



Press release

Offshore construction in the North Sea begins on RWE's flagship Sofia Offshore Wind Farm

- **The 1.4-gigawatt offshore wind project is one of the world's largest single offshore wind farms – operational in 2026**
- **Prysmian's Leonardo da Vinci vessel will lay the first sections of high voltage direct current (HVDC) export cables**
- **Sofia will play a key role in helping the UK achieve its net zero ambitions**

Swindon, 4 September 2023

Offshore construction has officially started at RWE's 1.4 gigawatt (GW) Sofia Offshore Wind Farm, to install essential subsea cable infrastructure from the UK's north east coast to the wind farm site on Dogger Bank, in the central North Sea.

Cable contractor Prysmian's high-tech *Leonardo da Vinci* vessel will lay the first section of high voltage direct current (HVDC) export cable, ready to transport green electricity from the wind farm back to the UK coast, and ultimately into the UK transmission network.

The work marks a significant milestone for the project, with Sofia representing a more than £3billion investment in the UK's energy infrastructure by RWE. The wind farm will make a significant contribution towards the country's net zero targets, and be capable of generating enough clean electricity equivalent to meeting the needs of over 1.2 million typical UK homes.

Sven Utermöhlen, CEO RWE Offshore Wind: "Sofia is RWE's largest renewable construction project to date, and its furthest from shore. The project is setting new standards in terms of addressing innovation, sustainability, and engineering challenges. The laying of the first section of export cable represents the culmination of 13 years of planning, preparation, and diligence, as well as a huge amount of support from suppliers and stakeholders alike. Building a project of this size and scale is a great opportunity to demonstrate our expertise in delivering offshore wind energy around the globe."

Sofia Offshore Wind Farm is located on Dogger Bank, 195 kilometres from the nearest point on the UK's north east coast, and will have a single offshore converter platform, with the electricity generated transported to landfall 220 kilometres away in Redcar, Teesside.

RWE

The wind farm will use 100 Siemens Gamesa 14 megawatt (MW) offshore wind turbines (SG 14-222 DD), the most advanced offshore wind turbine technology available, and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2026. Forty-four of the project's 100 turbines will be equipped with [recyclable blades](#). Operations and maintenance activities for the wind farm will be located at RWE's new offshore wind operations base '[Grimsby Hub](#)', which will also support [Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm](#) and future projects.

Prysmian's 170-metre-long vessel will operate out of the Port of Middlesbrough and will lay two 130 kilometre sections of cable in parallel. It will start its cable laying work from just off the Teesside coast between Redcar and Marske-by-the-Sea. One end of each of the two sections of subsea cable will be pulled underwater from the vessel through cable ducts that were installed earlier this year. The cable will pass below the beach, sand dunes and road before emerging at the landfall construction compound. The cutting-edge vessel will then move away from the coast, laying the full length of cable along its set route towards the offshore wind farm.

Installation of two remaining 90km sections of marine export cable is planned for 2024. By late 2024, *Leonardo da Vinci* will have laid four sections of ± 320 kV HVDC marine export cables with XLPE insulation, totalling 440 kilometres plus the accompanying communications cables.

Onshore construction has been underway in Teesside since June 2021, to construct the project's onshore converter station and cable corridor. The laying of the first sections of export cable marks the start of a three year offshore construction phase.

The ongoing offshore construction works will include the arrival of the project's offshore converter platform, due to make the journey from Batam, Indonesia to the UK in 2024. Also planned for next year is the start of installation of the 100 extended monopile foundations and array cables.

RWE is the UK's largest power producer and has ambitions to invest up to £15 billion gross in new green technologies and infrastructure in the UK by 2030.

Tom Glover, RWE's UK country chair: "RWE has 10 offshore wind farms already operating around the UK, and is a leading partner in the generation of clean energy that will help ensure security of electricity supply. This major construction milestone at Sofia further demonstrates our enviable expertise in offshore wind, which has been pioneered over 20 years in the UK. And the UK remains of significant strategic importance to RWE. We are continuing to drive our ambition to grow green through a strong future development pipeline, which will play a key role in delivering our own and the country's future net zero ambitions."

RWE has a strong UK pipeline and is involved in four of the UK's seven offshore wind extension projects, plus two Round 4 Dogger Bank South projects. The company is also exploring offshore floating wind projects, including in the Celtic Sea region.



For further enquiries:

Mark Fleming
Media Relations
RWE Offshore Wind
T +44 7825 608096
E mark.fleming@rwe.com

Pictures for media use are available from the [RWE Media Centre](#).

For [more information about Sofia Offshore Wind Farm, visit the website](#).

RWE

RWE is leading the way to a green energy world. With an extensive investment and growth strategy, the company will expand its powerful, green generation capacity to 50 gigawatts internationally by 2030. RWE is investing more than €50 billion gross for this purpose in this decade. The portfolio is based on offshore and onshore wind, solar, hydrogen, hydro, batteries, biomass and gas. RWE Supply & Trading provides tailored energy solutions for large customers. RWE has locations in the attractive markets of Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region. The company is responsibly phasing out nuclear energy and coal. Government-mandated phaseout roadmaps have been defined for both of these energy sources. RWE employs around 19,000 people worldwide and has a clear target: to get to net zero by 2040. On its way there, the company has set itself ambitious targets for all activities that cause greenhouse gas emissions. The Science Based Targets initiative has confirmed that these emission reduction targets are in line with the Paris Agreement. Very much in the spirit of the company's purpose: Our energy for a sustainable life.

UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The personal data processed in connection with the press releases will be processed in compliance with the legal data protection requirements. If you are not interested in continuing to receive the press release, please inform us at communications@rwe.com. Your data will then be deleted and you will not receive any further press releases from us in this regard. If you have any questions about our data protection policy or the exercise of your rights under the GDPR, please contact ukdataprotectionrwe@rwe.com.

