

NEOWIND

North-East Offshore Wind Innovation and Demonstration

Innovation Development Pot: Scope and Guidance



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USE OF AI

Artificial intelligence has been used to support the preparation of this document.

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1 OVERVIEW OF NEOWIND PROGRAMME

The North East Mayoral Strategic Authority (North East MSA) is positioning the region as the home of the green energy revolution, with offshore wind and wider offshore renewables at the centre of its strategy for low-carbon growth, skilled job creation and long-term economic resilience. Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult, based in Blyth, is a key regional asset in this transition, supporting the development, testing and deployment of technologies that strengthen supply chains, attract investment and enhance the UK's clean energy capability.

The North East Offshore Wind Innovation and Demonstration (NEOWIND) Programme has been established as a flagship regional initiative, funded by the North East MSA and delivered by ORE Catapult. The NEOWIND Programme accelerates the development and demonstration of innovative offshore renewable energy technologies through a combination of research and development grant funding and specialist business support. The programme is designed to help local, Innovative businesses, accelerate early stage products and technologies towards commercial application, improve competitiveness and deliver lasting economic benefits for the North East.

2 INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - INNOVATION CALL

2.1 Overview

Funding Type: Direct Award

Application Type: Competitive

Project Size: £150,000 - £300,000 Funded Value

Project Duration: 15-21 Months

Funding Description: The Innovation Development (IDP) funding pot offers grants ranging from £150,000 to £300,000, covering between 25% and 60% of eligible project costs depending on project type and organisation size. The funding is intended to support businesses undertaking research and development activities to develop new technologies for the offshore wind sector, in alignment with the thematic priorities established by the NEOWIND Programme Partners as set out in this scope and guidance.

2.2 Collaboration

Collaborative projects will not be considered under this funding call, and all applications must be led by a single entity. Applicants may engage external organisations through standard subcontracting arrangements.

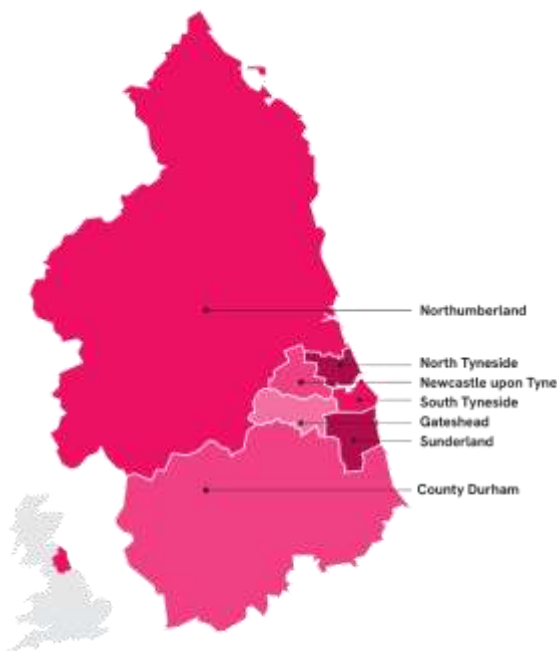
2.3 Dates

Activity	Start Date	End Date
Funding Call Duration	7 th July 2026	3 rd September 2026
Application Launch Event	29 th July 2026	
Formal Question Window	6 th July 2026	21 st August 2026
Application Assessment	3 rd September 2026	16 th October 2026
Project Duration	1 st November 2026	31 st July 2028

2.4 Formal Question Window

A formal question window will open on 6th July 2026 and close on 21st August 2026. During this period, applicants should submit any questions to NEOWIND@ore.catapult.org.uk. Questions received after 21st August 2026, or submitted to any other contact address, will not be answered. Frequently asked questions will be collated in a Q&A document and published on the NEOWIND landing page for applicants to review.

3 INNOVATION CALL – ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA



This competition is open to companies registered in the North East MSA area operating in or with a clear desire to operate in the offshore renewable energy sector.

North East MSA area is defined as: Northumberland, North-Tyneside, Newcastle upon Tyne, South Tyneside, Gateshead, Sunderland and *County Durham**

****administrative area not ceremonial county***

Companies working in other supply chain sectors (e.g. oil and gas) are actively encouraged to apply providing the proposal demonstrates a clear innovative business case for offshore wind.

It is strongly recommended that proposals include evidence of support from an end-user or an industrial sponsor clearly demonstrating a potential route to market.

3.1 Summary

Applications from academic institutions, charities, not for profits, public sector organisation or a research and technology organisation (RTO) will not be accepted. Below are criteria for prospective applicants:

Essential Eligibility

Projects must:

- Be led by a single enterprise with a registered address in the North East MSA area or commit to establishing one **before** project commencement*
- Request grant funding between £150,000 and £300,000.
- Be able to start no later than 1 November 2026 and complete by 31 July 2028.
- Demonstrate ambition for business growth (e.g. turnover, jobs, exports, IP).
- Demonstrate a clear commercial use case and market opportunity within the offshore wind sector.
- Comply with both the RDI streamlined route for subsidy control and the eligible costs outlined in this document
- Focus on developing innovative or competitive solutions for offshore wind.
- Not be classified as an ailing enterprise.

- Demonstrate a clear intention to develop and commercially exploit new technologies, services, or intellectual property.
- Show clear plans to exploit project outcomes within or from the North East MSA region.
- Demonstrate the ability to provide an appropriate level of match funding.
- Demonstrate that the project would not proceed without grant support (additionality).
- Not have already received grant funding for the same scope and project outcome.

Desirable Criteria

Projects should:

- Provide evidence of end-user support or sponsorship
- Demonstrate capability to develop and commercially exploit new technologies, services, or intellectual property.

If an applicant does not make a substantial effort to exploit the award in line with the grant agreement, ORE Catapult reserves the right to award no more funding to the applicant in this, or any other ORE Catapult programme.

**ORE Catapult reserves the right to reject applications if the regional presence is not suitable, (example; virtual offices with no regional staff or plans to hire in region).*

3.2 Non-funded partners:

Your project application can include partners who do not receive funding from NEOWIND. For example, this could include offshore wind project developers who are supporting you in the delivery of your project. You should include a letter of support in the annex/appendices of your application which outlines their activity/contribution to the project.

3.3 Number of applications:

You may only submit one application per entity. Where an entity submits more than one application, all applications will be rejected.

3.4 Sub-Contractors

Subcontractors are allowed in this competition. Subcontractors should be from the UK and where possible the North-East of England. You must select them through a procurement process which aligns with the terms and conditions of the grant offer letter (see Section 3.6.2 for a breakdown of procurement thresholds expected).

3.5 Subsidy Control

Through its collaboration with North East MSA, ORE Catapult are to distribute grant funding to support innovative projects in the Offshore Wind Supply Chain. Funding can only be provided where it is consistent with the Subsidy Control Rules. ORE Catapult will distribute the funding through the Research, Development Innovation (RDI) Streamlined Subsidy Scheme (the RDI Streamlined Route). All projects shall be compliant with the RDI Streamlined Route. For this Innovation call, ORE Catapult will

fund projects that are compliant with *Category 2: Industrial Research and Experimental Development Projects*.

For more information on the RDI Streamlined Route, please see the [UK Governments Guidance](#). If you are unsure about your obligations under the Subsidy Control Act 2022 or the State aid rules, you should take independent legal advice. We are unable to advise on individual eligibility or legal obligations.

You must always make sure that the funding awarded to you is compliant with all current Subsidy Control legislation applicable in the United Kingdom.

This aims to regulate any advantage granted by a public sector body which threatens to or actually distorts competition in the United Kingdom or any other country or countries.

ORE Catapult will not fund any project that does not comply with the RDI Streamlined Route Category 2.

3.6 Funding, Eligible Costs and Procurement

3.6.1 Funding Intervention Rates

All projects will have a total grant funding request amount of between £150,000.00 - £300,000.00.

Funding Levels	Industrial Research	Experimental Development
Micro and Small Enterprises	<u>Up to 60%</u> of the eligible costs of the project	<u>Up to 45%</u> of the eligible costs of the project
Medium Enterprises	<u>Up to 60%</u> of the eligible costs of the project	<u>Up to 35%</u> of the eligible costs of the project
Large Enterprises	<u>Up to 50%</u> of the eligible costs of the project	<u>Up to 25%</u> of the eligible costs of the project

For more information on company sizes, please refer to the [company accounts guidance](#).

Funding will be provided in the form of a grant – quarterly in arrears for all eligible project costs incurred. Costs must be incurred and defrayed prior to grant being received, companies will be required to evidence their expenditure in line with the specified grant offer letter terms and conditions.

3.6.2 Eligible Costs

The funding will only be given where the costs are incurred as direct result on the activity of the project and are wholly for the benefit of the project results. The funding is limited to the project term.

- **Salaries**
 - Applicants must complete the number of working days per year your employees work, remembering to subtract any bank holidays and paid leave. Applicants must also complete the labour costs per employee involved in the project so that the internal actual daily cost for employing each individual can be calculated. This must result in the cost of employment and not a commercial day rate. The Gross annual employee

cost should include the employee's gross annual salary (less any salary sacrifice), employer's NI and Employer's pension contributions but not include bonuses.

- **Overheads (25%)**
 - Overheads are locked at 25%.
- **Materials and Consumables**
 - Applicants must include the details, quantity and cost of any consumables or small pieces of equipment that must be purchased in order to undertake the project. Grant funding will cover costs net of VAT.
- **Subcontracting**
 - Applicants must include all subcontractor costs, including Delivery Partner costs, as well as the costs of any service providers or third-party organisations that need to be procured to deliver the project. Grant funding will cover eligible costs net of VAT. Subcontracting refers to specialist skills, services, or capabilities that are not available within the project team and are **not** practical to develop in house, such as external certification, manufacturing, or access to testing and validation facilities.
- **Travel and Subsistence**
 - Applicants can include travel and subsistence costs. These can be provided as estimates of what items may cost. All costs included must be necessary for the project personnel to deliver the project.
- **Other Costs**
 - Applicants may include other costs that are not captured elsewhere in the form, provided they comply with Category 2 of the RDI Streamlined Route. Capital costs are not eligible. Costs such as dissemination activities and events should be included here. Costs for work requiring expertise that is not currently available within the project team, but **could** reasonably be developed in house, should also be included here. For example, this may include subcontracted project management support where employing a full-time equivalent to deliver that activity would be a reasonable alternative.

All costs must be in compliance with category 2 of the Research, Development and Innovation Streamlined Route.

3.6.3 Procurement Thresholds

Due to the nature of the funding, the following procurement rules will be required by any company that receives grant funding:

Subcontractors explicitly named in an application that exceed the below direct award limit will be suitable for a direct award on the conditions that their service provision is unique and not easily replicable due to technical know-how, familiarity or financial reasons.

All values are **INCLUSIVE** of VAT

Value of Contract	Minimum Procedure
£0 - £25,000	Direct Award
£25,000 - £100,000	3 written quotes or prices sought from relevant suppliers of goods, works and/or services
Over £100,000	Formal tender process

3.7 Additional Eligibility Criteria

North East CA require all organisations located within the North East CA geographic area in receipt of funding to achieve the foundation level of accreditation through the **Shine initiative** within six months of contract award. <https://shine.northeast-ca.gov.uk/>. Successful applicants will also be required to encourage other organisations such as delivery partners, procured organisations, and final beneficiaries engaged in this proposal to sign up to the Shine accreditation scheme.

4 INNOVATION CALL – SCOPE

4.1 Funding Call Objectives:

The purpose of this competition is to support existing and transitioning supply chain companies within the North East MSA area to strengthen their market position through enhanced competitiveness and the development of innovative technologies, products and services. Applicants are invited to submit proposals for projects that demonstrate a high degree of innovation, encourage research and private investment in the North East, and deliver solutions of clear relevance and value to the offshore wind sector.

4.2 Innovation Themes

The North East of England has played a leading role in the development of the UK offshore wind supply chain. As the sector continues to evolve, the regional supply chain must continue to adapt in order to maintain its leading position and respond effectively to emerging opportunities and challenges. The NEOWIND programme worked with industry partners including Equinor, Morven Offshore Wind Farm, Port of Tyne, Port of Blyth and Port of Sunderland to identify key industry challenges both current and emerging. Organisations that meet the eligibility criteria are encouraged to submit applications for projects both physical and digital across both fixed and deep water offshore wind that align with the industry objectives of this funding call as detailed below:

4.2.1 Theme 1: Sustainable Deployment, Environment and Circular Design.

Innovations that accelerate the sustainable deployment of offshore wind, reduce environmental impacts, extend asset value and embed circular principles across the full project lifecycle

- **Accelerating project development and consenting**
 - *Innovative technologies, tools and processes that reduce project development timelines, improve consenting efficiency, strengthen environmental assessment capabilities and enhance evidence-based decision making throughout the offshore wind planning and approval process*
- **Asset life extension and circular end-of-life solutions**
 - *Innovations that enable the life extension, repowering, reuse and recycling of offshore wind assets and components, maximising value and reducing lifetime environmental impacts*
- **Decarbonisation and circularity across the asset lifecycle**
 - *Solutions that reduce carbon emissions and increase circularity throughout the offshore wind project lifecycle including innovations in materials, manufacturing, operations, maintenance and decommissioning*

4.2.2 Theme 2: Advanced operations, maintenance and installation.

Innovations that improve the safety, efficiency, reliability and cost effectiveness of offshore wind installation and O&M across both fixed and deep water developments.

- **Robotics and autonomous systems for offshore intervention**
 - *Innovative robotic, autonomous and remotely operated technologies capable of interacting with assets resulting in increased safety, productivity and availability.*
- **Major component replacement and exchange**
 - *Solutions that optimise the planning, logistics and execution of major component exchange activities, reducing vessel dependencies, downtime and lifecycle costs.*
- **Novel foundation technologies and installation methods**
 - *Innovations in fixed and deep water foundation design, fabrication and installation that improve constructability, reduce costs, enhance scalability and support deployment in increasingly challenging environments.*
- **Digital and AI-Enabled Offshore Wind Operations**
 - *Digital, data-driven and AI solutions that enhance asset performance, operational decision making, installation planning, logistics and predictive maintenance across the offshore wind lifecycle.*

4.2.3 Theme 3: Advanced portside logistics and operations.

Innovations that enhance the efficiency, capacity, resilience and digitisation of ports supporting offshore wind deployment, assembly and O&M.

- **Smart port logistics and asset management**
 - *Innovative technologies that improve offshore wind port logistics through enhanced asset visibility, tracking, automation and operational optimisation leading to increased efficiency across storage, handling and movement of components and equipment.*
- **Port energy infrastructure and electrification**
 - *Solutions that advance portside energy infrastructure, including vessel charging, energy storage, temporary power provision and grid integration.*
- **Heavy lift, marshalling and assembly optimisation**
 - *Innovations that improve the efficiency, safety and scalability of heavy life operations, component marshalling, pre-assembly and installation activities enabling the deployment of larger offshore wind assets.*
- **AI-Enabled digital ports**
 - *AI, digital twin data integration and advanced connectivity solutions including applications of 5G and emerging communication technologies that enable smarter, more connected data-driven port operations and logistics*

4.2.4 Theme 4: Electrical and marine systems.

Innovations that enhance the reliability, performance, resilience and scalability of offshore wind electrical and marine infrastructure enabling efficient deployment and long-term asset performance

- **Advanced subsea cable technologies**
 - *Innovative cable technologies and solutions that improve the performance, reliability, monitoring, inspection, maintenance and repair of offshore power cables including advancements in geotechnics, anchoring systems and cable-seabed interaction.*
- **Seabed operations and installation optimisation**
 - *Innovations that improve the efficiency, safety and effectiveness of seabed operations, including trenching, cable burial, installation and protection across a range of conditions and depths.*
- **Innovations in transmission and energy systems**
 - *Solutions that advance offshore transmission infrastructure including high-voltage AC and DC technologies, increased cable capacity and capability, offshore grid architecture and integrated energy storage systems.*

4.2.5 Theme 5: Open Innovation

Cross-cutting innovations with the potential to address strategic challenges facing the offshore wind sector and deliver significant benefits in safety, security and cost reduction. Examples provide below but are not limited to.

- **Health, safety and workforce wellbeing**
 - *Innovative technologies and processes that enhance the health, safety and wellbeing of personnel across all stages of the offshore wind project lifecycle, from development and construction through to O&M*
- **Critical infrastructure protection and security**
 - *Solutions that strengthen the protection, monitoring and resilience of critical offshore wind infrastructure, including physical and cyber security for offshore assets, subsea systems, transmission networks and shoreside facilities.*
- **Cross sector technology transfer.**
 - *Innovative solutions and technologies with proven application in other industries that can be adapted to address challenges and improve performance across the offshore wind sector.*

5 INNOVATION CALL - APPLICATION PROCESS

The Innovation Call is a set duration call; this means that Applications can be submitted from 6th July 2026 to 3rd September 2026. Applications will be assessed after this period with an expected funding notification to be made by 16th October 2026. Projects will need to begin by the 1st of November 2026.

5.1 Application Process

The application process will be administered through the Skipso online platform. Applicants will be required to create an account before submitting an application. Application questions, together with supporting guidance, will be made available on the platform. Applicants will also be required to complete and upload the downloadable Excel finance & Impact form, “PN000830-02 IDP Application Call 1 – Finance & Impact Form”, as part of their submission.

5.2 Application Questions

Q No.	Questions (500 words max)	Scored	Weighting
Q0	Programme Eligibility questions (various)	Not Scored	Not Scored
Q1	Organisational Background, Credibility, and Strategic Ambition	Yes (/10)	Equal
Q2	Innovation Description, Differentiation, and Commercial Pathway	Yes (/10)	Equal
Q3	Market Need, Opportunity, Commercialisation, and Route to Market	Yes (/10)	Equal
Q4	Project Delivery, Management, Team, Partners, and Resources	Yes (/10)	Equal
Q5	Impact, Outputs, and Regional Benefits	Yes (/10)	Equal
Q6	Funding Requirement, Value for Money, Programme Fit, and Support Needs	Yes (/10)	Equal
Q7	Evidence of Success, Validation, and Demonstration	Yes (/10)	Equal

5.3 Question Guidance

5.3.1 Organisational Background, Credibility, and Strategic Ambition (500 words)

Guidance: Applicants should provide a clear overview of their organisation’s history, development, and current operations, including relevant sectors and markets, and describe any offshore wind experience such as prior projects, services, or supply chain activity. Organisational credibility should be demonstrated through evidence of relevant project delivery, technical achievements, industry engagement, or partnerships, alongside a clear understanding of the offshore wind market, including market size, customer needs, key competitors, and industry trends. Applicants must articulate their ambition for growth in offshore wind with a clear 1-, 3-, and 5-year vision, explaining how the proposed project supports longer-term objectives and highlighting key organisational strengths, resources, partnerships, and collaborations that will support delivery and future scale-up.

5.3.2 Innovation Description, Differentiation, and Commercial Pathway (500 words)

Guidance: Applicants must provide a clear description of the proposed innovation, explaining what the project will develop, how the solution operates, its technical focus, intended application, and relevance to offshore wind. They should explain why the solution is innovative, highlighting how it improves on existing approaches and differentiates itself through unique features or advantages in performance, cost, safety, or sustainability. A concise overview of the competitive landscape should outline existing solutions and their limitations, alongside a summary of the applicant's intellectual property position, including ownership, freedom to operate, and planned protection. Applicants must state the current Technology Readiness Level (TRL), summarise development completed to date with supporting evidence, and set out a clear pathway to deployment and commercialisation, including scalability and intended project outputs.

5.3.3 Market Need, Opportunity, Commercialisation, and Route to Market (500 words)

Guidance: Applicants should clearly define the market need or industry challenge addressed by the innovation and explain its significance within offshore wind or offshore renewables, demonstrating an understanding of customer pain points and operational or technical constraints. Evidence of demand should be provided through market data, customer engagement, industry insight, or relevant policy and regulatory drivers, alongside articulation of the scale of the opportunity and any barriers to adoption or growth that the project will address. Applicants must identify target customers and present a strong value proposition, supported by a clear route to market outlining the proposed business model, indicative timescales for market entry, expected revenue streams, relevant partnerships, and how the innovation will support business growth, productivity, competitiveness, and short and long term expansion into additional markets.

5.3.4 Project Delivery, Management, Team, Partners, and Resources (500 words)

Guidance: Applicants must explain how the project will be delivered, outlining the project management approach, governance and reporting arrangements, and providing a clear project plan covering key milestones, work packages, dependencies, and timelines. They should describe how cost, quality, and risk will be managed, including identification of key risks, mitigation measures, maintenance of a risk register, and arrangements for procurement (including any pre-identified subcontractors as well as the procurement approach that will be used to ensure that any subcontracting provides good value for money), , communications, and intellectual property management where relevant. Details of the project team should be provided, including roles, skills, and experience, along with information on internal resources, equipment, and facilities, partner or collaborator involvement, any recruitment or capability gaps and plans to address them, and a summary of any existing investment or funding supporting delivery.

5.3.5 Impact, Outputs, and Regional Benefits (500 words)

Guidance: Applicants should describe the anticipated impacts of the project on the North East region during and after delivery, including effects on turnover, job creation or safeguarding, export potential, and intellectual property generation. They should explain how the project will support regional skills development through activities such as apprenticeships, traineeships, placements, and clearly articulate contributions to the local economy and supply chain, with emphasis on the use of local suppliers and partners. Applicants must identify the key project outputs, including any new products, services, or processes, describe the wider benefits to the offshore wind sector such as improvements in cost, efficiency, reliability, safety, or sustainability, and explain how impacts will be measured, monitored, and evidenced over time. Considerations should be provided for short (during project) and long (post project) term impacts.

5.3.6 Funding Requirement, Value for Money, Programme Fit, and Support Needs (500 words)

Guidance: Applicants must clearly explain the project’s financial requirements, including total project cost, the grant funding requested, and details of any match funding, company contributions, or in-kind support, supported by a justified breakdown of eligible costs. They should demonstrate value for money and explain the need for public funding, how this will create added GVA to both the national and regional economy through tangible impact benefit, including the additionality created and what would not proceed without support, with full justification of any subcontractor costs. Applicants must also explain their rationale for joining the programme, why support is being sought at this stage, how the programme aligns with their strategic ambitions in offshore wind, and clearly identify the specific support required from the programme and its partners.

5.3.7 Evidence of Success, Validation, and Demonstration (500 words)

Guidance: Applicants should clearly explain how project success will be measured and how the innovation’s performance will be demonstrated, including details of any planned demonstrations, pilots, trials, or validation activities, their formats, audiences, and locations. Applicants must also explain how demonstration outcomes will be captured, evaluated, and communicated through reports, case studies, or presentations, providing confidence in the innovation’s functionality, scalability, and readiness for further development or commercial deployment within offshore wind systems. Information should be provided on the next steps following the project and pathways to commercialisation.

5.4 Finance & Impact Form

The Finance & Impact Form, “PN000830-02 IDP Application Call 1 – Finance & Impact Form”, forms a required part of the full application and must be completed and submitted alongside the application. The document is provided in Excel format and may be completed using Microsoft Excel or Google Sheets. Applicants should complete only the highlighted cells within the Cost Summary, Quarterly Spend Forecast and Outputs and Outcomes tabs. Guidance on eligible costs and cost categorisation is provided within the finance form. The form should be attached and submitted via the relevant question within the Skipsso application.

The information provided in the finance form enables assessors to understand the financial structure and regional impact of the proposed project and to confirm that the applicant is providing the required contribution towards project costs. The level of contribution required will depend on the size of the organisation.

As set out above, funding will be provided in the form of a grant. Applicants will be required to evidence project expenditure, and grant claims will be paid on an incurred and defrayed basis. Eligible costs must be presented net of VAT.

5.5 Appendix (Supporting Material)

Applicants may submit one appendix in support of their application, for example a business plan, project plan or risk register. The appendix must be provided in PDF format, must not exceed five pages in length, and must use a font size that remains legible when printed on A4 paper.

5.6 Submission Guidance

Applications must be submitted through the Skipso platform in accordance with the guidance provided. Draft applications may be saved and returned to prior to submission. The finance & impact form will be available to download from the Skipso platform.

5.7 Application Evaluation

Applications will first be reviewed by the ORE Catapult Programme Team to confirm that they are within scope and meet the eligibility requirements. Applications that pass this stage will then be assessed by a panel of independent external experts, who will provide their recommendations to ORE Catapult. Following this, ORE Catapult will conduct a full financial due diligence process to ensure that shortlisted companies are suitable to fund, the ORE Catapult programme team may convene a senior committee to review due diligence and provide final approval for project awards.

5.8 Unsuccessful Applicants

Applicants who are unsuccessful will receive feedback in the form of written notification and, where appropriate, a follow-up discussion regarding other relevant areas of support. Please note that an application may receive positive feedback and still be unsuccessful if it does not achieve a score above the funding threshold or is not selected as part of the overall portfolio approach adopted for the competition.

5.9 Successful Applicants

Successful applicants will be issued with a **non-negotiable** Grant Offer Letter, a sample version of which will be available on the NEOWIND Skipso landing page. Applicants will be required to complete, sign and return the Grant Offer Letter to the ORE Catapult Programme Team within the timeframe specified at the point of award. Successful applicants must commence their projects no later than 1st November 2026.

Successful applicants will receive an offer of technical support from ORE Catapult, limited to a defined number of days as confirmed by the Programme Team at the point of award. This technical support may be subject to additional subsidy provision, which will be outlined as part of the support offer. Technical support is limited to ORE Catapult staff time and does not include access to facilities or any other associated costs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

5.10 Finance Checks

We will carry out checks to make sure you are an established company with access to the funds necessary to complete the project. You must respond to any requests we have sent for additional information to avoid any delays. Failure to comply with this may result in your grant offer being withdrawn.

5.11 Funding Claims and Project Monitoring

Once the project has commenced you will be expected to attend review meetings with ORE Catapult, the review meetings will take place in monthly intervals. These meetings may be held in person if requested by ORE Catapult.

5.12 Grant Offer Letter and Personnel

You will be required to provide the name and contact information of your Project Manager and Project Finance Lead. ORE Catapult will issue you with a Grant Offer Letter (GOL). **The terms and conditions of the GOL are non-negotiable.** The project should not start until the start date outlined in your GOL.

5.13 The Use of ORE Catapult Facilities for Demonstration

To avoid conflicts of interest in the case of projects that wish to utilise ORE Catapult facilities for demonstration activities, the lead partner will subcontract ORE Catapult Development Services Limited (ODSL) to provide facilities access under the following conditions:

1. ODSL can only work as a sub-contractor to the lead applicant for the project that applies for funding from the NEOWIND Programme. ODSL cannot become a partner to any project consortium to prevent any conflict of interest.
2. If ODSL is selected as a sub-contractor for the project that will apply for the NEOWIND Programme funding, ODSL will assist you in defining the work packages and proving the costs of each work package, however, no other support can be provided towards the preparation of the Application, such as writing or reviewing the Application before submission.
3. If you choose ODSL as a sub-contractor for the project that will apply for the NEOWIND Programme funding, your application will only be assessed by external independent industry assessors and will not be evaluated by ORE Catapult's internal assessors. This is to ensure a fair and impartial assessment process and will not negatively affect any Application scoring.
4. If you choose ODSL as a sub-contractor for the project that will apply for the NEOWIND Programme funding, your application will be treated in the same manner as any other Application and no preferential treatment would be given to your project.
5. Any economic activity carried out by ODSL shall be carried out on market terms and ODSL shall not offer any incentives to you which are not otherwise available out with the NEOWIND Programme.

5.14 Confidential Information and Intellectual Property

ORE Catapult are directly accountable to you for their holding and processing of your information, including any personal data and confidential information. Data is held in accordance with their own policies. Accordingly, ORE Catapult will be data controllers for personal data submitted during the application. The business information you provide in your online Application will be kept strictly confidential and will be used solely by ORE Catapult, independent technical assessors and members of the programme advisory board for the purpose of this Innovation Call.

6 DEFINITIONS

The following terms shall have the meaning as described in the Definitions shown below:

Term	Definition
Applicant	A North-East based supply chain company that makes an Application to the ORE Catapult for funding or support.
Application	An application to the NEOWIND Programme submitted by an Applicant.
Assessor	An ORE Catapult appointed external independent assessor that reviews the Applications. Applications will be matched with assessors depending on the subject area/theme of the Application and the expertise of the assessor.
Deliverables	The agreed set of specific milestones from the project.
Delivery Partner	A service provider who can provide specialist knowledge/expertise to the Applicant during the project.
Eligible Costs	Costs incurred as a direct result of the project. Details outlined in section 3.6.2
Experimental Development	Acquiring, combining, shaping and using existing scientific, technological, business and other relevant knowledge and skills with the aim of developing new or improved products, processes or services, as defined in the RDI Streamlined Route.
Grant Agreement/Grant Offer Letter	An agreement which will be signed between the successful applicant and the ORE Catapult. Under this agreement, the applicant will agree to implement the Deliverables as outlined in the Programme of Activity and Project Management Plan. ORE Catapult will agree to make available the funds to the applicant to deliver the project in arrears upon evidence of deliverables and expenditure.
Industrial Research	Planned research or critical investigation aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services or for bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services, as defined in the RDI Streamlined Route.
Match Funding	Company match contribution to eligible project costs which will be evidenced quarterly on claims and via financial audit during and post-project.
Project Budget	The total budget for the project including eligible costs and company contributions.
RDI Streamlined Route	Research, Development and Innovation Streamlined Subsidy Scheme, Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy pursuant to section 10 (5) of the Subsidy Control Act 2022– (RDI Streamlined Subsidy Scheme)
Subsidy Control Rules	The requirements of the Subsidy Control Act 2022, accompanying statutory guidance and all regulations made under that Act, together with any other international obligations to which the UK is subject insofar as they are applicable to the project.

Term	Definition
NEOWIND	North East Offshore Wind Innovation and Demonstration
North East MSA	North East Mayoral Strategic Authority
North East MSA Area	Northumberland, Newcastle, North-Tyneside, South-Tyneside, Gateshead, Sunderland and Country Durham (North East MSA Administrative area only, not ceremonial county)
ORE	Offshore Renewable Energy
IDP	Innovation Development Programme
RDI	Research, Development and Innovation
RTO	Research and Technical Organisation
VAT	Value Added Tax
NI	National Insurance
IP	Intellectual Property
GOL	Grant Offer letter
ODSL	Offshore Development Services Limited

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