

Innovation call webinar Q&A

13 March 2025

Will recording and slides be available?

The webinar recording and slides are available to view, here:
<https://www.offshoreinnovation.scot/news/innovation-call-2-webinar>

Eligibility and funding

Are there restrictions about the applicants (e.g. companies, universities, consortiums, etc)?

Applications are encouraged from companies, research institutions, universities and/or consortiums with demonstrable track record in a relevant sector. You should be able to demonstrate a viable project proposal and have the means and expertise to complete the project within the timeframe and budget requested. The proposed project and any funding provided must provide a clear and justifiable benefit to the call sponsor(s), but may also have wider benefits across the offshore wind sector in Scotland and beyond.

Please refer to [R&I Programme Scope and Guidance](#) for more details on eligibility.

Is it open to UK establishments or worldwide?

The programme is open to companies worldwide. Proposals from the Highlands and Islands region are particularly welcome to ensure economic benefits local to the call sponsors, however applicants can be based in Scotland or further afield, nationally and internationally.

Please note, that part of the evaluation criteria does look at Scottish and UK benefits (including impact on supply chain capacity), however we're not restricting anyone from applying as West of Orkney Windfarm need the best solutions and innovations to meet the needs of the challenge.

Please refer to [R&I Programme Scope and Guidance](#) for more details on eligibility.

What level of funding, if any, is expected from the applicant for the funding or will this depend on type of company e.g. small, medium size, university etc?

There is no set level of funding expected from an applicant applying into the programme. Candidates must detail the budget required for project completion and source of external funds that have already been secured. Funding intensity from the R&I Programme towards each project will be based upon the maturity of the project, the quality of the application and its relevance to the West of Orkney Windfarm. Funding intensity will range from 10% to 100% and is at the discretion of the Programme Governance Group.

Please refer to [R&I Programme Scope and Guidance](#) for more details on eligibility.

Call 2

On the forecasting side, what time frames are you most interested in? I understand longer is always better but is there a minimum lead time that you'd need for your operations and decision making?

Any improvement on weather forecasting is good.

West of Orkney Windfarm are most interested in the range that influences go/no-go decisions. The forecast they'll look at most intently will probably be within the 6-24 hours range (e.g. when you decide when you work or don't work). However, they aren't committed on a forecast horizon. Ultimately, they are interested in all horizons from season, from having a better understanding of the live situation all the way to being able to decide whether to mobilise resources early in the season if they had confidence that 'this Spring' was going to be abnormally calm.

For short-term decision making offshore during construction activities they would be looking for an updated forecast at least every 6 hours. For the following period (e.g. next 24 hours) it's critical that they understand if they'll be within the limiting environmental criteria for the operations they're going to perform. In addition to that, it would be beneficial to improve the accuracy of the 3 day look ahead however being able to reliability forecast out to two weeks would be advantageous.

So looking for improvements in all areas and bottom line is, if you have an idea, put it in!

It'd be great to have more information on the recorded data that's available (e.g. live data / site data / port data / satellite data). What is already available or is it expected to be sourced from the applicant?

What West of Orkney Windfarm have on file is a year of measurements of waves, tides, currents and wind speed at the project site (measurement from Spring 2023 – 2024). They also have live measurements being measured off the coast of Hoy which is 30 kilometres east of the project, and in the coming months, they plan to deploy a wave buoy that will provide live data at the project site. So there could be live data to be used to test the concept if live data is needed, but may need the stimulus (e.g. project idea) to make that happen.

Further publicly available information, including on the wind, wave and current conditions at the West of Orkney Windfarm site, can be found at www.westoforkney.com/document-library. If there is more information that would be beneficial to inform your innovation that the West of Orkney Windfarm might already hold, please provide a detailed description to emec@offshoreinnovation.scot. If such information is not already held but is essential for developing your innovation, please include within your application where such information might be obtained and at what cost.

Which technology readiness level (TRL) are you interested in?

As we're in 2025 now and looking to get first power by 2029 and become operational, we'd be looking towards the middle to higher end of the TRL scale. However, if you have a concept and you think it could be developed quickly and in time, even if it may only come in towards five years into operations, please don't be put off.

The call 'info packs' (available to download here - www.offshoreinnovation.scot/innovation-calls) provide more detail on this point. We would expect the weather forecasting applications to be higher TRL (and also quicker to develop through the TRLs), whereas the novel SOV designs may need to be lower TRL (and take more time to move through the TRLs to an SOV we can deploy).

However, in all cases we would expect to see significant progress within a 12-month project.

Can you provide detailed sensory observations for your vessel's performance when operating in the wind farm, including any available data?

We don't have any vessels in the field just now. We will have survey vessels there over the summer months. We're happy to make the information we do have available if this can help with the proposals being submitted.

Future calls

Is there an estimated date for each of the specific challenges to open?

We do not have any set dates or set topics for future innovations calls within the programme. We are driven by our sponsor West of Orkney Windfarm in terms of their priorities.

Will output from A1 be available for E1?

We haven't confirmed the dates and timings for the calls associated with these challenges, however will take this into consideration.

Is it possible to combine the two items (A2 and E1) with an innovation that can help with both goals?

Yes, we'd be delighted if you're addressing other challenge areas alongside the prioritised innovation call topic.