RWE

Press release

Energy Minister visits Port of Lowestoft to see how RWE and KKR's Vanguard projects are bringing jobs, skills and investment to the East of England

- **Energy Minister visits Port of Lowestoft just two weeks after RWE and KKR's £12 billion investment announcement in the Vanguard West and East offshore wind projects**
- **Visit highlights the opportunities for local jobs, businesses and skills, as preparations accelerate for offshore construction in early 2027**
- **Visit highlights how the region will play a key role in delivering the offshore wind projects, building on its growing position as a clean energy hub, and the opportunities for local jobs, businesses and skills.**

Swindon, 26 November 2026

RWE, in partnership with Associated British Ports and Clarksons Port Services, today welcomed the Minister of State for Energy to the Port of Lowestoft's Eastern Energy Facility (LEEF), as they announce plans to establish facilities to support the Vanguard West and East projects at the site. The visit highlighted how RWE and KKR's Vanguard projects will benefit local businesses, workers and young people across the region.

The visit comes just two weeks after RWE and KKR confirmed a £12 billion investment to jointly deliver the Vanguard West and Vanguard East offshore wind projects. RWE is working with Associated British Ports (ABP) and Clarksons Port Services (CPS) to finalise agreements to use the Port of Lowestoft for the projects' long-term operations and maintenance.

This builds on the announcement to use LEEF as the base for construction of the projects, which is expected to start in early 2027. During the three-year construction period, it is estimated[1] that the projects will create and support over 2,800 jobs, both directly and indirectly through the supply chain. Once the projects are fully operational in 2030, they are expected to directly support more than 300 long-term, skilled jobs including wider opportunities for local businesses providing services such as vessel maintenance, port operations, crew transfers and supplies.

The long-term presence of the Vanguard projects is expected to support economic activity in Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth and the wider East of England for decades to come. Together, once fully operational Vanguard West and East will have a combined generating capacity of 2.8 gigawatts (GW), enough to generate the equivalent electricity needed to power more than all the homes in the East of England.[2]

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Energy Minister Michael Shanks said: “Britain’s clean energy future is being built in towns like Lowestoft, drawing on generations of industrial expertise and creating opportunities for the next generation. Lowestoft will be home to one of Britain’s biggest offshore wind projects, ensuring the benefits of Vanguard's £12 billion investment are felt locally for decades to come."

Tom Glover, UK Country Chair at RWE, said: "The £12 billion investment in Vanguard West and East offshore wind farms represents a major commitment to the UK's clean energy future, and we’re delighted that Lowestoft will play a vital role in turning that investment into reality. Today's visit was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the expertise, infrastructure and skills that already exist here, and the opportunities that major offshore wind projects can create for local businesses, workers and young people.

"RWE has a proud history in the East of England, and we're excited to be building on that through these projects. Working jointly with KKR, and with ABP, CPS and our local partners, we want to ensure these projects make a lasting contribution to the region's economy while helping deliver the secure, affordable energy the UK needs."

Julian Walker, Chief Commercial Officer and Regional Director at ABP, said:
"ABP was proud to host the Energy Minister at the Port of Lowestoft in partnership with RWE and Clarksons, and to show how our collective investment in energy, port and supply chain infrastructure is turning offshore wind ambition into jobs and opportunity for local communities.

"Our £35 million investment in LEEF, together with RWE's intended long-term commitment to the Port and Clarksons' new facilities, is strengthening the supply chain needed to deliver Vanguard West and East. Lowestoft has the location, infrastructure, marine expertise and established offshore energy cluster to support these projects through construction and into decades of operation."

Steve Smith, Director, Clarksons Port Services, said: "It was a privilege to welcome the Minister to Lowestoft and showcase the facilities that will support the Vanguard projects for decades to come. Seeing the scale of the new warehouse and operational infrastructure first-hand demonstrates the long-term commitment being made to the region and the role Lowestoft will play in supporting one of the UK's most significant offshore wind developments. Together with RWE and ABP, we are proud to be helping provide the infrastructure and operational expertise that will underpin investment, skilled employment and economic activity across the East of England."

With preparations accelerating ahead of offshore construction, due to start in early 2027, the Minister's visit highlighted the important role Lowestoft will play in delivering the projects, as well as the wider opportunities they could create for the regional economy.

During the visit, the Minister joined representatives from RWE, ABP and CPS at the port's Lowestoft Eastern Energy Facility (LEEF), where he toured the facilities and met apprentices and teams working on the project, hearing first-hand about the skills, expertise and infrastructure

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that will help deliver the projects and support the region's growing offshore wind industry.

Beyond supporting investment in port infrastructure, RWE and KKR are focused on ensuring the Vanguard projects deliver lasting benefits for communities across the East of England.

The projects' long-standing regional skills and employment programme is helping train the next generation of skilled workers. In 2026 alone, it has reached nearly 2,000 primary and secondary school pupils and more than 750 higher education students, while offering apprenticeships and work experience to young people across the region.

The Vanguard projects build on RWE's longstanding presence in the East of England. RWE has operated its Scroby Sands offshore wind farm from nearby Great Yarmouth for more than 20 years, while its Great Yarmouth gas-fired power station recently completed the largest overhaul in its history, supporting its continued operation well into the next decade..

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Pictures supporting the Minister's visit to Port of Lowestoft are available for media use (credit: RWE) at the RWE Media Centre

Further information about Vanguard West and Vanguard East offshore wind farms:

O&M Base: RWE is working with Associated British Ports (ABP) and Clarksons Port Services (CPS) to finalise agreements to establish facilities at the Port of Lowestoft's Eastern Energy Facility to support the long-term operations and maintenance of the Vanguard West and East projects.

Construction Base: In March 2026 RWE confirmed the Lowestoft Eastern Energy Facility (LEEF) as the construction and commissioning support base for the Vanguard projects. The facility will support at least three Service Operation Vessels (SOVs) and potentially up to six Crew Transfer Vessels (CTVs) until mid-2030. It will also handle all crew management, vessel movements and port servicing for teams managing construction and commissioning of the wind farms.

Regional jobs and investment: The Vanguard West and East projects will support thousands of UK-jobs and bring lasting benefits to the local economy. Based on updated analysis by Baringa:[1]

- It is estimated that during the three-year construction phase, the projects will support

over 2,800 UK-jobs directly and indirectly, of which majority will be in the East of England.

- In addition, during the 35-year operational phase, it is estimated that the projects will support over 300 direct and indirect jobs. These will be long term, high skilled and well remunerated roles, bringing a long term positive economic impact to the area.
- Indirect and sub-contracting opportunities will increase significantly locally. The region and port will regularly handle over 120 crew and specialists as each of the anticipated two Service Operations Vessels (SOVs) swap shifts during construction.
- Daily windfarm operation and maintenance activity will bring fixed, long-term benefits for port services – everything from port support, vessel maintenance, crew transfers, and supplies including food and other provisions for vessels and crews.
- The investments will leave a lasting legacy that will ensure both the ports and region are well placed to compete for future opportunities.

Skills: The Vanguard West and East projects will continue to deliver their skills and employment programme across the East of England:

- In 2026 alone, the projects' Skills Liaison Officer engaged with nearly 2,000 Primary and Secondary school students; more than 750 higher education students; and more than 18,000 individuals at various public events, including supporting Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) programmes within the region.
- In terms of work placement opportunities in 2026, the projects' skills programme welcomed three Year 10 students from Norwich High School for Girls; two Year In Industry placement students, and the Vanguards' first ever cohort of apprentices to RWE's Offshore Wind Turbine Technician Apprenticeship programme.
- This year the projects also sponsored the pilot for the Eastwind T-Level work Experience Programme, which welcomed 10 Engineering T-Level students.
- The Vanguards' also participated for the fifth year running in the EEEGR Coastal Engineering Internship programme where RWE sponsored six students - two on the Vanguard projects and four who were placed within the local supply chain.

ABP invests in infrastructure: RWE's decision to use the Port of Lowestoft follows ABP's investment in state-of-the-art infrastructure, which has established the site as a leading offshore energy hub. LEEF is a £35 million project, providing deep-water berths, 350m of upgraded quayside, six CTV berths with modern utilities and up to eight acres of operational space. It was officially opened by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ed Miliband, in January 2025, marking a major step in Lowestoft's role in the UK's energy transition.

Editors' notes

*1 – **Updated job estimates from Baringa** based on Baringa's Input-Output Model, combining latest project expenditure provided by RWE with Office for National Statistics input-output tables. Direct jobs are those supported in UK businesses delivering the modelled project contracts; indirect jobs are those supported in their UK supply chains. Estimated O&M jobs also include RWE's estimate of own employees for both projects.*

*2 – **East of England households** The 2021 Census records about 2.63 million households in the East of England. The East of England official region includes Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.*

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RWE is shaping the energy world of tomorrow. To this end, the company is investing billions of euros in offshore and onshore wind, solar energy, battery storage, flexible generation assets and, through its shareholding in Amprion, in the expansion of Germany's transmission grid. The portfolio is complemented by its global energy trading business. RWE is already one of the leading companies in the field of renewable energy. Around 20,000 employees work for the company worldwide. With its integrated portfolio and broad project pipeline, RWE is ideally positioned to meet the growing global demand for electricity driven by electrification and artificial intelligence. At the same time, the company is making an important contribution to ensuring a secure, affordable and climate-friendly energy supply. RWE is decarbonising its business in line with the 1.5-degree reduction pathway, will phase out coal by 2030 and aims to achieve net zero by 2040 – fully in line with the company's purpose: Our energy for a sustainable life.

Forward-looking statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements. These statements reflect the current views, expectations, and assumptions of management, and are based on information currently available to management. Forward-looking statements do not guarantee the occurrence of future results and developments and are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Actual future results and developments may deviate materially from the expectations and assumptions expressed in this document due to various factors. These factors primarily include changes in the general economic and competitive environment. Furthermore, developments on financial markets and changes in currency exchange rates as well as changes in national and international laws, in particular in respect of fiscal regulation, and other factors influence the company's future results and developments. Neither the company nor any of its affiliates undertakes to update the statements contained in this press release.

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