

Events planned to help North East firms reap benefits of offshore wind farm

A series of events will be held in the North East this year to help companies benefit from the opportunities available from the Dogger Bank wind farm.

The decision to site the operations and maintenance base for what will be the world's largest offshore wind farm at the Port of Tyne has been billed as a major opportunities for SMEs in the region's offshore engineering and energy sectors.

Now a series of supply chain events outlining some of those opportunities has been arranged, starting with an introductory online session later this month.

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The Dogger Bank Wind Farm is located around 80 miles off the North Sea coast and is being delivered by joint venture partners SSE Renewables, Equinor and Eni. The scheme will be completed in three phases and will eventually produce enough electricity to power six million homes.

The companies behind the scheme are working with offshore sector group NOF on the sessions for potential suppliers.

Mark Halliday, Dogger Bank operations director said: "We are delighted to be continuing our work with NOF to connect the wider supply chain with our Tier 1 suppliers and provide awareness of the opportunities available during the operations and maintenance phase of the wind farm.

"Dogger Bank will be operational for 35 years and we will rely on the supply chain to provide key products and services, bring new technologies and innovations to the project and help

develop the workforce of the future. We look forward to engaging with the industry and providing opportunities to be part of the world's largest offshore wind farm."

Joanne Leng, chief executive of NOF, said: "The UK, and in particular, North East England has a world-class offshore wind supply chain, which can apply its extensive experience and technology-led solutions to support the operations and maintenance phase of the Dogger Bank Wind Farm. This landmark renewables project will also present opportunities for companies yet to join the energy transition, which can diversify their skills products and services into the offshore wind market.

"We are exceptionally proud to continue our partnership with Dogger Bank Wind Farm with this series of events, which will help build long-term and collaborative relationships between the wind farm operations team and supply chain companies, delivering mutual benefits and ensuring this region continues to make a positive contribution to net zero."

An introductory webinar will take place online in February 17 followed by a Meet the Buyers event at Hardwick Hall Hotel at Sedgefield, County Durham, on April 12.

There will be an online skills webinar on May 19 and an invitation-only dinner at Ramside Hall, near Durham, on June 9. An innovation workshop has been planned for Newcastle Helix on September 20 followed by a tour of the operations and maintenance base on November 22.

For further information and to register for the events, companies can go to <https://www.nof.co.uk/>.

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