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*Crown Estate Scotland has today (Jan 15) officially opened the application window for ScotWind Leasing, the new offshore wind leasing round for Scottish waters, paving the way for developers to apply for the rights to build Scotland's next generation of offshore wind farms.*

**Responding, Brian McFarlane, Co-Chair of the Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council and SSE Renewables' Head of Projects, Offshore Renewables, said:**

"Offshore wind is already a key part of Scotland's low-carbon energy mix, and there is huge potential to grow and develop the sector for the benefit both of our environment and our economy.

"It is great that following on from the publication of Marine Scotland's Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy late last year, developers can now put their preparations to apply for the right to build future projects in Scottish seas into action.

"It's exciting to see the ScotWind process reach this important milestone, which is a vital step along the way to unleashing the huge potential that Scotland's seas hold for the development of offshore wind. In addition to being a tool to help meet our national net-zero targets, this leasing round also has the potential to develop and establish major economic benefits for many Scottish communities."

Ends

**Notes:**

- The [Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council](#) is co-chaired by Scottish Government Energy Minister Paul Wheelhouse and Brian McFarlane, Head of Projects, Offshore Development at SSE Renewables.
- More details on today's announcement can be found [on Crown Estate Scotland's website](#).

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