

# Investing in Shared Hydrogen Transmission Infrastructure Can Unlock Deep Offshore Wind Energy

Presented at: All Energy Conference  
Presented by: David Wickham

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022

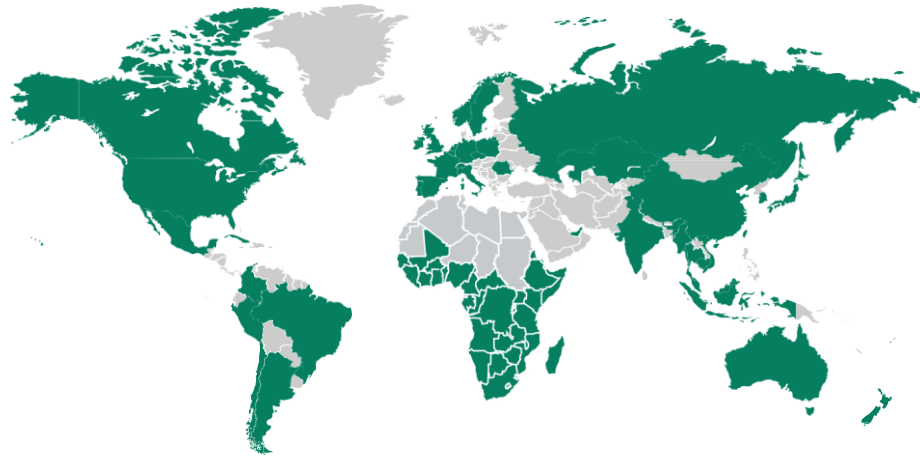
© Copyright 2022 by The ERM International Group Limited and/or its affiliates ('ERM'). All Rights Reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, without prior written permission of ERM.

*The business of sustainability*



# About ERM

Shaping a sustainable future with the world's leading organizations



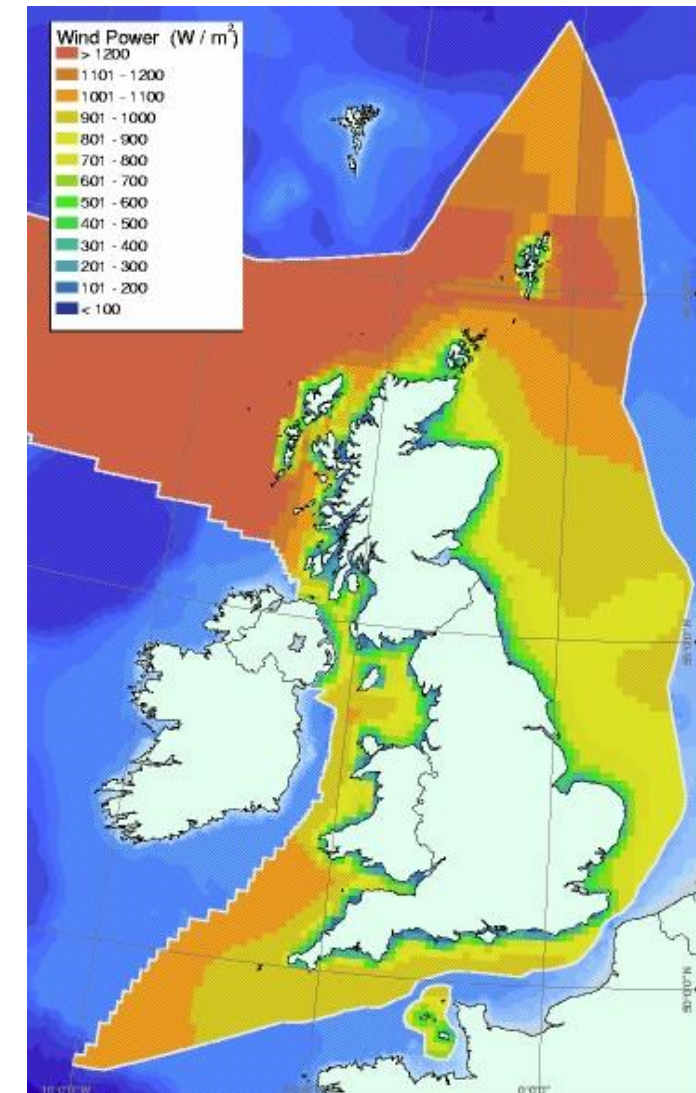
ERM is a leading global provider of technical, environmental, health, safety and sustainability related services

For nearly 50 years we have been working with the world's leading organizations, in power, utilities, natural resources and energy transition sectors, delivering innovative solutions and helping clients to understand and manage their business and sustainability challenges



# The UK Has Significant Wind Reserves in Deep Water Regions

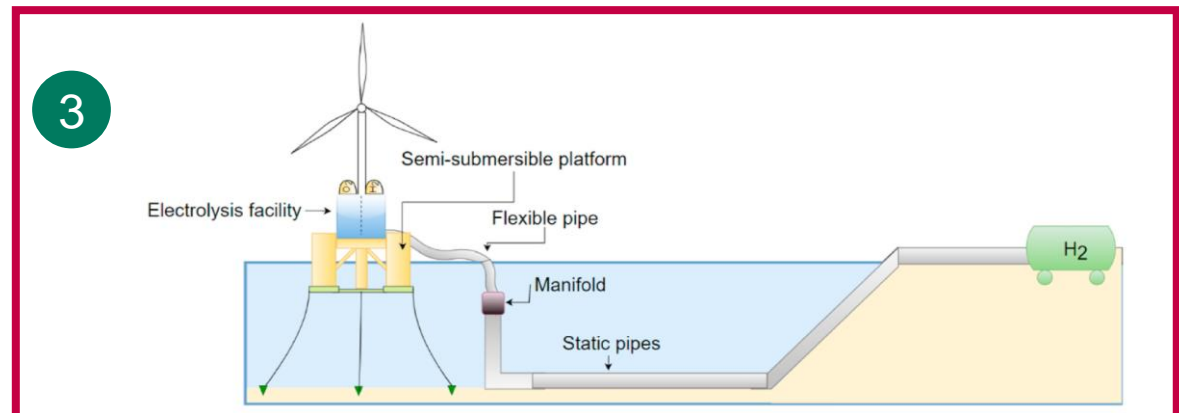
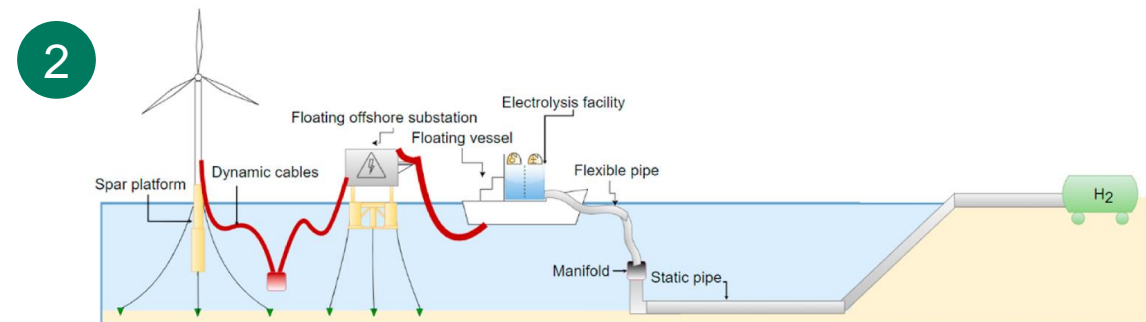
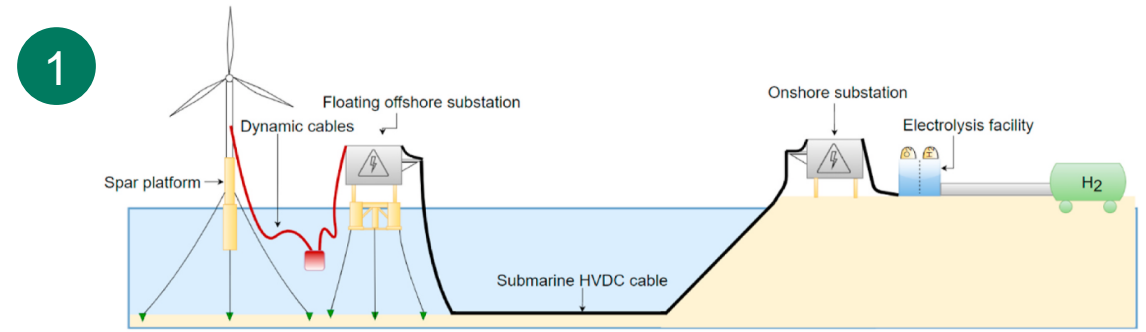
- The United Kingdom is a unique situation with a plethora of offshore wind resources. Majority in deep waters:
  - **790GW** in waters depths **50 – 100m<sup>1</sup>**;
  - **1,030GW** in water depths **100m<sup>+</sup>**.
- Fundamentally agreed that deep offshore floating wind will play a vital part in decarbonisation.
- The implementation of shared infrastructure is vital to unlocking floating offshore wind, and hydrogen enables that.



Source for Figure: The Azimuth Project

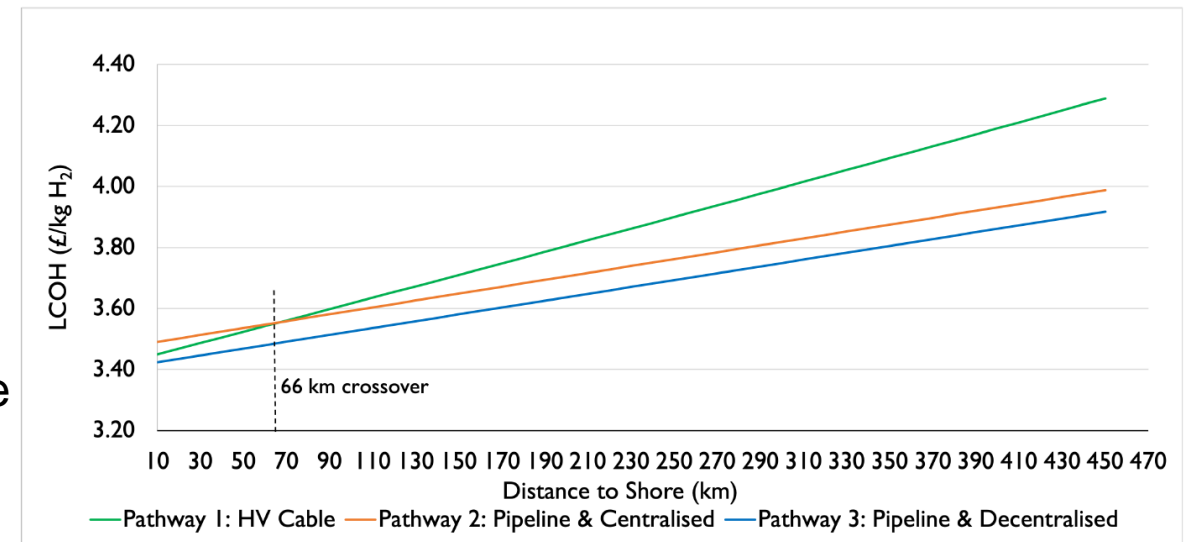
# Decentralised Offshore Electrolysis Has Key Advantages Over Other Topologies

- 3 main topologies for producing hydrogen from offshore wind:
  - 1) Centralised onshore electrolysis;
  - 2) Centralised offshore electrolysis;
  - 3) Decentralised offshore electrolysis.
- Focus on decentralised offshore electrolysis, due to the following advantages:
  - Cost effective for all distances from shore.
  - Sharing infrastructure is easier.
  - No separate additional support structure is required.
  - Configuration is more modular.



# Decentralised Offshore Electrolysis is The Most Economical Configuration for Hydrogen Production

- ERM's own analysis concluded that decentralised offshore electrolysis is the most economical configuration.
- Other resources agree with this conclusion, in particular, an unpublished piece of work by Max Peel et al. found that for all distances from shore it was the most economically advantageous.
- For this reason, ERM has pursued this design configuration with ERM Dolphyn (floating offshore wind to hydrogen concept).



Source: M. Peel et al. *A Match Made at Sea: Hydrogen and Floating Wind* (Unpublished)



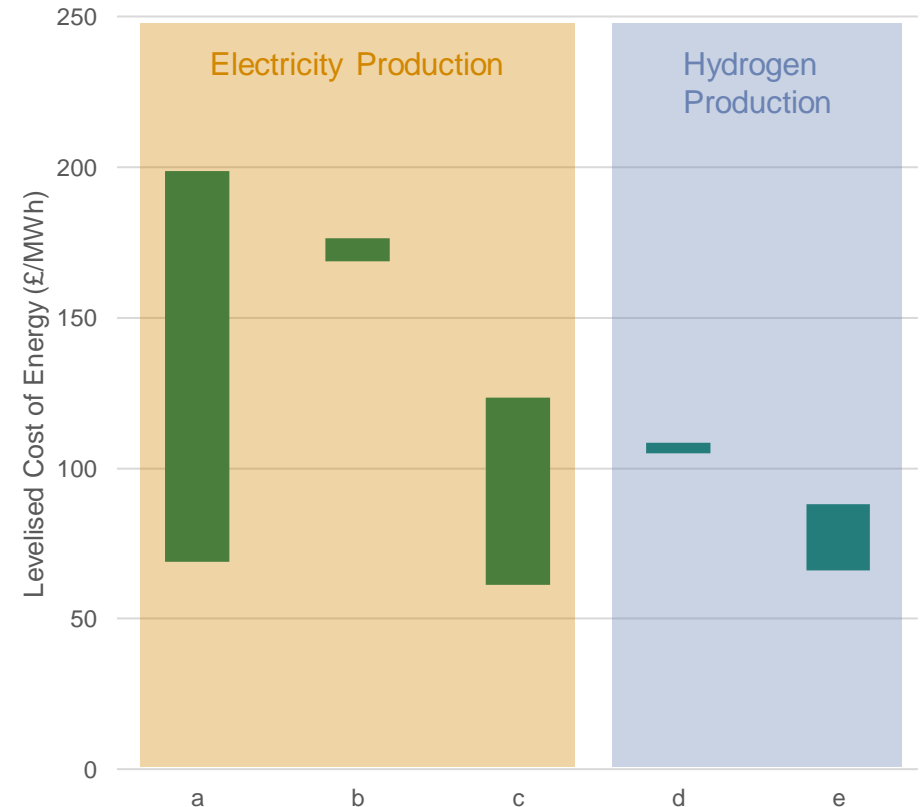
# Hydrogen Production LCOE is Within the Same Region as Electricity Production from Floating Offshore Wind

- Hydrogen and electricity production from floating wind is comparable in the levelised cost, due to:
  - HVDC CAPEX and installation cost.<sup>1</sup>
  - Lower carrying capacity of HVDC wires vs H2 pipelines.<sup>1</sup>
  - Electricity losses over HVDC wires over long distances.<sup>1</sup>
- Further benefits to hydrogen other than costs include:
  - Provides an alternative to regions with high electricity grid constraints e.g. South Wales.
  - Reduces cable congestion.
  - Allows for sharing of offshore infrastructure.

## Alignment with external references:

“The cost of the pipelines to shore is found to be lower compared to electricity cables and this is closely dependent on the distance of OSW farm and platform to shore. The cost to supply and install the hydrogen pipeline is estimated at roughly **£1m/ km**. This compares favourably with the cost to supply and install 220kV export cable of roughly **£1m/ km and a 1.2GW windfarm requiring three to four cables, giving an export cable supply cost of >£3m/km**. If retrofitting of existing O&G pipelines is also considered, then the cost can drop even lower.”

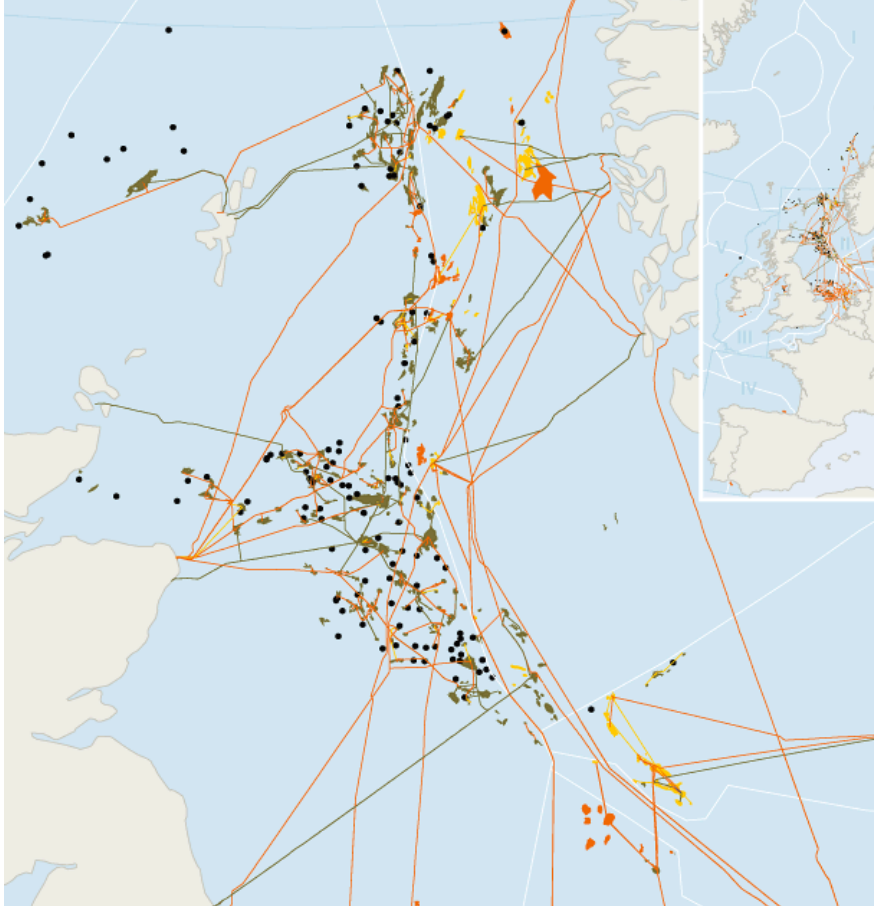
Source: ORE Catapult, 2020, Offshore Wind and Hydrogen, Solving the Integration Challenge



Sources:

- [Levelised cost of energy for offshore floating wind turbines in a life&nbsp;cycle perspective | Elsevier Enhanced Reader](#)
- [Incorporating stochastic operation and maintenance models into the techno-economic analysis of floating offshore wind farms | Elsevier Enhanced Reader](#)
- [applsci-10-08899.pdf](#)
- [M. Peel et al. A Match Made at Sea: Hydrogen and Floating Wind \(Unpublished\)](#)
- [Solving-the-Integration-Challenge-ORE-Catapult.pdf](#)

# Potential for Further Expansion through shared Transmission Infrastructure



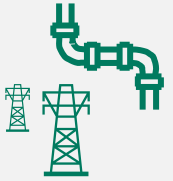
Source for Figure: [QSR 2010 - Offshore Oil and Gas Industry - What are the problems? \(ospar.org\)](#)

- Hydrogen pipeline transmission allows oversizing to create a trunk line, shared between developers.
- Greater economies of scale can be achieved with a higher capacity hydrogen pipeline vs electrical cables.
- This characteristic makes it ideal for unlocking floating offshore wind.<sup>1</sup>
- Furthermore, utilising shared offshore hydrogen pipelines are analogous to the O&G industry:
  - Build on the expertise of a developed industry.
  - Already shown shared offshore infrastructure is possible (c. 5 pipelines connect Scotland to 100s of O&G rigs as seen in Figure to the left).
  - Part of a “just transition”.

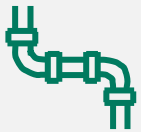
# Key Summaries



The United Kingdom has a plethora of wind resources located deep offshore.



In order to harness this, it is vital to develop optimal transmission infrastructure.



Hydrogen pipelines are well suited for this application:

- Significant economies of scale with increased capacity.
- Allows oversizing and a modular roll-out of wind farms.



Significant and important opportunities for collaboration on sharing offshore transmission infrastructure.



Allows building upon vast learnings from the O&G sector and just transition







**Thank you**

**David Wickham**  
Hydrogen Consultant:  
EMEA  
david.wickham@erm.com  
+44 117 910 6771  
Bristol, United Kingdom