

PROJECT PIPELINE

Challenge Background

One of the major challenges facing the offshore renewable energy sector is the speed and extent of deployment needed to meet Net Zero targets, which includes deploying 50 GW of installed offshore wind capacity by 2030 in the UK. Projects need to undergo pre-development planning, consenting applications and construction which takes several years before projects even begin generating electricity.

Launch Academy 2024 is seeking innovative technologies and services that can in some way address, reduce and mitigate many of the impacts associated with the deployment and operation of offshore wind throughout the UK. In particular, Launch Academy 2024 is seeking *impact-reducing* innovations that are relevant to the **Installation** or **Operational** phases of projects.

Examples of the types of impacts the Launch Academy 2024 programme team are seeking innovations to target through the **Project Pipeline** theme include:

Installation

- Noise-Level Mitigation
- Subsea Impacts
- Environmental & Ecological Impacts
 - Ornithological Impact Mitigation
 - Marine Mammal Impact Mitigation
 - Fish Impact Mitigation
 - Benthic Impact Mitigation

Operational

- Noise-Level Mitigation
- Vessel Pollutant Reduction & Mitigation
- Collisions
 - Vessel Collisions with Marine Wildlife
 - Turbine & Blade Collisions with Marine Wildlife

Several international wind markets have regulatory requirements in relation to the aforementioned items for offshore windfarm installations that impact on cost, scheduling and sustainability, technologies with a focus on mitigating these issues would all be of interest.

Please note that the list of examples given above is non-exhaustive, and all impact-reducing innovations relevant to the Installation and Operational phases of Offshore Wind Farms are considered relevant.

Eligibility and Further Information

Eligibility

Entrants to this competition must be:

- Established businesses, start-ups, SMEs (Small-Medium Enterprises) or individual entrepreneurs
- UK-based **or** have the intention to set up a UK-base

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of TRL (Technology Readiness Level) Four. See the link for further details on the TRL scale: https://enspire.science/trl-scale-horizon-2020-erc-explained/
Assessment	<p>Applications will be assessed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicability to the challenge • Innovativeness of the solution • Coherence of proposed business model and company vision • Feasibility and economic viability, including the ability of the team to progress the solution • Development potential • Maturity of the solution • Ability to launch product and ease of implementation
IP & Commercial Route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing background IP associated with a potential solution will remain with Launch Academy Applicant(s)/Participant(s). Where any new IP generation is envisaged during the Launch Academy programme, it will be subject to the mutual IP agreement of the Launch Academy Participant(s) and Launch Academy Sponsors if it is jointly developed. If new IP is developed solely by the Participant then it will remain with the Participant. • Where necessary, a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) may be signed to uphold confidentiality in the engagement between the Launch Academy Participant(s) and Launch Academy Sponsors. • ORE Catapult does not take any share of IP ownership or enter commercial ventures through the Launch Academy programme.
Timescales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application Window Opens: 1st of November 2023 • Application Deadline: 8th of December 2023 • Applications Assessment: 8th December – January 5th • Shortlisted Applicants Invited to Pitch: January 8th • Pitch Stage: January 29th – February 9th • Selection and Notification of Successful Applicants: 14th of February 2024 • Programme Start: March 2024 • Graduation: November 2024