Cenos Offshore Windfarm Limited

Cenos EIA

Chapter 1 - Introduction

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ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
AEoI	Adverse Effect on Integrity
CEnv	Chartered Environmentalist
CES	Crown Estate Scotland
CIA	Cumulative Impact Assessment
CMarSci	Chartered Marine Scientist
CMarTech	Chartered Marine Technologist
CNS	Central North Sea
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
cSAC	Candidate Special Areas of Conservation
CSci	Chartered Scientist
C.WEM	Chartered Water and Environment Manager
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
EICC	Export/Import Cable Corridor
EEA	European Economic Area
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
FEED	Front End Engineering Design
FLO	Fisheries Liaison Officer
FMMS	Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy
FTU	Floating Turbine Unit
GW	Gigawatt
HRA	Habitats Regulations Appraisal
HVAC	High Voltage Alternating Current
IAC	Inter-Array Cables
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
INTOG	Innovation and Targeted Oil & Gas
iPCoD	Interim Population Consequences of Disturbance
IPF	Initial Plan Framework
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
km	Kilometre

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team
MEEB	Measures of Equivalent Environmental Benefit
MIMarEST	Member of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology
MLA	Marine Licence Applications
MMMP	Marine Mammal Mitigation Plan
NCMPA	Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas
NRA	Navigational Risk Assessments
NSTD	North Sea Transition Deal
OSCPs	Offshore Substation Converter Platforms
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
PDE	Project Design Envelope
PhD	Doctorate of Philosophy
pSPA	Proposed Special Protection Areas
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
ROV	Remotely Operated Vehicle
s.36	Section 36
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SOCE	Statement of Combined Effects
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
SWFPA	Scottish White Fish Producers Association
TEPCO	Tokyo Electric Power Company
UK	United Kingdom
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator

GLOSSARY

TERM	DEFINITION
2023 Scoping Opinion	Scoping Opinion received in June 2023, superseded by the 2024 Scoping Opinion.
2023 Scoping Report	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report submitted in 2023, superseded by the 2024 Scoping Report.
2024 Scoping Opinion	Scoping Opinion received in September 2024, superseding the 2023 Scoping Opinion.
2024 Scoping Report	EIA Scoping Report submitted in April 2024, superseding the 2023 Scoping Report.
Area of Opportunity	The area in which the limits of electricity transmission via High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) cables can reach oil and gas assets for decarbonisation. This area is based on assets within a 100 kilometre (km) radius of the Array Area.
Array Area	The area within which the Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs), floating substructures, moorings and anchors, Offshore Substation Converter Platforms (OSCPs) and Inter-Array Cables (IAC) will be present.
Cenos Offshore Windfarm ('the Project')	'The Project' is the term used to describe Cenos Offshore Windfarm. The Project is a floating offshore windfarm located in the North Sea, with a generating capacity of up to 1,350 Megawatts (MW). The Project which defines the Red Line Boundary (RLB) for the Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence Applications (MLA), includes all offshore components seaward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) (WTGs, OSCPs, cables, floating substructures moorings and anchors and all other associated infrastructure). The Project is the focus of this Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).
Cenos Offshore Windfarm Ltd. (The Applicant)	The Applicant for the Section 36 Consent and associated Marine Licences.

TERM	DEFINITION
Cumulative Assessment	The consideration of potential impacts that could occur cumulatively with other relevant projects, plans, and activities that could result in a cumulative effect on receptors.
Developer	Cenos Offshore Windfarm Ltd., a Joint Venture between Flotation Energy and Vårgrønn As (Vårgrønn).
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	The statutory process of evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed project or development. Assessment of the potential impact of the proposed Project on the physical, biological and human environment during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning.
Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations	This term is used to refer to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations which are of relevance to the Project. This includes the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended); and the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007.
Environmental Impact Assessment Report	A report documenting the findings of the EIA for the Project in accordance with relevant EIA Regulations.
Export/Import Cable	High voltage cable used to export/import power between the OSCPs and Landfall.
Export/Import Cable Bundle (EICB)	Comprising two Export/Import Cables and one fibre-optic cable bundled in a single trench.
Export/Import Cable Corridor (EICC)	The area within which the Export/Import Cable Route will be planned and the Export/Import Cable will be laid, from the perimeter of the Array Area to MHWS.
Export/Import Cable Route	The area within the Export/Import Export Corridor (EICC) within which the Export/Import Cable Bundle (EICB) is laid, from the perimeter of the Array Area to MHWS.

TERM	DEFINITION
Floating Turbine Unit (FTU)	The equipment associated with electricity generation comprising the WTG, the floating substructure which supports the WTG, mooring system and the dynamic section of the IAC.
Flotation Energy	Joint venture partner in Cenos Offshore Windfarm Ltd.
Habitats Regulations	The Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/ECC) and the Wild Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC) were transposed into Scottish Law by the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 ('Habitats Regulations') (up to 12 NM); by the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 ('Offshore Marine Regulations') (beyond 12 NM); the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (of relevance to consents under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989); the Offshore Petroleum Activities (Conservation of Habitats) Regulations 2001; and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The Habitats Regulations set out the stages of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) process required to assess the potential impacts of a proposed project on European Sites (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, candidate SACs and SPAs and Ramsar Sites).
Habitats Regulations Appraisal	The assessment of the impacts of implementing a plan or policy on a European Site, the purpose being to consider the impacts of a project against conservation objectives of the site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of the site.
High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC)	Refers to high voltage electricity in Alternating Current (AC) form which is produced by the WTGs and flows through the IAC system to the OSCPs. HVAC may also be used for onward power transmission from the OSCPs to assets or to shore over shorter distances.
High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC)	Refers to high voltage electricity in Direct Current (DC) form which is converted from HVAC to HVDC at the OSCPs and transmitted to shore over longer distances.
Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)	An engineering technique for laying cables that avoids open trenches by drilling between two locations beneath the ground's surface.

TERM	DEFINITION
Innovation and Targeted Oil & Gas (INTOG)	In November 2022, the Crown Estate Scotland (CES) announced the Innovation and Targeted Oil & Gas (INTOG) Leasing Round, to help enable this sector-wide commitment to decarbonisation. INTOG allowed developers to apply for seabed rights to develop offshore windfarms for the purpose of providing low carbon electricity to power oil and gas installations and help to decarbonise the sector. Cenos is an INTOG project and in November 2023 secured an Exclusivity Agreement as part of the INTOG leasing round.
Inter-Array Cable (IAC)	The cables which connect the WTGs to the OSCPs. WTGs may be connected with IACs into a hub or in series as a 'string' or a 'loop' such that power from the connected WTGs is gathered to the OSCPs via a single cable.
Joint Venture	The commercial partnership between Flotation Energy and Vårgrønn, the shareholders which hold the Exclusivity Agreement with CES to develop the Cenos site as an INTOG project.
Landfall	The area where the Export/Import Cable from the Array Area will be brought ashore. The interface between the offshore and onshore environments.
Marine Licence	Licence required for certain activities in the marine environment and granted under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and/or the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.
Marine Protected Area (MPA)	Marine sites protected at the national level under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 out to 12 NM, and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 between 12-200 NM. In Scotland MPAs are areas of sea and seabed defined so as to protect habitats, wildlife, geology, underseas landforms, historic shipwrecks and to demonstrate sustainable management of the sea.
Marine Protected Area (MPA) Assessment	A three-step process for determining whether there is a significant risk that a proposed development could hinder the achievement of the conservation objectives of an MPA.
Mean High Water Springs (MHWS)	The height of Mean High Water Springs is the average throughout the year, of two successive high waters, during a 24-hour period in each month when the range of the tide is at its greatest.

TERM	DEFINITION
Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS)	The height of Mean Low Water Springs is the average throughout a year of the heights of two successive low waters during periods of 24 hours (approximately once a fortnight).
Mitigation Measures	Measures considered within the topic-specific chapters in order to avoid impacts or reduce them to acceptable levels. • Primary mitigation - measures that are an inherent part of the design of the Project which reduce or avoid the likelihood or magnitude of an adverse environmental effect, including location or design; • Secondary mitigation – additional measures implemented to further reduce environmental effects to 'not significant' levels (where appropriate) and do not form part of the fundamental design of the Project; and • Tertiary mitigation – measures that are implemented in accordance with industry standard practice or to meet legislative requirements and are independent of the EIA (i.e. they would be implemented regardless of the findings of the EIA). Primary and tertiary mitigation are referred to as embedded mitigation. Secondary mitigation is referred to as additional mitigation.
Mooring System	Comprising the mooring lines and anchors, the mooring system connects the floating substructure to the seabed, provides station-keeping capability for the floating substructure and contributes to the stability of the floating substructure and WTG.
Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NCMPA)	MPA designated by Scottish Ministers in the interests of nature conservation under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.
Offshore Substation Converter Platforms (OSCPs)	An offshore platform on a fixed jacket substructure, containing electrical equipment to aggregate the power from the WTGs and convert power between HVAC and HVDC for export/import via the Export/Import Cable to/from the shore. The OSCPs will also act as power distribution stations for the Oil & Gas platforms.
Onward Development	Transmission projects which are anticipated to be brought forward for development by 3rd party oil and gas operators to enable electrification of assets via electricity generated by the Project. All Onward Development will subject to separate marine licensing and permitting requirements.
Onward Development Area	The area within which oil and gas assets would have the potential to be electrified by the Project.

TERM	DEFINITION
Onward Development Connections	Oil and gas assets located in the waters surrounding the Array Area will be electrified via transmission infrastructure which will connect to the Project's OSCPs. These transmission cables are referred to as Onward Development Connections.
Project Area	The area that encompasses both the Array Area and EICC.
Project Design Envelope	A description of the range of possible elements that make up the Project design options under consideration and that are assessed as part of the EIA for the Project.
Study Area	Receptor specific area where potential impacts from the Project could occur.
Transboundary Assessment	The consideration of impacts from the Project which have the potential to have a significant effect on another European Economic Area (EEA) state's environment. Where there is a potential for a transboundary effect, as a result of the Project, these are assessed within the relevant EIA chapter.
Transmission Infrastructure	The infrastructure responsible for moving electricity from generating stations to substations, load areas, assets and the electrical grid, comprising the OSCPs, and associated substructure, and the Export/Import Cable.
Vårgrønn As (Vårgrønn)	Joint venture partner in Cenos Offshore Windfarm Ltd.
Wind Turbine Generator (WTG)	The equipment associated with electricity generation from available wind resource, comprising the surface components located above the supporting substructure (e.g., tower, nacelle, hub, blades, and any necessary power transformation equipment, generators, and switchgears).
Worst-Case Scenario	The worst-case scenario based on the Project Design Envelope which varies by receptor and/or impact pathway identified.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

Established in March 2021, the North Sea Transition Deal (NSTD), is a sector deal between the United Kingdom (UK) Government and the oil and gas industry, with the aim to facilitate the decarbonisation of the oil and gas sector. A key commitment set out by the deal includes setting early emission reduction targets and investing up to £16 billion by 2030, in order to reduce oil and gas carbon emissions (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), 2021). Cenos Offshore Windfarm ('the Project') aligns with the aims of the NSTD by facilitating the electrification of offshore oil and gas installations and contributing to decarbonisation efforts, whilst also providing the UK Grid with surplus electricity; therefore, contributing to the UK climate and renewable energy targets.

Crown Estate Scotland (CES) announced the Innovation and Targeted Oil & Gas (INTOG) Leasing Round in November 2022, which aimed to help enable this sector-wide commitment to decarbonisation. INTOG allows developers to apply for the rights to construct offshore windfarms for the purpose of providing low carbon electricity to power oil and gas installations. This will also contribute to assist with decarbonising the sector.

In November 2022, the Applicant submitted a leasing application under the INTOG Leasing Round and was subsequently awarded an Exclusivity Agreement to develop the Project. The Project is entirely located within the area INTOG 'E-a' as defined in the Initial Plan Framework (IPF), which was published to appoint the planning framework and the areas of seabed that will form the spatial footprint for the CES leasing process.

1.2 The Project

The Project is a floating offshore windfarm, which is located 200 kilometre (km) offshore east of Aberdeen, from the closest edge of the Project Array Area, in the Central North Sea (CNS) (see Figure 1-1). The Project shall generate renewable electricity to the UK Grid from up to 95 Floating Turbine Units (FTUs) in addition to enabling efficient electrification of offshore Oil and Gas assets within the Onward Development Area. When wind speeds are insufficient to power the Oil and Gas assets directly, additional electricity would be imported from the UK grid through the Export/Import Cable connection.

The Project's lifetime is expected to exceed that of the oil and gas assets and, therefore, would continue to produce renewable electricity to the UK Grid after those assets are decommissioned. Overall, the requested consent duration of the Project is 35 years. The offshore construction phase is expected to commence in 2030 and would continue for approximately six years, with the aim to complete the windfarm construction by 2035.

As detailed in EIAR Vol. 2, Chapter 5: Project Description, the Project would comprise up to 95 Floating Turbine Units (FTUs), each FTU will have a WTG and a floating substructure, which would be moored to the seabed to ensure station-keeping within the Array Area. Inter-Array Cables (IACs) would be used to gather electricity from the FTU's to up to two central Offshore Substation Converter Platforms (OSCPs). The IAC's would have dynamic portions in the water column between the seabed and substructure, and static portions on or buried in the seabed. The final FTU layout for the Project would be determined post-consent and is dependent on environmental, technical, maritime, commercial and safety factors, such as seabed and metocean characteristics, and consideration of stakeholder

feedback. Included in the transmission assets, are the OSCPs and the offshore Export/Import Cables. The IACs will connect to the OSCPs to transmit power from the FTUs to the OSCPs.

The Applicant has entered into a binding agreement to acquire NorthConnect Limited (the "Acquisition"). Completion of the Acquisition is subject to receipt of customary regulatory approvals. Once this Acquisition is complete, the Applicant will hold the benefit of the Marine Licences granted in respect of the NorthConnect project as well as the planning permissions that have been granted for the onshore substation and cable infrastructure. Discussions remain ongoing as to whether the Applicant will utilise the full NorthConnect route to develop a multi-purpose interconnector that connects the Project (as well as future oil and gas Onward Development Connections) to Scotland and Norway. The Applicant intends to utilise the shoreward part of the NorthConnect cable corridor for its offshore transmission infrastructure, although it is applying for new marine licences to reflect the fact that its transmission infrastructure would not be part of an exempt interconnector cable and instead connected to an offshore generating station. For the avoidance of doubt, only one set of infrastructure would be placed within the consented cable corridor.

A central aim of the Project is to provide the opportunity for oil and gas assets located in the waters surrounding the Array Area to electrify via transmission infrastructure connecting to the Project's electricity hub (i.e. OSCPs). These future projects form part of the anticipated future Onward Development which would be originated by the Project, referred to as Onward Development Connections.

The Onward Development Connections for oil and gas electrification will be finalised and brought forward by 3rd party oil and gas operators, subject to separate marine licencing and permitting requirements (including separate EIAs, as appropriate). At this very early stage in the process, the information available about these connections is limited and cannot be confirmed by the Project. In accordance with standard practice and relevant industry guidance, the level of information available means there is insufficient detail to enable full inclusion within a cumulative effects assessment. However, recognising industry feedback and a keen interest in this topic from stakeholders, the Applicant has voluntarily provided a qualitative assessment of the combined impact of the Project and Onward Development Connections, to the extent it can with the limited details on possible Onward Development. Please refer to **EIAR Vol. 3, Chapter 22: Statement of Combined Effects** for further details.

The Applicant submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report (the '2023 Scoping Report') to Scottish Ministers in February 2023 to support the request for a Scoping Opinion for the Project. After receiving the 2023 Scoping Opinion, the Applicant submitted a new Scoping Report ('2024 Scoping Report') to reflect the feedback provided in the 2023 Scoping Opinion and to provide further detail on the Project. The 2024 Scoping Report provided a more thorough review of impacts and a robust and refined Project Design to enable impacts to be scoped in and out of the impact assessment methodology. This ensured that the EIA process would be conducted thoroughly and to the highest standard.

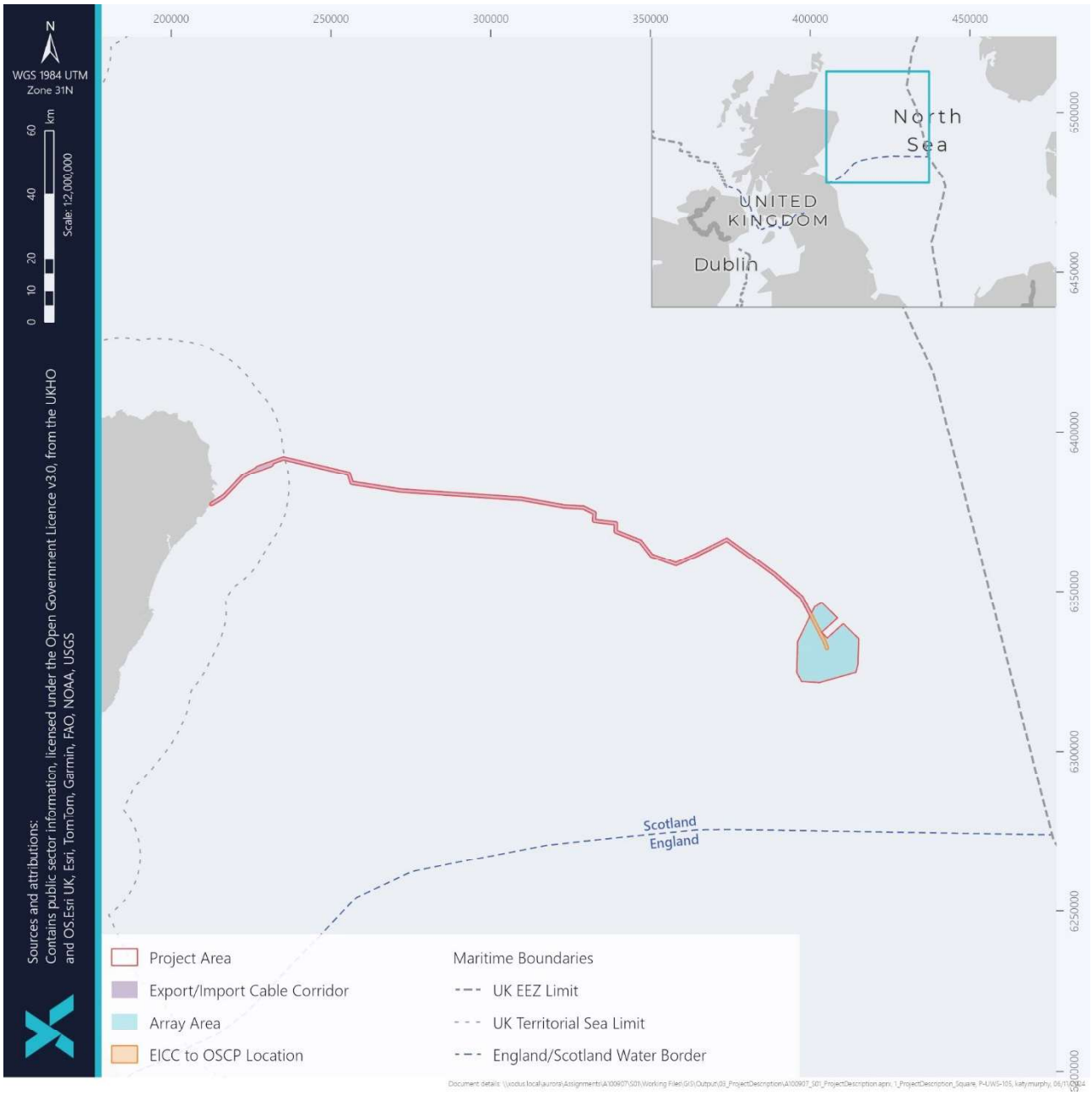

Figure 1-1 Project location and Red Line Boundary Area

1.3 The Applicant

The Applicant, Cenos Offshore Windfarm Ltd., is a Joint Venture between Flotation Energy and Vårgrønn As (Vårgrønn). Flotation Energy has a 13 Gigawatt (GW) portfolio of both fixed and floating developments internationally. Flotation Energy has a developing project pipeline of offshore wind projects with more than 13 GW in the UK, Ireland, Taiwan, Japan, and Australia. Now part of the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) Group, with its combination of technology and experience and aim of achieving environmental improvements, Flotation Energy holds a strong position in offshore wind development.

Norway-based offshore wind company, Vårgrønn, is a joint venture between the energy company Plenitude (Eni) and the Norwegian energy entrepreneur and investor HitecVision. The company is powering the energy transition through the development, construction, operation, and ownership of offshore wind projects. Vårgrønn's pipeline of projects and prospective projects spans the UK, Ireland, and Norway, in addition to early-stage initiatives in the Baltics. The company also holds a 20% share in Dogger Bank, the world's largest windfarm under construction.

1.4 Purpose of the EIAR

In accordance with the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007, together known as the 'EIA Regulations' an EIA is specifically required for the offshore Project (as further detailed in **EIAR Vol. 2, Chapter 3: Policy and Legislative Context**).

Specific information on a project's potential environmental effects is identified through the EIA and presented within an EIAR. This Offshore EIAR details such information for the offshore elements (works seaward of MHWS) of the Project, highlighting the potential physical, biological, and human environmental significant effects during pre-construction, construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Project.

The relevant advice and feedback provided within the 2024 Scoping Opinion received in September 2024 has been incorporated in this EIAR. The Marine Scotland Consenting and Licensing Guidance for Offshore Wind, Wave and Tidal Energy Applications (Scottish Government, 2018) and Scottish Government Guidance on Using the Design Envelope for Applications under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (Scottish Government, 2022) has also been considered in this document. Additionally, this EIAR has been prepared in line with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guidance on Delivering Proportionate EIA (IEMA, 2017), which highlights the importance of achieving a proportionate EIA scope, focused on potential significant effects.

This EIAR provides the relevant environmental information required to enable a robust assessment of the potential significant effects on identified physical, biological, and human receptors throughout the course of the offshore Project's lifecycle (as detailed in **EIAR Vol. 2, Chapter 5: Project Description**). The topic-specific chapters within this EIAR (**EIAR Vol. 3, Chapters 8 to 22**) present these assessments.

Several appendices have also been prepared alongside this EIAR for specific technical topics. These additional supporting studies provide further information on certain surveys, modelling, and research carried out to support the findings of the EIAR, upon which the assessment of significant environmental effects has been based.

This EIAR focuses on the offshore Project, however, a whole Project assessment of the offshore impacts may include relevant onshore impacts, if necessary, and are included within each topic-specific chapter. This approach ensures that a full assessment of any combined effects from both the offshore and onshore elements are included together within this EIAR and are not considered in isolation.

The Habitats Regulations require the consideration of potential effects from developments on European sites, which include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), candidate SACs (cSACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), potential SPAs (pSPAs), Sites of Community Importance and Ramsar sites. A Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) Stage One Screening Report (**Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA), Appendix A**) was submitted (on the 6th May

2024) alongside the 2024 EIA Scoping Report to Scottish Ministers as the competent authority. The HRA Stage One Screening Report assesses whether the Project, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, may have the potential for Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on a European site. Stage 2 of the HRA process is the preparation of a RIAA. The RIAA is based upon the findings of the EIAR to facilitate a full assessment and has been prepared and submitted alongside this EIAR. This will provide the competent authority with the necessary information to undertake an Appropriate Assessment and determine whether the Project may have an Adverse Effect on Integrity (AEoI) of any European sites.

Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas (NCMPAs) are designated to protect biodiversity and heritage, with specific focus on designated features (species, habitats, large scale features or geomorphological features). There are 247 NCMPAs in Scottish waters, which consists of 247 sites, with 233 for conservation purposes providing protection to 37% of our seas (NatureScot, 2024). There are currently over 200 NCMPAs located in Scotland. Whilst many of these NCMPAs are aligned with existing SACs, SPAs, Ramsar sites or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a number have been designated directly under MPA legislation, through the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 Act, and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, for Scottish territorial, and offshore waters. Where a project may have risk of hindering the achievement of the MPA's conservation objectives, the EIAR should include the necessary information to inform an MPA assessment. The MPA assessment is undertaken by the competent authority (Scottish Ministers for marine licences and Section 36 (s.36) consents) in consultation with NatureScot and/or the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). An MPA assessment has been submitted to the competent authority alongside this EIAR.

1.5 Project Definitions

The following definitions listed in Table 1-1 have been used throughout this EIAR to describe project-specific components and areas relating to this Project.

Table 1-1 Project definitions

TERM	DEFINITION
Project components	
FTU	The equipment associated with electricity generation comprising the WTG, the floating substructure which supports the WTG, mooring system and the dynamic section of the IAC.
Substructures	The structure on which the WTGs or OSCPs are installed.
IAC	The cables which connect the WTGs to the OSCPs. WTGs may be connected with IACs into a hub or in series as a 'string' or a 'loop' such that power from the connected WTGs is gathered to the OSCPs via a single cable.
OSCPs	An offshore platform on a fixed jacket substructure, containing electrical equipment to aggregate the power from the WTGs and act as a power distribution substation for the Oil & Gas platforms, and convert power between High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) and HVDC for export/import via the Export/Import Cable to/from the shore.

TERM	DEFINITION
Offshore Wind Farm (OWF)	An OWF is a group of WTGs in the same location (offshore) in the sea, which are used to produce electricity.
WTG	The equipment associated with electricity generation from available wind resource, comprising the surface components located above the supporting substructure (e.g. tower, nacelle, hub, blades, and any necessary power transformation equipment, generators, and switchgears).
EIA Project boundaries and areas	
Array Area	The area within which the WTGs, floating substructures, moorings and anchors, OSCPs and IACs will be present.
EICC	The area within which the Export/Import Cable will be laid, from the perimeter of the Array Area to MHWS.
Study Area	Receptor specific area where potential impacts from the Project could occur.
EIA terminology	
2023 Scoping Opinion	Scoping Opinion received in June 2023, superseded by the 2024 Scoping Opinion.
2023 Scoping Report	EIA Scoping Report submitted in 2023, superseded by the 2024 Scoping Report.
2024 Scoping Opinion	Scoping Opinion received in September 2024, superseding the 2023 Scoping Opinion.
2024 Scoping Report	EIA Scoping Report submitted in April 2024, superseding the 2023 Scoping Report.
Cumulative Assessment	The consideration of potential impacts that could occur cumulatively with other relevant projects, plans, and activities that could result in a cumulative effect on receptors.
EIA	The statutory process of evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed project or development. Assessment of the potential impact of the proposed Project on the physical, biological and human environment during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning.
EIA Regulations	This term is used to refer to the EIA Regulations which are of relevance to the Project. This includes the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended); and the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007.
EIAR	A report documenting the findings of the EIA for the Project in accordance with relevant regulations.
Mitigation Measures	Measures considered within the topic-specific chapters in order to avoid impacts or reduce them to acceptable levels.

TERM	DEFINITION
	• Primary mitigation - measures that are an inherent part of the design of the Project which reduce or avoid the likelihood or magnitude of an adverse environmental effect, including location or design; • Secondary mitigation – additional measures implemented to further reduce environmental effects to 'not significant' levels (where appropriate) and do not form part of the fundamental design of the offshore Project; and • Tertiary mitigation – measures that are implemented in accordance with industry standard practice or to meet legislative requirements and are independent of the EIA (i.e. they would be implemented regardless of the findings of the EIA). Primary and tertiary mitigation are referred to as embedded mitigation. Secondary mitigation is referred to as additional mitigation.
Project	Term that should be used to describe Cenos Offshore Windfarm. The Project is a floating offshore windfarm located in the North Sea, with a generating capacity of up to 13 GW.
Project Design Envelope (PDE)	A description of the range of possible elements that make up the Project design options under consideration and that are assessed as part of the EIA for the Project.
Transboundary Assessment	The consideration of impacts from the Project which have the potential to have a significant effect on another European Economic Area (EEA) state's environment. Where there is a potential for a transboundary effect, as a result of the Project, these are assessed within the relevant EIAR chapter.
Stakeholder Engagement	Non-statutory stakeholder engagement.
Stakeholder Consultation	Statutory stakeholder consultation.
Regulator	Competent authority (e.g. Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT).
Worst-Case Scenario	The worst-case scenario based on the PDE which varies by receptor and/or impact pathway identified.

1.6 The EIA Team

Xodus Group Limited (Xodus) was appointed by Cenos Offshore Windfarm Ltd to lead the production of the EIAR. A number of specialists, independent and suitably qualified consultants and subcontractors have supported Xodus/Cenos during the EIA process to produce the final EIAR.

Xodus have project managed the production of this EIAR, including the compilation of the baseline data, analysis and interpretation, the assessment process, including Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA), mitigation and monitoring.

The specialist consultants that have supported the EIA to date are listed below in Table 1-2. This includes consultation with relevant stakeholders and the preparation of the specialist topic-specific chapters of the EIAR. In line with the EIA Regulations requirements Table 1-2 provides a brief summary of the relevant expertise and experience of the technical consultants involved in preparing this EIAR.

Table 1-2 Specialist consultants for the EIAR

TECHNICAL SPECIALISM	CONSULTANT	RELEVANT EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE
Introductory chapters	Xodus	Xodus is an independent, international energy consultancy with a track record in all areas of offshore wind project development, from initial site-selection and project concept definition through to EIA, consent, post-consent, installation and operational support. With over 15 years' experience in offshore wind, Xodus has developed a breadth and depth of capability that allows it to support all aspects of project development.
Marine Geology, Oceanography, and Coastal Processes	Xodus/ABPmer	ABPmer is a leading UK marine consultancy and survey company providing specialist services in physical processes, marine ecology, navigation, modelling, metocean, field survey, data management and environmental science. At project level, ABPmer has supported the majority of UK wind farm developments, providing a range of environmental and design related services. ABPmer is recognised as a leading authority on marine physical process EIA investigations and seabed mobility for offshore wind farms. ABPmer's experience includes a range of bespoke study types as required by clients, including the development of numerical modelling tools to inform understanding of hydrodynamics, waves and sediment transport processes. The lead author of the Marine Geology, Oceanography and Coastal Processes Chapter is Tony Brooks, (Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD), Member of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (MIMarEST), Chartered Scientist (CSci), Chartered Marine Scientist (CMarSci), Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv)). Tony is a Marine Physical Processes specialist at ABPmer with over 15 years' experience in environmental consenting services. Tony is a Principal Consultant who has worked on marine physical process studies for over 20 offshore wind farms including a number of other Scottish projects (Ayre, Bowdun, Salamander, Marram, Moray East, Beatrice and Moray West). As well as being technical lead on a number of wind farm EIA studies, he has also led several Front End Engineering Design (FEED) related investigations, including cable landfall studies and seabed mobility assessments
Marine Water and Sediment Quality	Xodus	Anna Chaffey is a Principal Environmental Consultant with 16 years' experience in oceanography and seabed morphodynamics, supporting a range of marine estuarine, coastal, nearshore and offshore developments and projects across multiple marine industry sectors.

TECHNICAL SPECIALISM	CONSULTANT	RELEVANT EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE
		As the topic lead for marine physical and coastal processes, Anna has actively managed and contributed to the Marine Water and Sediment Quality EIA topic for numerous offshore wind and marine renewables projects across the UK, through their respective consent applications.
Benthic Ecology	Xodus	Lead author John Spence has 14 years professional experience which has encompassed all phases of benthic environmental surveys from project inception through to analysis and reporting and follow-up monitoring. John has an undergraduate degree in Marine Biology and honed his marine invertebrate taxonomy skills while working as a volunteer at the wet collections in the National Museum of Scotland. John further developed these skills during his time with Fugro and within the Shell environment team, where he worked as a Marine Biologist, participating in numerous benthic environmental surveys in Shetland, the Central and Southern North Sea using sediment grabs and Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV)/drop down video and water sampling equipment, and contributing towards the field reports, final survey reporting, analysis of video footage and impact assessment chapters. At Xodus, John continues to provide technical expertise in the area of environmental survey and benthic ecology including survey design, developing scopes of work, assisting with survey video interpretation and leading on benthic impact assessment chapters within EIA.
Marine Mammal Ecology/ Fish and Shellfish Ecology	Xodus	Lead author for both chapters, Ewan Edwards, PhD has 16 years of professional experience investigating human impacts on marine species, with a particular interest in marine mammals and seabirds. He joined Xodus in August 2022 and in recent months has used his knowledge of marine ecology and regulatory licensing/consenting regimes to ensure good environmental practice and the best available evidence is implemented in marine energy projects. He has an excellent all-round understanding of Scotland's marine environment (including fish, benthic ecology, and the physical environment) gained through several roles. He is an experienced project manager and survey leader and spent over two years as a field scientist with the British Antarctic Survey. Ewan's experience across various aspects and phases of projects has provided him with a holistic approach to his work and a strong technical understanding of potential impacts on the marine environment.
Ornithology	HiDef	HiDef are a leading environmental consultancy with over 15 years' experience in the marine sector. They are the industry leaders in digital video aerial surveys and have provided baseline data and EIA / HRA consultancy services for renewable projects across the UK and Europe. Together with sister companies BioConsult (Germany) and Biotope (France), HiDef have provided baseline data for over 40 offshore windfarms and have provided consultancy services for almost 20 national and international projects.

TECHNICAL SPECIALISM	CONSULTANT	RELEVANT EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE
Commercial Fisheries	Xodus	Lead author Femke de Boer started her career at the Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWFPA), where, as part of the commercial fishing industry, she represented almost 250 active vessels. Femke gained detailed knowledge of the fishing industry, its operating practices, the dynamics, the potential sensitivities, especially in Scotland, and has gained a network of positive working relationships with many fisheries stakeholders around the UK. Since joining Xodus in 2021, Femke has worked on the production and review of various commercial fisheries and fish ecology chapters of scoping reports, EIAs and appraisals for many offshore renewable projects around the UK and Ireland. Femke also worked on the production of strategies for potential fisheries related issues (including site selection and cable routing), gear relocation methodologies, managed fisheries stakeholder consultation, supported projects as Fishery Liaison Officer (FLO), assisted with responses to fisheries consultations, delivered presentations about the fishing industry and assisted with setting up the "Xodus and Fishing Industry Knowledge Sharing Group". Her time at Xodus has given her wide-ranging knowledge of the environmental constraints facing offshore developments during phases from pre-planning to decommissioning, with particular reference to fish/shellfish and commercial fisheries receptors.
Shipping and Navigation	Anatec	Anatec has extensive experience of carrying out Navigational Risk Assessments (NRAs) for offshore installation projects including offshore renewables, oil and gas installations, ports, marinas, cables, interconnectors and marine aggregate dredging in the UK and worldwide. Our key personnel have been at the forefront of the marine hazard analysis and risk management field for the past 15-25 years. In the past ten years, Anatec have completed NRAs and supported EIAs for the majority of UK OWFs.
Marine Archaeology	MSDS	MSDS Marine & MSDS Heritage are a specialist marine and coastal archaeological contractor, established in 2011, with wide-ranging experience advising, assessing and managing the archaeological resource for numerous offshore projects in both UK and international waters. Project experience includes offshore renewables, aggregate extraction, interconnector routes, Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) storage, aquaculture and heritage management. MSDS personnel hold extensive experience in marine archaeology (including hydrographic and geophysical survey assessment, palaeolandscape interpretation and mitigation), producing high-quality technical assessments and consultancy to support EIARs in UK waters.
Infrastructure and Other Users	Xodus	Lead author Jane Gordon joined the Xodus EIA team in 2019 and now has over four years' experience in EIA and marine consenting. Within her first two years at Xodus, Jane supported clients in the ScotWind and Round 4 offshore wind leasing rounds, including providing environmental expertise for site selection work and supporting with bid documentation. More recently, Jane has gained extensive experience across later phases of offshore renewable projects, including Scoping, EIA,

TECHNICAL SPECIALISM	CONSULTANT	RELEVANT EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE
		and post-consent, where Jane has held both project management and technical support roles. Most notably, Jane was the assistant project manager to the West of Orkney Windfarm EIA and has also drafted several EIA chapters and assessments across a range of topics, including for the other sea user's receptor topic. From this experience, Jane has a solid understanding of the regulatory frameworks that underpin the consenting process of offshore energy projects, and the interactions between developments and the marine environment, including other sea users.
Military and Civil Aviation	Xodus/Coleman Aviation	Coleman Aviation Ltd was set up to provide independent consultancy services to the windfarm industry on aviation issues. Wing Commander Mike Coleman has over 27 years' experience working in Air Traffic Control and Air Defence operational teams for the Ministry of Defence. Over the past five years Coleman Aviation Ltd has provided advice to numerous windfarm developers in resolving windfarm related aviation issues and EIA Support.
Socio-economics, Tourism, and Recreation	Xodus/Glic	Glic is an economic, community and management development consultancy. David Smart founded Glic in 2019 following a successful career as a senior manager, director, and consultant, with ten years in senior development at Highlands and Islands Enterprise. He has worked in the private, public and third party sectors and has led consultancy assignments in the UK, Europe, and North America. He has supported public sector organisations to create and implement policies, worked at Board level with large multinationals, turned around failing businesses and supported SMEs, social enterprises, and community groups to grow and flourish. He founded Glic to help organisations and communities located predominantly in rural areas to realise and maximise opportunities.
Carbon and Greenhouse Gases	Xodus	Mairi Doward, lead author, has brought her experience from multiple sectors and projects to lead the development of Xodus' internal process for climate (incorporating carbon) assessments and is delivering these assessments for multiple offshore energy projects and EIAs. This process incorporates the establishment of future marine climate baselines, climate resilience review, in-combination climate change impact assessments and carbon emission impact assessment. Mairi is well practised in working and communicating with a multi-disciplinary team, interacting frequently with both technical and commercial teams to achieve timely, high-quality delivery.
Major Accidents and Disasters	Xodus	Anthony Millais has an extensive research background in environmental chemistry, microbiology, biodegradation, ecotoxicology, environmental modelling and risk assessment. He joined Xodus from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) where he led the Offshore Risk and Response Team and managed the Chemical Notification Scheme for both the United Kingdom and Netherlands Offshore Regulators and was responsible for providing advice and support on offshore chemical hazard and risk assessment to both countries. As part of this role Tony was a

TECHNICAL SPECIALISM	CONSULTANT	RELEVANT EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE
		member of the UK delegation to OSPAR Offshore Industry Committee in 2009 and 2010 and attended OSPAR inter-sessional groups on behalf of both the UK and the Netherlands (between 2005 and 2010). Tony participated in courses and events at the Defra funded Cranfield risk Centre during his time at Cefas. He is currently a member of the Oil and Gas UK Chemicals Forum, The Atmospherics Forum and the Oil Spill Response. Forum.
Statement of Combined Effects	Xodus	Ed is a Marine Energy specialist with specific experience in the assessment, consenting and development of marine-based infrastructure projects with a specific focus on subsea transmission and offshore wind. A CEnv, Chartered Marine Technologist (CMarTech) and Chartered Water & Environment Manager (C.WEM), Ed has a range of experience supporting the development of marine infrastructure encompassing subsea cables, offshore wind (including Floating Offshore Wind) and a range of other coastal energy projects. Ed has experience managing multidisciplinary EIA teams and has led the environmental assessment of several subsea cable projects, as well as a new east coast offshore wind export cable route. Ed has extensive experience of landfalling, subsea transmission and offshore assets in the waters around North East Scotland. Alongside this, Ed has client-side experience (this includes acting as Marine Consents Manager for two major new HVDC subsea cable projects). Ed has substantial experience leading the HRA and NCMPA assessment process for marine energy projects. This includes: overseeing HRA and NCMPA-specific engagement with relevant SNCBs; development of evidence plans; completion of Stage 1 LSE Screening and NCMPA equivalent; Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and NCMPA/Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Assessments for Scottish and English MPAs respectively; and technical and procedural 'case building' for onward stages if required, including Stage 3 derogation/Measures of Equivalent Environmental Benefit (MEEB).

In addition to those specialists listed in Table 1-2, the following technical specialists have delivered scopes which informed the EIA via Project design support, survey reports, baseline reports, technical modelling and technical reviews:

- 6 Alpha Associates;
- Affric;
- APEM;
- Benthic Solutions;
- Brown and May Marine;
- First Marine;
- Fraser Nash;
- Global Maritime;
- GoBe;
- Kent Group;
- PhysE;
- Ramboll;
- Rovco;
- Royal HaskoningDHV;
- Seiche;
- SEP Hydrographic; and
- WSP

1.7 Structure of this EIAR

The EIAR comprises of four volumes:

- Volume 1: Non-Technical Summary;
- Volume 2: Upfront chapters;
- Volume 3: EIAR technical chapters; and
- Volume 4: Appendices.

The technical chapters are presented in topic groups (Table 1-3), the upfront sections provide the Project introduction and definition, the requirement for the Project and any necessary policy and legislation, an overview of the scoping and consultation undertaken to date and a description of the EIA methodology used throughout the document. The technical chapter groups provide an assessment of the offshore physical environment, followed by the biological environment followed by an assessment of the offshore human environment.

Table 1-3 The structure of the EIAR

EIA TECHNICAL CHAPTER	CHAPTER NUMBER	VOLUME
Introduction	1	Volume 2
Need for the Project	2	Volume 2
Policy and Legislative Context	3	Volume 2
Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives	4	Volume 2
Project Description	5	Volume 2
Stakeholder Engagement	6	Volume 2
EIA Methodology	7	Volume 2

EIA TECHNICAL CHAPTER	CHAPTER NUMBER	VOLUME
Marine Geology, Oceanography and Coastal Processes	8	Volume 3
Marine Water and Sediment Quality	9	Volume 3
Benthic Ecology	10	Volume 3
Marine Mammal Ecology	11	Volume 3
Ornithology	12	Volume 3
Fish and Shellfish Ecology	13	Volume 3
Commercial Fisheries	14	Volume 3
Shipping and Navigation	15	Volume 3
Marine Archaeology	16	Volume 3
Marine Infrastructure and Other Users	17	Volume 3
Military and Civil Aviation	18	Volume 3
Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation	19	Volume 3
Carbon and Greenhouse Gases	20	Volume 3
Major Accidents and Disasters	21	Volume 3
Statement of Combined Effects (SOCE)	22	Volume 3
Summary of Mitigation and Monitoring	23	Volume 3
Conclusions and Next Steps	24	Volume 3

The appendices are submitted alongside this EIAR, providing additional information, background research andfurther analysis or modelling. The outline management plans have also been provided as appendices to this EIAR: The structure of the appendices is listed in Table 1-4.

Table 1-4 Structure of appendices

APPENDIX	APPENDIX NUMBER	VOLUME
Preliminary CBRA and BAS Report for the Inter Array Cables	A1	Volume 4
Preliminary CBRA and BAS Report for the Export Cable Route	A2	Volume 4
Crossings Schedule	A3	Volume 4
UXO Survey Specifications	A4	Volume 4
UXO Threat and Risk Assessment	A5	Volume 4
UXO Risk Mitigation Strategy	A6	Volume 4
Marine & Physical Processes Modelling Report	A7	Volume 4

APPENDIX	APPENDIX NUMBER	VOLUME
Habitat Assessment Report - OWF	A8	Volume 4
Habitat Assessment Report - EICC	A9	Volume 4
Environmental Baseline and Habitat Assessment Report - Inshore EICC	A10	Volume 4
Environmental Baseline Report - OWF	A11	Volume 4
Environmental Baseline Report - EICC	A12	Volume 4
Benthic eDNA Analysis Report	A13	Volume 4
EMF Assessment Report Vol. 1	A14A	Volume 4
EMF Assessment Report Vol. 2	A14B	Volume 4
EMF Assessment Report Vol. 3	A14C	Volume 4
Underwater Noise Modelling Report	A15	Volume 4
Marine Mammal Baseline Report	A16	Volume 4
Marine Mammal Cumulative Effects Assessment Screening	A17	Volume 4
Interim Population Consequences of Disturbance (iPCoD) Modelling Report	A18	Volume 4
Ornithology Baseline Report	A19	Volume 4
Intertidal & Nearshore Bird Surveys	A20	Volume 4
Collision Risk Modelling Report	A21	Volume 4
Distributional Responses Report	A22	Volume 4
Regional Populations and Associated Colony Counts	A23	Volume 4
Apportioning Report	A24	Volume 4
Population Viability Analysis Report	A25	Volume 4
NRA Report	A26	Volume 4
Written Scheme of Investigations & PAD	A27	Volume 4
Marine Archaeology Baseline Report	A28	Volume 4
Helicopter Access Report	A29	Volume 4
Detailed Socio-Economic Methodology	A30	Volume 4
Cumulative Effects Assessment Methodology	A31	Volume 4
Outline Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	A32	Volume 4
Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (MMMP)	A33	Volume 4
Outline Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS)	A34	Volume 4

The following documents are provided in addition to the submission of the EIAR and appendices:

- A completed checklist;
- Section 36 Consent Application Letter;
- A Marine Licence Application Form for the Generation Assets;
- A Marine Licence Application Form for the Transmission Assets;
- Draft public notice of application (following the template issued by MD-LOT);
- Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report.
- Planning Statement and Consideration of Relevant Policies;
- A Gap analysis;
- Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA);
- Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) – Shadow Derogation Case;
- HRA - Compensation and Implementation Strategy;
- Marine Protected Area (MPA) Assessment;
- MPA Assessment – Shadow Without Prejudice Derogation Case; and
- MPA Assessment – Measures of Equivalent Environmental Benefit and Implementation Strategy.

Xodus Group, as an accredited member of IEMA, are independently recognised for producing high standard EIARs in accordance with best practice. The voluntary commitments to obtain the EIA Quality Mark are independently reviewed on an annual basis by IEMA to ensure registered organisations continue to deliver added value for their clients

1.8 Opportunity to comment

In line with the legislative requirements and industry best practice, the submission of the Project application will be publicly advertised, and this EIAR will be openly available. Stakeholder engagement will continue following submission, and there will be an opportunity to make formal representations to Scottish Ministers.

Hard copies of the application together with the EIAR and other documentation are available to view publicly at locations as agreed with the competent authority. Details of these locations are provided on the Project website (https://cenosoffshorewind.com) and the Section 36 Consent Application Letter.

Hard copies of the EIAR can be purchased from the Applicant for £350, and electronic copies of this EIAR, including all accompanying documents, are available to view on the Project website at https://cenosoffshorewind.com/documents/. Anyone having difficulty accessing the application documents through this website can contact the Project directly (hello@cenosoffshorewind.com) for assistance.

The application documents are also available via the Marine Directorate website at https://marine.gov.scot/marinelicence-applications. If you wish to comment on this EIAR or make representations to MD-LOT, you must do so within the representation period specified in the relevant newspaper advert or in any consultation letter you receive. Please email MD-LOT at the following address: ms.marinerenewables@gov.scot, or write at:

Scottish Government
Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team
Marine Laboratory
PO Box 101
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

1.9 References

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