additionally, there will be substantial supply chain opportunities throughout the long-term operational phase. Engagement with the supply chain is managed by our internal supply chain team, ensuring effective collaboration and support.

## 6.5.4 Future engagement

The Project will continue to engage with local communities, local authorities, and individuals with an interest to identify and resolve issues early. This engagement aims to influence the Project by gathering feedback on potential options and encouraging the community to help shape the proposal, maximising local benefits and reducing negative impacts. It will also help local people understand the Project's potential nature and impact, addressing misunderstandings early and obtaining crucial information about the economic, social, and environmental impacts from consultees. Additionally, this process will enable the consideration and incorporation of potential mitigating measures before the submission of the application and identify ways the Project could support broader strategic or local objectives.



## 6.6 Summary and Conclusions

The Applicant has committed to meaningful consultation with a transparent approach to ensure the efficient development of the Project. Stakeholder consultation has helped shape an environmentally conscious Project that will provide social benefits that will have a positive impact on the local communities. The thoroughly planned engagement approach focuses on well-informed discussions with clear objectives to avoid unnecessary stakeholder meetings, which may lead to consultation fatigue. The Applicant will follow this robust consultation process throughout the Project's lifecycle.



## 6.7 References

Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011). National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3). July 2011. London: The Stationery Office.