© LMc / Hunterston / graphic with locations and steam times / XLCC rendering

Marine yard

# Manufacturing energy hubs will fast track the floating offshore revolution

Lewis McIntyre, Managing Director, Port Services at Peel Ports Group, makes the case for creating floating wind manufacturing hubs and attracting investment for long-term growth.

With an urgent need to exploit our domestic energy market, which delivers cheaper and greener energy, the future opportunities this can bring can't be understated. Manufacturing hubs, as centres of excellence for floating and fixed offshore wind, would support thousands of new jobs, allowing for the transfer of skills from the oil and gas sectors and build an industry that could support a true circular economy.

The UK Government's £160m Floating Offshore Wind Manufacturing Investment Scheme (FLOWMIS) represents a significant opportunity for the private sector to boost offshore wind capabilities, reduce development times and deliver a legacy of UK manufacturing with global export potential.

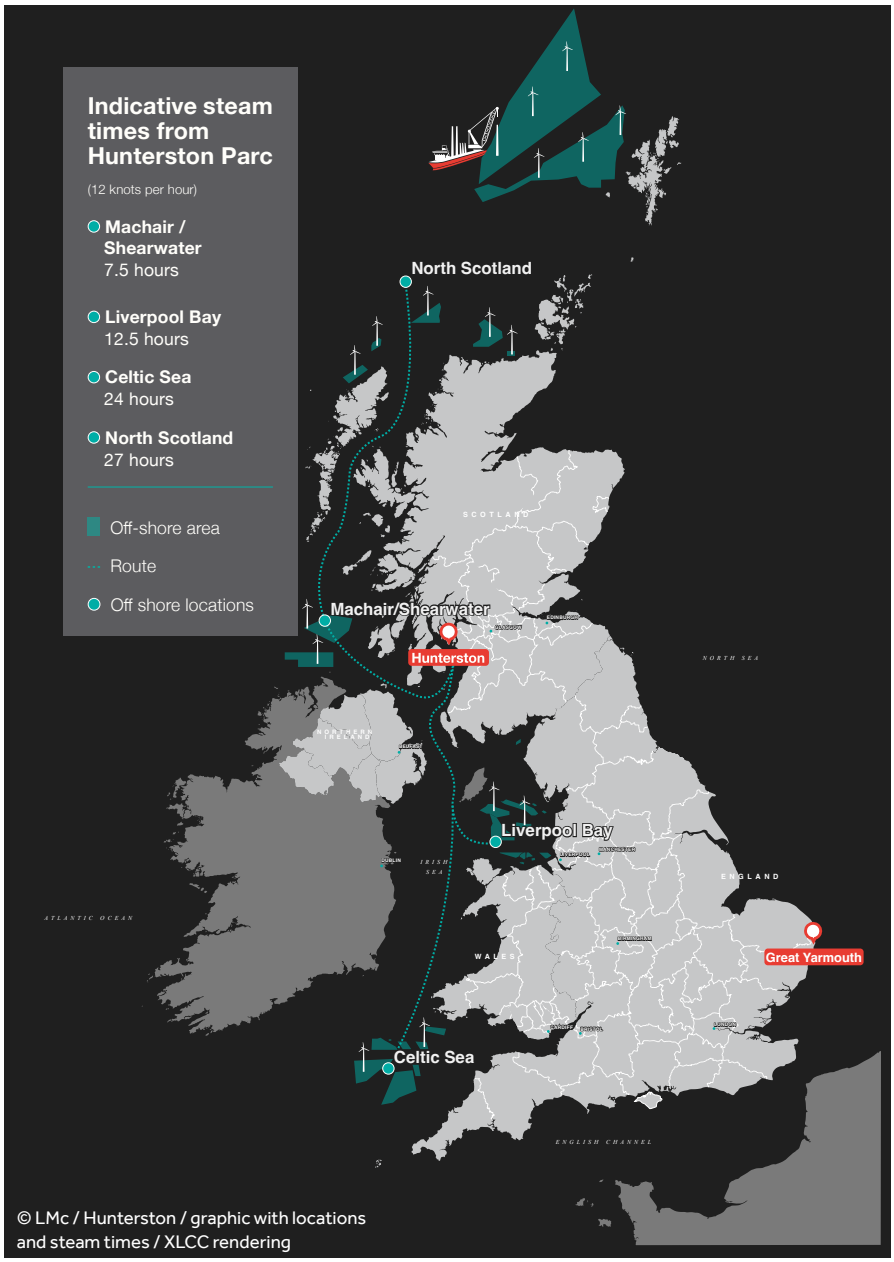
The government's Offshore Wind Acceleration Taskforce (OWAT) is looking to address the issues that slow down the potential to grow this sector. This, together with the FLOWMIS fund, provides an opportunity to build an industry with legacy prospects.

So, where best to invest? With significant and fresh opportunities to develop floating wind farm sites off the Celtic seas and North Scotland, in deeper waters, the answer lies in creating new manufacturing hotbeds for floating offshore wind components on western shores, which are capable of supporting both of these key development zones.

Lewis McIntyre

ScotWind's leasing round for 15GWs of floating offshore wind and a further 4GW off the Welsh coast in the Celtic Sea are key opportunities. But we must also look beyond these. Why can't we exploit other sites off


Innovation Centre




the coast of Ireland, or indeed further afield and truly maximise on the export potential.

To attract investment, we must look beyond the here and now, manufacturing for more than specific named sites, and develop a strategy which brings in private sector investment for the longer game. The appeal of floating wind is that we can build and tow, literally anywhere suitable. We can export both expertise and product, investing for long-term growth.

Just as we'd see with a major manufacturer of vehicles, we can build and support an end-to-end supply chain. An anchor tenant at the heart of production, with a range of support and satellite businesses to build parts and components, would create a ripple effect of investment and deliver a modern and efficient green energy manufacturing engine.

Floating wind manufacturing hubs would enable a world-leading sector capable of producing components at scale, and in turn lay the ground for its businesses to expand too.

Investing in shovel-ready sites will be a fundamental element to fast track deep-water port infrastructure if we are to reach our ambitions, and avoid likely bottlenecks as we accelerate efforts for self-sufficiency and energy security.

At Peel Ports, we've earmarked two of our sites as Energy Transition Hubs, able to support such ambition; Hunterston PARC on the western coast of Scotland and Great Yarmouth, on the south east coast of England.

Hunterston has tremendous potential to become a global manufacturing hub for floating offshore wind and the revolution has already started. This former coal terminal, with its deep water port, Europe's largest dry dock, on-site rail connectivity and national grid connections allows for a broad range of occupation options due to its sheer size and location.

XLCC, the HVDC subsea cable manufacturer, has been granted planning permission in


Overview

Hunterston for a high voltage cable manufacturing facility with associated testing and research laboratories.

There's now significant potential to further enhance Hunterston's proposition, by attracting complementary manufacturing businesses supporting floating and fixed offshore wind, creating a nucleus capable of delivering all the components needed for planned and future wind farm opportunities, whilst driving innovation across the sector through collaboration.

Great Yarmouth, the UK's most eastern deep water facility, with extensive experience in renewable energy provides another significant hub for manufacturing. With its proximity to sites such as East Anglia One, the potential for a floating build and tow base is now further enhanced by its new planned O&M Campus, where manufacturers can draw on world-class research and development.

Applying some, if not all, of the benefits of the newly launched 'Investment Zones' to energy transition hubs would enhance the opportunity to unlock much needed capacity. These economic benefits would underpin the long term investments needed in the UK.

The government, working together with industry, can simultaneously kick start a manufacturing revolution, which fast tracks our need for cheaper homegrown clean energy, whilst creating opportunities for skill transfers and employment for the long term.

If we are to reach ambitious targets of up to 50GW of offshore wind by 2030, we must align to a vision that removes obstacles along the way, whilst looking further afield to develop manufacturing for the long term, delivering research, design, fabrication and maintenance capabilities, exporting UK products and knowledge worldwide.

Peel Ports' Energy Transition Hubs are located at Hunterston PARC on the west coast of Scotland, King George V Dock at Clydeport and Great Yarmouth on the East coast.

www.peelports.com

**Hunterston PARC**

- Major UK asset for the renewable energy market
- Ideal base for offshore wind manufacturing base
- Over 320 acres available with favourable planning status
- Plot sizes accommodate up to 4 million sq ft
- On-site rail connectivity
- Deep water and dry-dock on site
- Significant grid connections
- On-site water and discharge
- Proximity to Glasgow & Prestwich Airport
- Significant support from UK and Scottish Government