

Vattenfall, in partnership with the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group, has won exclusive rights from The Crown Estate to develop, build and operate an offshore wind deployment centre, off the City of Aberdeen, the UK's oil and gas capital. The award was made to Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm Limited and the project, with the European Commission earmarking Euros 40 million in financial support, will be known as the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre. The project will also be subject to an application for planning permission through the Scottish Government.

David Hodkinson, Director and Head of Development for Vattenfall Wind Power in the UK said "Vattenfall and its partners in the Aberdeen-based European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre, Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG), welcome this award by The Crown Estate. It clearly recognises the role that the centre is designed to play in proving wind turbine and related technologies intended for large scale deployment under the UK Round 3 offshore wind programme, in which Vattenfall and its partner Scottish Power Renewables are developing the 7.2 GW East Anglia Zone."

He added: "Vattenfall and AREG expect to conclude very shortly negotiations with the European Commission in respect of a Euros 40 million grant contribution towards the project in recognition of the important contribution it is expected to make to the European offshore wind industry."

AREG chief executive officer, Morag McCorkindale, said: "This is a significant step forward for the EOWDC and confirms its very real potential as a European test centre. It also underlines the special role that Aberdeen City and Shire is playing in laying the foundations of our offshore renewables industry and attracting inward investment by virtue of its world-class oil and gas supply chain."