



# EirGrid Offshore Programme

Update

December 2025



[EirGrid.ie](https://eirgrid.ie)



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# 1 Introduction

## Context

EirGrid, as Transmission System Operator ('TSO'), develops, manages and operates the transmission grid in Ireland. It balances electricity supply and demand every minute of the day, while also planning for Ireland's long-term electricity needs.

Ireland's grid infrastructure and the capacity and capability of EirGrid to fulfil its critical role is fundamental to unlocking greater energy independence and security, as well as supporting national and regional economic growth and a resilient society.

Through its integral involvement in the offshore and renewable energy space, EirGrid is playing a central role in Ireland's efforts to reduce emissions. Bringing abundant renewable energy resources onto the grid allows us to decrease our reliance on fossil fuels for electricity generation, which will be a central factor in achieving Ireland's climate goals, will benefit our economy and society and will support energy security.

Ireland is experiencing a period of growth which has been accelerated by the 2025 Programme for Government, 'Securing Ireland's Future'.

In this Programme, the Government puts emphasis on prioritising the delivery of essential infrastructure projects, including energy, and makes a commitment to prioritise investment in the electricity system.

Among the measures in the Government's Climate Action Plan is to increase the proportion of renewable electricity to 80%, targeting at least 5 gigawatts ('GW') of offshore wind energy.

## Preparation for offshore wind

EirGrid is currently progressing the most ambitious programme of work ever taken on the transmission system in Ireland. This includes connecting significant volumes of offshore and onshore wind, solar and conventional generation while also reinforcing the grid to enable this power to reach demand customers throughout the country. There will be upgrades and reinforcements to the grid to ensure it is resilient and renewable ready.

EirGrid has been given a role in owning and managing offshore wind transmission assets.

Our preparation for this role includes

- Getting our internal systems and business 'offshore ready' for the ownership and operation of offshore transmission assets through the [Offshore Asset Readiness Plan \(OARP\)](#)
- Arranging for the purchase of transmission infrastructure from private developers in the case of the Phase 1 projects

- Preparing to construct offshore transmission assets in the case of [Powering Up Offshore South Coast](#).

## 2 Phase 1 Developments



Figure 1 Phase 1 projects

Ireland's first offshore wind auction ('ORESS1') provided four successful projects with support to deliver offshore wind generation off Ireland's coast. Two further projects are also being developed to deliver offshore wind generation off Ireland's coast. During 2025, EirGrid was notified by the developers of the Sceirde Rocks project, one of the successful ORESS1 projects, of its decision to no longer proceed.

EirGrid has been engaging with the Phase 1 developers to support delivery of offshore wind generation and working to ensure Offshore Phase 1 Infrastructure is designed and planned in order to have a smooth and compliant integration with the Irish Transmission System.

On completion, the offshore transmission assets connecting these offshore generation projects to the transmission system will be transferred from the developer to EirGrid. This is expected to occur after a set period of operation post energisation of the offshore assets.

The asset transfer values ('ATV') associated with the offshore transmission assets will be determined by CRU following a post construction review in accordance with relevant offshore policy decisions. This process will conclude at a gateway known as the 'Final Operational Notice' gateway.

ATVs will be paid to Phase 1 developers by EirGrid for the transfer of offshore transmission assets. The offshore wind farm assets will, however, remain with the developers who will own and operate the wind farms.

As such, a large proportion of the development activities for the Phase 1 projects are the responsibility of the developers. However, there are several activities that EirGrid must complete to support the progression of Phase 1 including, but not limited to:

- Addressing customer technical queries received via request for information logs.
- Processing derogations ahead of the commencement of detailed design review.
- Leading technical and non-technical commissioning workshops with Wind Energy Ireland and each developer at early design stages.
- Supporting power system design through engagement with developers by EirGrid system planners and updating EirGrid models on the next iteration of customer power system design philosophy.
- Providing general and functional specifications for the Phase 1 Developers.

EirGrid is engaging with developers on a regular basis to obtain regular, consistent and up to date project information in support of offshore readiness dependency mapping.

This engagement is a critical component of EirGrid's OARP. Whilst further detail on the OARP is provided in the next section, the OARP's timeline is planned to align with the delivery and asset transfer of the earliest offshore wind farm development (i.e., the forerunner project). Currently the forerunner is a Phase 1 project.

Proactive engagement with the Phase 1 developers is therefore critical to assess what the current forerunner project is. Any changes to timelines associated with the Phase 1 projects may therefore have a knock-on impact on EirGrid's OARP.

At the time of this document, EirGrid understands that all Phase 1 developers have submitted planning applications to An Coimisiún Pleanála and currently await Planning Consent.

# 3 Offshore Asset Readiness Plan (‘OARP’)

The OARP is EirGrid’s ambitious and critical business transformation project to ensure that it is ready to own and operate the offshore transmission assets being delivered by Phase 1 Developers and through Powering Up Offshore South Coast.

The OARP is made up of 30 individual programmes which aim to ensure that EirGrid has the necessary capabilities to own, operate and maintain offshore transmission assets. Underpinning delivery of the 30 OARP programmes are a number of programme specific projects. Further details on the 30 OARP programmes can be found in Appendix 1 of this document.

The OARP will enable EirGrid to assume our asset management remit, to transition each asset from early customer operation, and to effectively own and operate the transmission infrastructure throughout its lifecycle. All readiness activities/projects shall be organised and planned within three broadly sequential stages.



1. **OARP** defines the key activities to build the capability EirGrid requires to own, operate, and maintain offshore transmission assets. This will include enhancing EirGrid’s capabilities across areas such as finance, IT, operations, asset management, planning, engineering, contract and works management. Of the 30 capability programmes and projects within OARP, some will conclude on or around asset transfer. Others, in advance of asset transfer shall overlap with pre-operations projects described below.
2. **Pre-operations** is a set of projects, and the associated organisation required to build/transition the arrangements for/from each Asset/Customer to an enduring ownership state. Pre-operations apply the capabilities developed through the OARP on an asset-by-asset basis. Pre-operations projects will commence in advance of Asset Transfer based on a range of triggers.
3. **Enduring operations** encompasses annually recurring management activities, maintenance and inspection works and projects, in addition to managing the ongoing availability, reliability and integrity of each and all transmission system assets for their lifecycle.

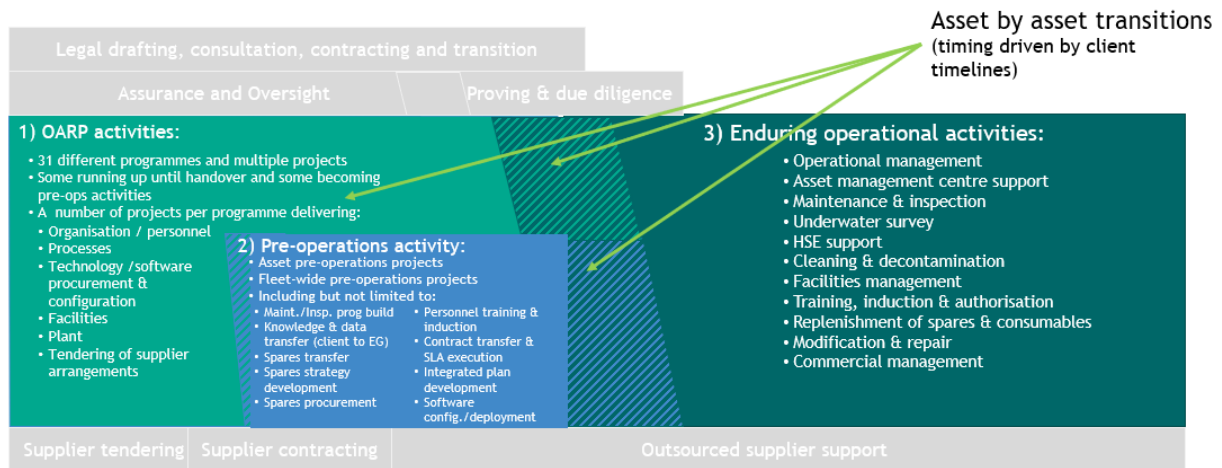


Figure 2 OARP, Pre-operations & Enduring Operational Activities Timelines

EirGrid has an agile and flexible approach to programme prioritisation using data driven feedback loops informed by forerunner developer timelines. As development updates are received, EirGrid is and will continually optimise the overall OARP to stay ahead of the critical path of each project, while redirecting resources for efficiency, where prudent to do so.

The OARP has three distinct governance milestones that monitor progress as the capabilities are developed and delivered:

- Scoping - defines the projects objectives, requirements, risks and high-level plan to establish a clear direction.
- Final Investment Decision ('FID') - confirms funding, resources and commitment to proceed based on the approved business case and risk assessment.
- Go live - marks the official launch, where the solution becomes operational and available to end user.

To date, 15 of the 30 OARP programmes have approval to commence Scoping activities. Projects that support the 30 OARP programmes have also progressed through different stages of governance, with one project achieving FID and Go-Live approval.

Further details on the timelines associated to the 30 OARP programmes can be found in Appendix 2.

An OARP guidance document can be found [here](#), which gives further information on the scope of individual programmes.

Further information on the OARP can be found at [www.eirgrid.ie/oarp](http://www.eirgrid.ie/oarp).

# 4 Powering Up Offshore South Coast

Powering Up Offshore South Coast aims to build the new transmission grid infrastructure necessary to bring power generated by the offshore wind farms onto our national grid.

The South Coast - Designated Maritime Area Plan ('SC-DMAP') is Ireland's first forward spatial plan for offshore renewable energy. It includes four proposed areas for future offshore wind development. The first area off the south coast that will host an offshore wind farm development is area A, Tonn Nua.

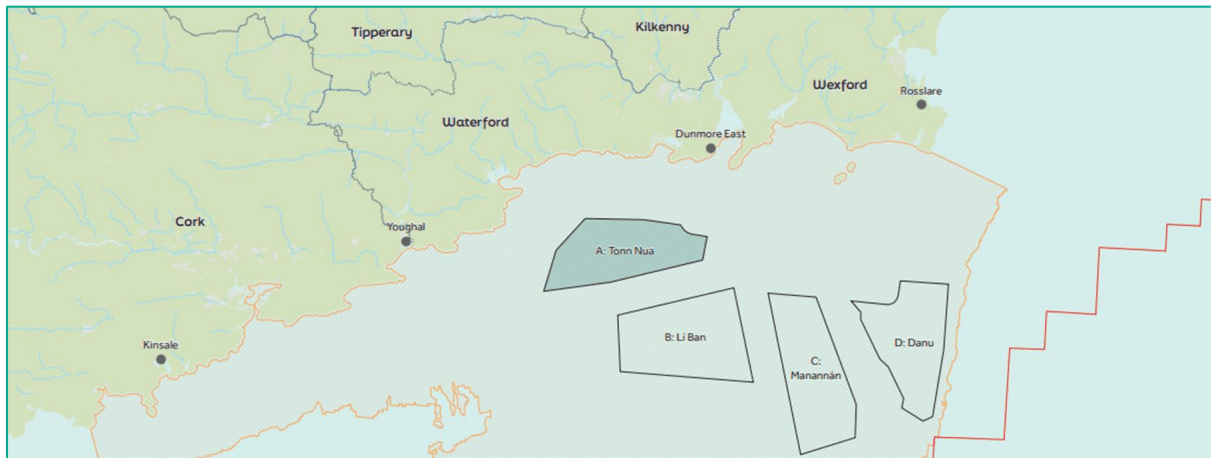


Figure 3 SC-DMAP Areas

Once operational, this wind farm will generate 900 MW of offshore wind energy, enough to power nearly a million homes, and support Ireland's climate action targets.

For this project the following infrastructure is required:

- Two offshore substations - to be located within the Maritime Area A, also known as Tonn Nua, of the SC-DMAP
- Offshore transmission cables connecting the offshore substations to landfall locations.
- New onshore substations.
- Connections between landfalls and new onshore substations by underground cables.
- Loop-in connections to the existing electricity transmission network from the new substations by either underground cables or overhead lines.

The offshore wind farms will be developed by private developers. In December 2025, a joint venture between ESB and Ørsted was announced as the winner of the ORESS Tonn Nua auction. The ORESS Tonn Nua auction is administered by EirGrid on behalf of Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment ('DCEE').

Further information on the Powering Up Offshore South Coast project can be found at [www.eirgrid.ie/offshore](http://www.eirgrid.ie/offshore)

# 5 Key EirGrid Offshore Programme 2025 updates

During 2025, EirGrid has continued to work at pace across its entire offshore programme to ensure that it is ready to take on its offshore role.

As part of this EirGrid have engaged extensively with a wide variety of stakeholders from the DCEE, CRU, developers, industry bodies, the supply chain, communities, academia and wider stakeholders.

In addition, EirGrid has been engaging with Government. For example, EirGrid Chief Executive Cathal Marley has attended meetings relating to offshore wind development involving the Taoiseach and senior Government officials. These engagements are critical to supporting EirGrid's offshore programme.

It is also noted that the Government announced during 2025 that EirGrid would see a significant equity injection<sup>1</sup> to support EirGrid's work to, amongst other things, expand its electricity transmission and distribution network infrastructure offshore.

Other key activities that EirGrid has undertaken during 2025 include:

- Key regulatory submissions to CRU, including the Transmission Connection Agreement and Asset Purchase Agreement.
- Submission of EirGrid's response to CRU's draft PR6 determination<sup>2</sup> in October 2025. CRU's final PR6 determination is essential to creating regulatory certainty for the next five years (2026-2030) and determines the allowances for PR6 required to deliver the offshore programme, while at the same time delivering value for the consumer.
- Launch of a new public facing [webpage](#) dedicated to the OARP, which includes links to relevant publications to keep stakeholders informed and engaged.
- Procurement activities to support delivery of the OARP, including engagements with ports and the wider supply chain to ensure the necessary capabilities are delivered for EirGrid to undertake its offshore role.
- Award of a Maritime Usage Licence to EirGrid to undertake marine surveys related to Tonn Nua. Phase 1 of these surveys commenced in July 2025 and have now been completed.

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<sup>1</sup> [Minister O'Brien welcomes €3.5 billion investment in Ireland's electricity infrastructure](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Draft Determination on Price Review 6 Framework will underpin record investment in Ireland's energy infrastructure from 2026-2030. | CRU.ie](#)

- Surveys included comprehensive marine geophysical, metocean and environmental surveys, and intertidal non-intrusive landfall investigations involving geophysical and environmental surveys.
- An overview of the 2025 marine survey campaign can be found [here](#).
- Two recently deployed MetOcean buoys will stay on site until late-2026, continuing to collect valuable marine and weather data, including waves, water quality, wind, and sunlight, to support offshore planning and environmental monitoring.



*Figure 4 Blue Fin Tuna observed by EirGrid's Marine Mammal Observer during Tonn Nua marine surveying works. Credit: 528 Creative.*

- Acquired data will be assessed and further surveys, including geophysical, geotechnical and unexploded ordnance ('UXO'), will take place in 2026.



*Figure 5 Kommander Iona in Roche's Point, Cork. 528 Creative.*

- In connection with Tonn Nua, EirGrid also published its Step 3 Consultation & Engagement Report<sup>3</sup> and has commenced optioneering works to narrow down grid infrastructure zones and landfall areas as part of EirGrid’s Step 4 activities.
- As mentioned in section 4, a joint venture between ESB and Ørsted was announced as the winner of the ORESS Tonn Nua auction.
- In October 2025, the CRU published its decision on ‘General and Functional Specifications’ changes for Phase 1 projects whereby only a small number of EirGrid’s offshore specifications required further review which was welcome. This decision followed a new process for review by the CRU. EirGrid engaged extensively with the CRU as part of this new process, providing comprehensive submissions.
- In December 2025, the CRU published its PR6 Final Determination. EirGrid welcomes this decision, which was a result of extensive engagement between EirGrid and the CRU over the past two years. The determination provides for a new Offshore regulatory framework which will enable EirGrid to advance its offshore activities over the next five-year period (2026-2030). The framework includes challenging stretch targets through incentivisation and EirGrid will work closely with the CRU throughout the PR6 period to ensure the successful implementation of the decision.

EirGrid is developing its organisation to ensure it has the necessary people, processes and systems in place to position for successful financing, operation, ownership, and maintenance of Ireland’s offshore assets.

EirGrid is undertaking several initiatives to support employee attraction and retention.

Further information on the career opportunities available at EirGrid can be found at [www.eirgrid.ie/careers](https://www.eirgrid.ie/careers)

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<sup>3</sup> <https://cms.eirgrid.ie/sites/default/files/publications/PUOSC-Step-3-Consultation-Report-March-2025.pdf>

## 6 Key activities planned for 2026

EirGrid also has a number of key activities planned during 2026, which include but are not limited to:

- Continued engagement with Phase 1 developers to support the delivery of these projects;
- Continued engagement with Government and regulatory bodies to support the development and delivery of offshore infrastructure;
- Implementation of CRU decision on Phase 1 Offshore Wind General and Functional Specifications
- Continued engagement with the supply chain and wider stakeholders in connection with the offshore sector;
- Engagement with the winning auction bidder from ORESS Tonn Nua to deliver the Tonn Nua project;
- Progressing and consulting on the best performing landfall options and cable route options to connect into the grid on the Tonn Nua project;
- Progressing the OARP programme to ensure delivery of these programmes to support the building of EirGrid's capability to undertake its onshore role.
- In connection with Tonn Nua, acquired survey data will be assessed and further surveys, including geophysical, geotechnical and UXO, will take place in 2026.
- Later in 2026, EirGrid will look to launch its public consultation on its Step 4 activities in connection with Tonn Nua. Further information on EirGrid's step framework can be found at [www.eirgrid.ie/offshore](http://www.eirgrid.ie/offshore)

# 7 Further information and key links

Further information on EirGrid and its offshore programme can be found at:

- [www.eirgrid.ie](http://www.eirgrid.ie)
- [www.eirgrid.ie/oarp](http://www.eirgrid.ie/oarp)
- [www.eirgrid.ie/offshore](http://www.eirgrid.ie/offshore)
- [www.eirgrid.ie/careers](http://www.eirgrid.ie/careers)

# Appendix 1 - Summary of OARP Programmes

Ref.	Programme Title:	Description:
BCR	Business Continuity and Resilience	Arrangements to manage the potential impact and recovery from availability threats to offshore transmission.
CMO	Commercial Management & Organisation	Capability and arrangements required to manage the commercial and supplier contractual relationships post asset handover.
CYB	Security (Cyber)	Supplementary capability required to meet offshore cyber security requirements.
ENG	Engineering	Engineering, modifications & repair arrangements required for offshore operations.
ENV	Environmental	Supplementary environmental management capability to support offshore transmission operations.
FIO	Finance Operations & Control	Financial management & insurance arrangements required to control the commitment, financing, expenditure, and exposure of/to offshore transmission.
FIR	Finance System & Reporting	Financial routines and systems required to monitor, report and account for the cost of offshore operations.
HAS	Health and Safety	The rules, management arrangements and work controls required to safely and responsibly manage the offshore assets, and associated operations.
HRR	Human Resources & Recruitment	The governance, recruitment, onboarding, remuneration and career development arrangements required to sustain offshore asset management.
IAP	Integrated Activity Planning	The processes and tools required to ensure routine and non-routine activities on or effecting the offshore transmission system do not affect availability.
INT	Interface Management	Commercial & Technical arrangements required to define & manage the enduring interfaces between generation, TAO and TSO.
KIM	Knowledge & Information Management	Software solutions required to support the work, information, planning, work/activity, and data management needs of offshore.
LEG	Legal Agreements & Support	Legal mechanisms and support, required to connect, transfer ownership and define the enduring rights and obligations between parties for offshore.
LOG	Logistics	Marine, terrestrial and airborne transportation arrangements required to transport goods, materials and personnel to offshore and onshore locations.
LPM	Land & Property Management	Arrangements for the management of land and property consents, transfer of ownership, and the enduring obligations to owners/stakeholders.
MAI	Maintenance & Inspection	The strategies, programmes, processes and resources required to determine and maintain, the integrity, availability, and compliance of the offshore assets.
MAR	Marine Co-ordination	Arrangements for the management of offshore activity, logistics and personnel within each wind farm.

Ref.	Programme Title:	Description:
MEM	Metering & Measurement	Processes, protocols, and associated assurance regimes, required for the calibration and maintenance of offshore metering facilities.
PBE	Public Engagement	Resources and routines required to extend EirGrid's public engagement obligations to manage relevant stakeholders' expectations for offshore.
PBR	Public Relations	Resources and routines required to support EirGrid's public relations requirements and expectation for offshore.
PRM	Project Management	Processes and routines to set-up and effectively manage asset management related projects during the life of the offshore infrastructure.
QMS	Quality Management Systems	Management system arrangements, processes and oversight, to meet the requirements of ISO55000 and maintain EirGrid within certification.
REG	Regulatory Reporting	Extend, enhance, and augment the regulatory reporting arrangements required to meet offshore licence, fiscal, sustainability and HSE obligations.
RMC	Operations, Remote Monitoring & Control Services	The asset management centre from which the status, condition, security, and work execution of offshore transmission is monitored.
RSK	Risk Management	The programme, project and technical, risk identification, registration and control arrangements required for offshore.
SCM	Supply Chain Management	Buyer promotion, supplier registration, procurement planning, contracting and contract management arrangements required for offshore.
SEC	Security (Physical)	Establishment of transitional, monitoring and management arrangements for physical security of each offshore transmission system.
TEA	Technical Authority	The technical and functional disciplines required to specify, assess, and evaluate the design, processes and condition of/for the offshore asset.
TRD	Training & Development	Definition of the skills, induction, and competence needs, together with associated training providers required for offshore.
WHO	Warehousing	Warehouse storage arrangements for Insurance, Capital and Operational Spares, and the associated inventory management system.

# Appendix 2 - OARP Programme Timelines

No.	Programme Name	Stage 1 (Scoping Stage)	Financial Investment Decision (FID)	Go Live
1	BCR Business Continuity & Resilience	Q4 2026	Q1 2029	Q4 2029
2	CMO Commercial Management & Organisation	Q1 2027	Q3 2027	Q4 2029
3	CYB Cyber Security	Q2 2025	Q4 2026	Q4 2028
4	ENG Engineering	Q4 2028	Q3 2029	Q2 2030
5	ENV Environmental Management	Q4 2025	Q1 2028	Q4 2028
6	FIO Finance Operations & Control	Q1 2026	TBC	TBC
7	FIR Finance Systems & Reporting	Q4 2024	Q4 2026	Q1 2028
8	HAS Health & Safety	Q3 2024	Q3 2026	Q2 2028
9	HRR Recruitment & Resources	Q4 2026	Q3 2027	Q2 2028
10	IAP Integrated Activity Planning	Q4 2025	Q1 2028	Q3 2029
11	INT Interface Management	Q1 2025	Q3 2026	Q1 2029
12	KIM Knowledge & Information Management	Q3 2024	Q2 2026	Q4 2029
13	LEG Legal Agreements & Contracts	Q3 2024	Q3 2026	Q4 2030
14	LOG Logistics	Q3 2027	Q4 2028	Q3 2029
15	LPM Land & Property Management	Q4 2027	Q4 2028	Q4 2029
16	MAI Maintenance & Inspection	Q3 2025	Q1 2027	Q3 2029
17	MAR Marine Coordination	Q4 2026	Q4 2027	Q1 2029
18	MEM Metering & Measurement	Q2 2026	Q2 2027	Q3 2027
19	PBE Public Engagement	Q4 2026	Q3 2028	Q4 2029
20	PBR Public Relations	Q1 2027	Q4 2027	Q3 2028
21	PRM Project Management	Q2 2028	Q2 2029	Q1 2030

No.	Programme Name	Stage 1 (Scoping Stage)	Financial Investment Decision (FID)	Go Live
22	QMS Quality Management Systems	Q4 2024	Q1 2026	Q3 2029
23	REG Regulatory Reporting	Q3 2026	Q2 2027	Q1 2029
24	RMC Operations Remote Monitoring & Control Services	Q1 2025	Q1 2027	Q4 2027
25	RSK Risk Management	Q4 2024	Q2 2026	Q4 2028
26	SCM Supply Chain Management	Q4 2024	Q2 2026	Q4 2028
27	SEC Physical Security	Q1 2028	Q2 2029	Q1 2030
28	TEA Technical Authority	Q2 2025	Q4 2027	Q1 2030
29	TRD Training & Development	Q3 2026	Q2 2027	Q2 2029
30	WHO Warehousing	Q2 2024	Q4 2026	Q4 2029

### Key

Milestone Colour	Milestone Status
Blue	Completed
Light Green	On target to meet delivery date
Orange	At risk of or has missed delivery date by no more than one quarter
Red	At risk of or has missed delivery date by more than one quarter

## Appendix 3 - List of Acronyms

Acronym	Description
OARP	Offshore Asset Readiness Plan
TSO	Transmission System Operator
GW	Gigawatts
ORESS1	Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme 1
ATV	Asset Transfer Value
IT	Information Technology
FID	Final Investment Decision
SC-DMAP	South Cost Designation Marine Area Planning
MW	Megawatts
DCEE	Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment
CRU	Commission for Regulation of Utilities
PR6	Price Review 6
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
ORESS	Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme