



For immediate release

Surf's up as WaveWalker starts work on vital NnG survey

As survey works continue on the EDF Renewables and ESB owned Neart Na Gaoithe (NnG) Offshore Wind Farm, visitors to Thorntonloch Beach in East Lothian may have noticed an unusual beach comber walking the shoreline.

The WaveWalker 1, one of only a few walking jack-up barges in the world, has been carrying out a geotechnical survey on behalf of the NnG project where it is drilling boreholes close to the shore and in the intertidal area, including the beach.

The results of this survey will provide important information about the ground conditions on and around the beach as the NnG project team explore the best options for installing the wind farm's offshore export cables.

The NnG project reached financial close in November 2019 and construction of the wind farm is now underway.

NnG has a capacity of c. 450 megawatts of low carbon energy and will offset over 400,000 tonnes of Co2 emissions each year. Construction of components is now underway, offshore construction will start in June 2020 and full commissioning will complete in 2023.

Matthias Haag, NnG Project Director, said: "It's a really exciting time for NnG and having the WaveWalker 1 at Thorntonloch Beach carrying out this geotechnical survey is clear evidence of the project now entering the construction phase.

"This survey will provide us with important information on the ground conditions that we need before laying the export cables that will link NnG to the National Grid via a new substation which will be built near Innerwick onshore."

The WaveWalker 1 is specifically designed to offer a safe and secure solution for marine operations in areas typically affected by weather and tides, and on beaches.

Since its launch in 2012, the WaveWalker 1 has carried out a variety of operations for marine projects across the globe including geotechnical site investigations for offshore wind farms, offshore cable installation, offshore windfarm operations and maintenance, drilling and blasting and other underwater work.

To ensure public safety during these surveys, access to Thorntonloch Beach is restricted and the public should remain at least 100 metres from the WaveWalker at all times.

Safety vehicles will patrol the beach 24 hours a day during the survey period and will be able to escort anyone wishing to cross the beach.

End

Notes to Editors:

About EDF Renewables in the United Kingdom

EDF Renewables is one of the UK's leading renewable energy companies which develops, builds and operates generation projects with a focus on onshore and offshore wind as well as battery storage technology. We also look after the operations and maintenance of our own wind farms. The company already operates more than 965MW of wind farms and battery storage (including 496 MW in Scotland) and has more than 2GW consented and in development. The company employs more than 200 people. It is a joint venture between EDF Energy and EDF Renewables.

About Neart na Gaoithe (NnG)

Neart na Gaoithe means 'strength of the wind'. NnG is a key UK offshore wind farm project and, with up to £1.8billion invested in its infrastructure, will have a major positive impact on the Scottish economy. NnG is located off the east coast of Scotland, 15.5 km off the Fife coast and covers an area of approximately 105 km². EDF Renewables acquired NnG in 2018 and in 2021 sold a 50% stake to leading Irish Energy Company, ESB.

About ESB

ESB operates across the electricity market on the island of Ireland: from generation, through transmission and distribution to the supply of customers with an expanding presence across Great Britain. In 2017 ESB opened an office in Glasgow to spearhead further development of renewables, in particular onshore and offshore wind, across Scotland. ESB is the owner of the distribution and transmission networks in the Republic of Ireland (via ESB Networks) and Northern Ireland (via Northern Ireland Electricity Networks Ltd). In 2017, the company had a 42% share of generation in the all-island market (via Generation and Wholesale Markets) and a 34% share of electricity supply in the all-island market (via Electric Ireland) with 1.4 million customer accounts.