



UHI

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Cromarty
Firth
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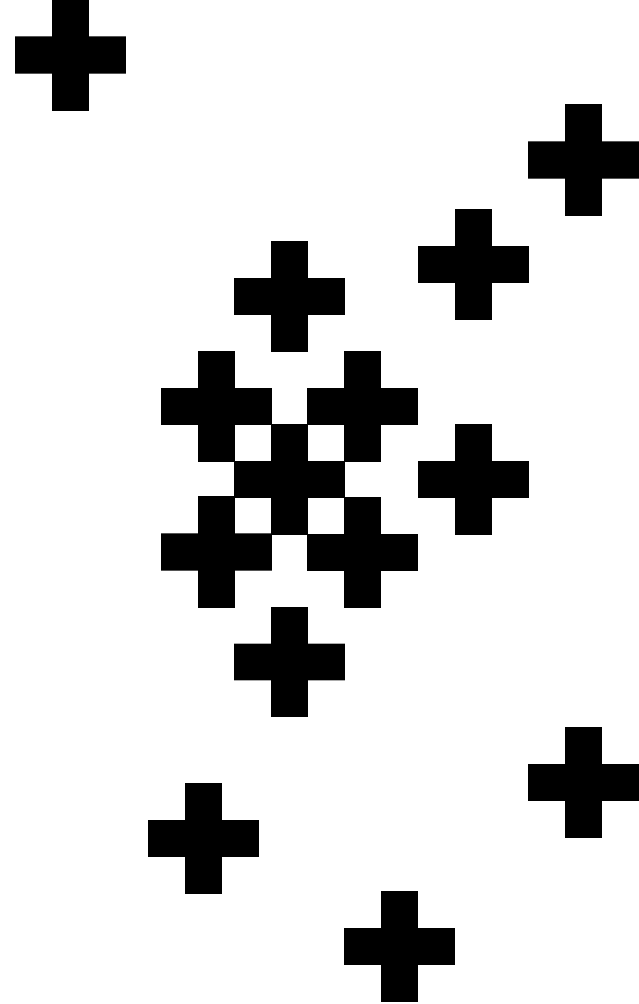
A Green Freeport for the Highlands

Presentation Scope

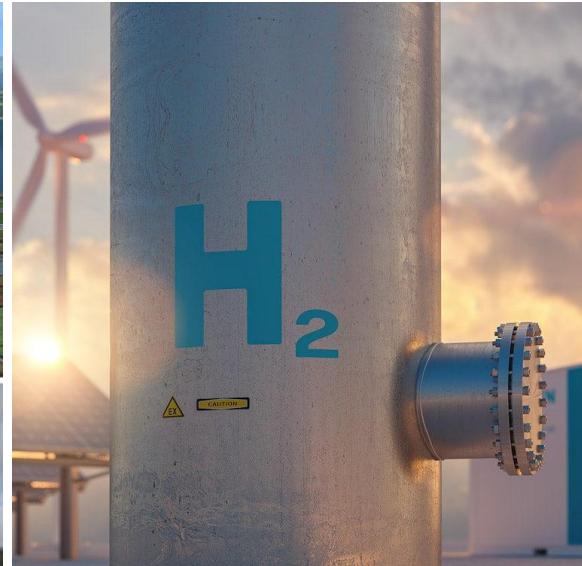
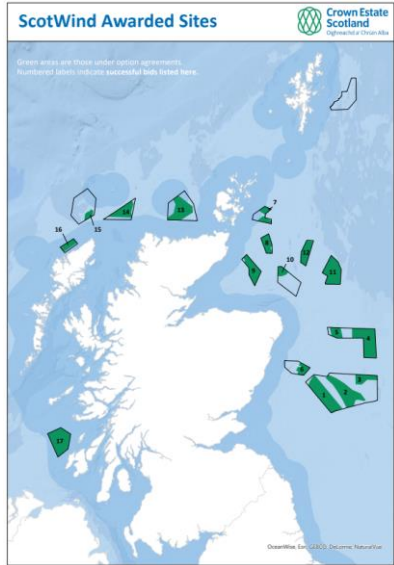
- Regional context – Renewables & Decarbonisation
- Timeline so far
- Who is involved?
- Inverness & Cromarty Firth Green Freeport – an overview
- What happens next?

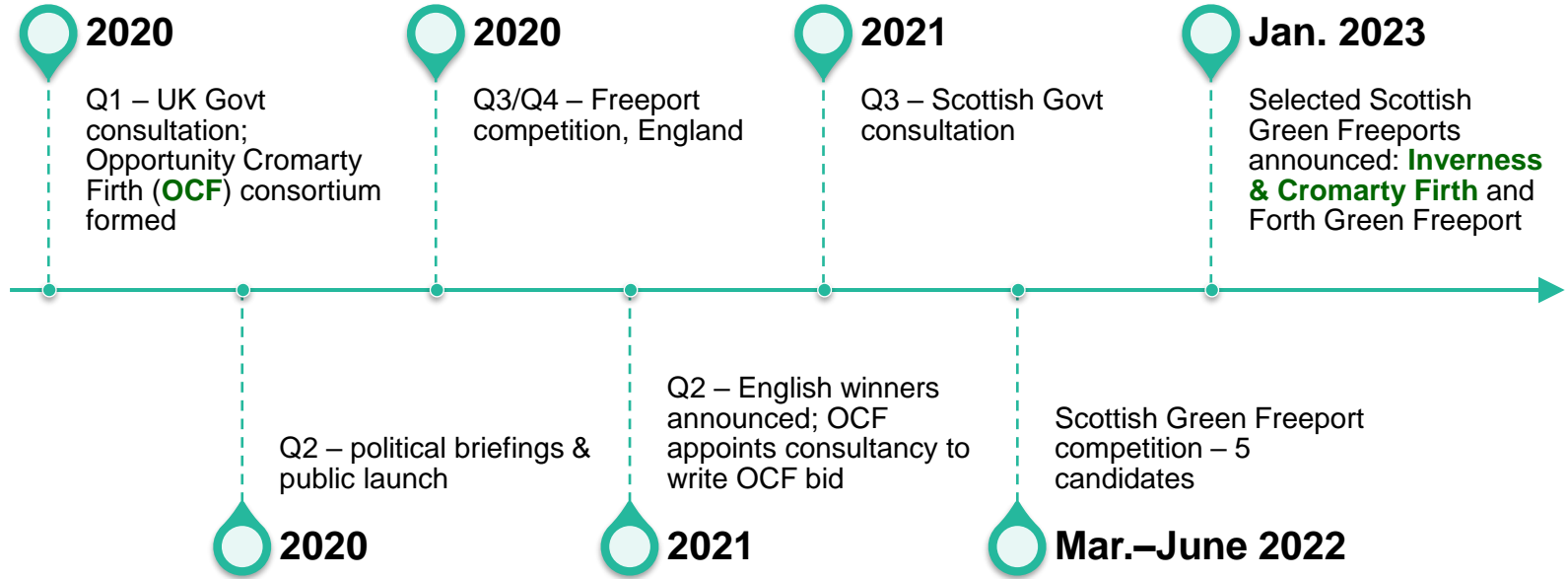
Caveat

I was on the OCF steering group 2020-22 on behalf of UHI, and assisted the bid. This presentation is an overview based on that experience, but I do not officially represent the OCF consortium.



Regional context – Renewables & Decarbonisation







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Who is involved?



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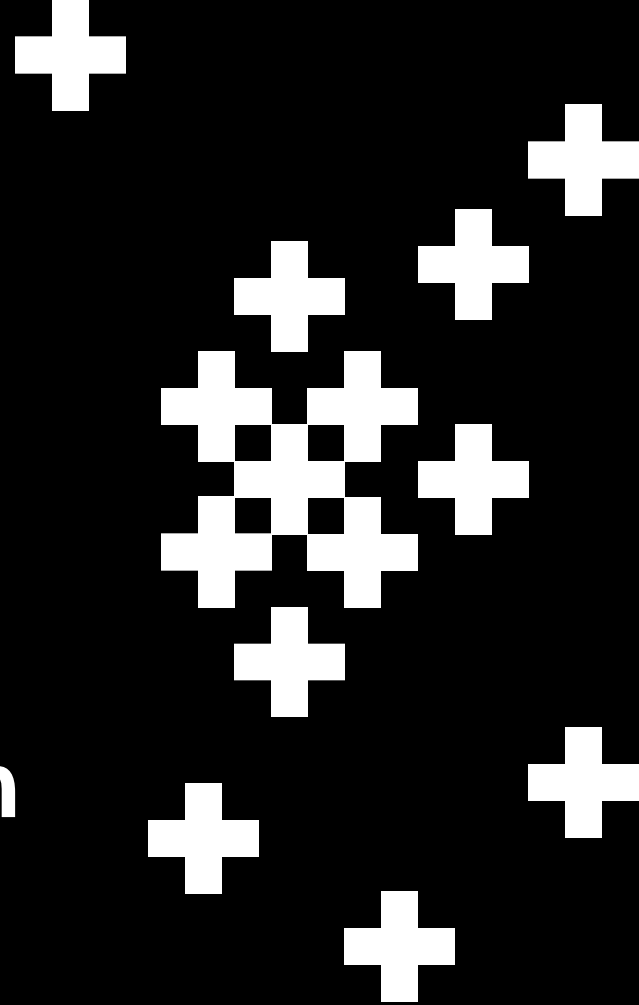
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**Inverness & Cromarty Firth
Green Freeport overview**



Inverness & Cromarty Firth Green Freeport

Aims to use growth in Offshore Wind to:

- Enable high-quality job creation
- Increase global trade & inward investment
- Create a hotbed of innovation
- Accelerate decarbonisation (heating, transport, O&G)

WHAT IS A FREEPORT/ZONE?



- UK Government initiative to incentivise international trade post-Brexit. Includes seaports, airports and rail hubs. Seeking 'best in class' locations to regenerate deprived areas, boost international trade and innovation
- Scottish Green Port enhancement: Exemplars of fair work policy and the transition to net zero, accelerating Scotland's excellence, cluster building
- Key benefits to business:
 - Duty & VAT-free imports and exports (inc. sites beyond 12nm limit)
 - Removes max. 90 day temporary storage limit or need for special customs procedures for each company in supply chain
 - Goods can move freely in Freeport, and be easily combined with other goods
 - Tax relief package for new investment/jobs
- **Becoming a Green Port makes it easier and more attractive for multi-national companies to invest and set up R&D and/or manufacturing facilities in our region.** These companies would create jobs, use local companies for products and services, and attract other supply chain companies to the area.



Scotland's Renewable Energy Hub

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Green Hydrogen



North of Scotland Hydrogen Programme Masterplan

BENEFITS TO SUPPLY CHAIN

50-year Pipeline of job and business opportunities

Increased local content through new offshore wind manufacturing: Advanced Manufacturing Plant, Serial Production of Floating Offshore Wind Substructures

Skilled People: Reskill O&G workers as part of Energy Transition, train future workforce in exportable skills in renewable energy to ensure workforce ready for these projects

Develop new technology and expertise to reduce cost and increase speed of deployment: First in the world to deploy floating wind and green hydrogen at scale. We can develop the technology and learn the skills to take this expertise around the world

Decarbonise our region & Scotland: Offshore wind, green hydrogen for industry, transport and heat, net zero port, electrification of O&G

Generate and test innovative ideas which support the decarbonisation of business and industry: Future technology centre, R&D, floating wind and hydrogen hub. Ideas that can be exported as other countries decarbonise



- Standstill period
- Detailed Business Case (approx 1 year)
- £26M seed funding
- Setting it up...!

What happens next?

An aerial photograph of the Cromarty Firth in Scotland, showing several offshore oil rigs in the water, a coastal town, and rolling hills in the background. A large, semi-transparent circular graphic composed of concentric dashed lines is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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Questions?

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References

- [About Opportunity Cromarty Firth | Free Trade Zone](#)
- [Opportunity Cromarty Firth Partners](#)
- [Opportunity Cromarty Firth News](#)
- [Green Freeports announced - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- [UHI welcomes green freeport announcement](#)