

Offshore wind solutions for air defence radar interference backed with £3.8m pot

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Contracts worth almost £4 million have been awarded to further develop technologies that prevent offshore wind farms interfering with UK air defence systems.

As the huge green energy structures have increased in scale and distance from the shore – spanning upwards of 500 sq km – the potential for radar conflicts have become an issue.

It is understood the Hornsea Zone, operated and maintained from Grimsby and located off the East Yorkshire coast, is one concern – so too those off East Anglia.

Read more: [Offshore wind supply chain investment hits £900m in 2021](#)

Seven projects will share the pot to support the co-existence.

Funded through the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's Net Zero Innovation Portfolio and delivered by the Ministry of Defence's Defence and Security Accelerator with the support of the Defence Science and

Technology Laboratory, it enables second phase works in a competition.

Ideas have been welcomed from industry and academia to remove a potential barrier to the commitment to scale up to 40GW by 2030. The UK has a total UK pipeline capacity of 63.2GW.

Wing Commander Kevin Walton, co-chair of the Ministry of Defence / Offshore Wind Industry Council Air Defence Mitigation Task Force, said: "Offshore wind will play a major role in achieving our Net Zero Targets. The technology being developed in this competition will help the UK achieve its renewable energy targets without compromising the surveillance of UK airspace."

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Backed projects:

Advanced Material Development Ltd, Surrey

£392,605 – Solution introduces advanced nano-scale radar absorbing material at the manufacturing stage of offshore wind farms, ensuring radio frequency absorption is integrated into the base materials of offshore windfarms.

Saab Technologies UK Ltd, London

£599,692 – Incorporates machine learning and artificial intelligence techniques into air defence radar, providing a trusted air surveillance picture in noisy and cluttered environments.

Trelleborg Applied Technologies, Rochdale

£600,000 – Delivers full radar absorbing materials and equipment to mitigate wind turbine radar interference

Thales UK Ltd, Reading

£481,019 (project one) – Design and demonstration of multistatic, staring radar systems using a validated synthetic environment, to provide continuous all-weather air surveillance in and around wind farms.

£599,970 (project two) – Solution to synchronise two remote holographic radars to demonstrate synchronised multi-static staring radar, to reduce the impact of wind farm clutter and enhance detection and tracking performance.

LiveLink Aerospace, Chichester

£505,938 – Multiple low-cost, multi-role, passive sensors on the nacelles of wind turbines that transform them from being radar disrupters, to becoming the eyes and ears of an advanced air defence.

TWI Limited, Cambridge

£600,000 – Development of a novel metasurface manufacturing method for the mitigation of radar clutter caused by wind farms.

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