

Press Announcement



[November 2022]

Skills Intelligence Hub to help UK Offshore Energy Industry develop future workforce

- **OPITO and ECITB to fund Skills Intelligence Hub on behalf of industry**
 - **A single, reliable source of current and forecast industry-wide workforce data**
 - **Free-to-access cloud-based platform delivering a range of graphics and reports**
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Energy Skills Alliance members, OPITO and ECITB have partnered to fund the development of the UK Offshore Energy Skills Intelligence Hub, which will create a complete picture of the people and skills needed in the industry between now and 2050.

Improving skills and data intelligence was one of five goals set out in the North Sea Transition Deal Integrated People and Skills Strategy, published in May 2022. Currently, there is a lack of consistent and comparable data across the offshore energy sectors.

OPITO and ECITB will work with Opergy, a leading UK energy consultancy with extensive experience in skills mapping, to develop a comprehensive resource that will capture the offshore energy industry's people and skills requirements over the coming decades.

The UK Offshore Energy Skills Intelligence Hub will assimilate, integrate, and interpret data from a range of existing sources, and present the information on a cloud-based platform that will be free to access and provide ready-to-use reports and valuable insights.

It will initially focus on the UK offshore energy production sectors including; oil and gas, fixed and floating offshore wind, hydrogen production and carbon capture utilisation and storage. In future, scope may extend to incorporate other industrial sectors with transferrable skills to the offshore energy sector.

OPITO and ECITB are committed to working in partnership with trades bodies, regional clusters, and standards organisations to develop a collaborative approach that sets the direction for companies committed to investing in the creation of an agile, flexible and sustainable workforce.

John McDonald, CEO of OPITO and Energy Skills Alliance Chair, said:

“Identifying, training, and transitioning the workforce is one of the greatest challenges we face when we consider how we will achieve our national net zero targets.

“We know workforce demand in the energy sector is likely to outstrip potential supply over the next decade. As the sources of our energy diversify and evolve, we must begin to gather consistent and comparable data which will allow us to make targeted interventions and anticipate future needs, based on robust data and evidence.

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“The development of the UK Offshore Energy Skills Intelligence Hub builds on great work already underway by the Offshore Wind Industry Council (OWIC) and RenewableUK in the offshore wind sector. We are committed to working closely with partners across industry, including trade associations, regional clusters and fellow training and standards bodies and academia, as we look to 2030 and beyond.”

Chris Claydon, ECITB Chief Executive, said:

“As the employer-led skills body for the engineering construction industry, the ECITB is pleased to support the development of the UK Offshore Energy Skills Intelligence Hub.

“Enhancing understanding of the future supply and demand for skilled workers across the energy sector is vital to supporting our industries navigate the energy transition.

“This work will complement the ECITB’s labour market intelligence programme, which identifies skills needs across the wider industry, including onshore energy and other process engineering sectors, all of which will play a critical role in achieving our net zero goals.”

Martin Dronfield, Director of Opergy Group Limited, said:

“The Opergy Group of companies is honoured to be working alongside the Energy Skills Alliance to develop the UK’s very first integrated view of our offshore energy sector’s current and future people and skills needs.

“Access to clear workforce data through the Energy Skills Intelligence Hub underpins almost all of the people and skills leadership decisions we need to take to maximise the agility and adaptability of our existing workforce, whilst also attracting new entrants and young people and balancing the ethnicity, diversity, and inclusiveness of our amazing industry sectors.”

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Note to editors

1. Visit www.offshoreenergypeopleandskills.co.uk to download the Integrated People and Skills Strategy and corresponding Action Plans, industry case studies and a range of other resources.
2. OPITO has led the development of industry’s Integrated People and Skills Strategy, working closely with the Energy Skills Alliance and with broad engagement with stakeholders across the UK offshore energy industry.
3. The Energy Skills Alliance is a cross-industry group led by OPITO, bringing together leaders from across the oil and gas, renewables, nuclear and refining industries, as well as representation from within regulators, governments and trade unions.
4. The Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB) is the employer-led skills body for the Engineering Construction Industry in Great Britain. A non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Education, the ECITB works with employers and government to attract, develop and qualify personnel across a wide range of craft, technical and managerial disciplines. Since 2020, the ECITB has invested £48 million on training within the engineering construction industry, including support for 3,716 new entrants. www.ecitb.org.uk

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5. OPITO is the global skills organisation for the energy industry. Up to 375,000 people are trained to OPITO standards every year, across 50 countries through more than 230 accredited training centres.

6. OPITO works to develop a safe and skilled workforce by driving global standards and qualifications, creating workforce development solutions and leading dialogue with industries and governments. With operation centres in four regions - UK and Europe, Middle East and Africa, Asia Pacific, and the Americas - OPITO is driving safety and competency improvements to benefit the industry and providing career pathways and training opportunities for the current workforce and the next generation. www.opito.com