

Sharing survey data from the offshore renewables sector

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As The Crown Estate, we manage the seabed around England, Wales, and Northern Ireland out to international borders. These waters harbour some of the best wind resources worldwide, alongside the infrastructure of ports, transmission grids, a diverse supply chain and a skilled labour force. With 36 large offshore wind farms already contributing on average 6% of the nation's electricity demand, the sector is on track to becoming a vital source of power generation for the country.

Paramount to the success of these offshore renewable projects is good data. Each year the industry invests millions of pounds on site investigations, resource assessments and understanding potential environmental impacts. All of this data from customers of The Crown Estate is captured in the Marine Data Exchange (MDE); a system that was developed to store, manage and disseminate offshore survey data.

With the number of offshore renewable projects increasing, the size of survey data growing exponentially and data becoming increasingly sensitive in a competitive market, we have had to ensure that the MDE develops in tandem and that our processes for managing and sharing data benefit the industry without jeopardising any one of the projects.

With over 100TB of data stored on the MDE, The Crown Estate has worked with the offshore renewables industry to publish over half of all survey data.

This presentation discusses some of the lessons learnt of working with industry to share offshore survey data.