

Port of Cherbourg, 12 June 2025

PRESS RELEASE

Official launch of the Normandy Docks Power project

Today sees the signing of the Grant Agreement* between Ports of Normandy and the European Union, officially marking the start of the Normandy Docks Power (NDP) project, a strategic programme to provide onshore power facilities at the ports of Cherbourg and Caen-Ouistreham. It is the concrete expression of Europe's support for the energy transition in Normandy's ports.

The Agreement is signed under the Connecting Europe Facility 2 (CEF2)** programme, via the Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Facility (AFIF) scheme. It follows the visit of a European delegation to the port of Cherbourg on 4 June which marked the first step in the implementation of the project.

A PROJECT SUPPORTED BY THE EU TO ACCELERATE THE ENERGY TRANSITION

Coordinated by Ports of Normandy, the NDP project aims to provide onshore power facilities at the ferry and cruise ship docks at the port of Cherbourg and at the ferry dock at the port of Caen-Ouistreham.

Out of a total investment of €35.8 million, €10.74 million will be covered by a European grant awarded by the CINEA executive agency, while the Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations will provide a loan of €3.58 million. The remainder is covered by the members of Ports of Normandy: Région Normandie, Caen la Mer, the Communauté d'agglomération du Cotentin and the Département de la Manche.

Preliminary studies for the provision of onshore power facilities have also begun at the port of Dieppe. A separate grant application will be made for that future investment.

A CONCRETE COMMITMENT TO THE PORT ENVIRONMENT

The aim of the project is to provide facilities for all docked ships to connect to an onshore power supply by the end of 2027. This will reduce greenhouse gas emissions (14,000 tonnes less CO₂ emitted each year), atmospheric pollution and noise from ships' auxiliary engines running while in port.

70% of calls in Ports of Normandy ports will thus be decarbonised.

PROVISIONAL COMPLETION SCHEDULE:

- Ouistreham – Ferry dock: December 2026
- Cherbourg – Ferry docks: December 2027
- Cherbourg – Cruise dock: December 2026

With the Normandy Docks Power project, Ports of Normandy is fully in line with Europe's drive towards greener maritime transport and is stepping up its commitment to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future for its ports after the recent completion of the combined railroad terminal in Cherbourg.

****What is the Grant Agreement?***

The Grant Agreement is the formal contract between the project coordinator and the European Commission (via CINEA). It specifies the terms and conditions of the grant awarded, describes the scheduling of the project activities, the monitoring measures and the administrative and financial obligations.

Signing the Grant Agreement is the legally binding act which officialises the European Union's commitment alongside the beneficiary. It marks the formal launch of the project at European level and triggers the release of the funds.

***** European Union support via the Connecting Europe Facility 2 (CEF2) and AFIF***

The Connecting Europe Facility 2 (CEF2) is a European Union funding programme for projects of common interest in the fields of transport, energy and digital infrastructure, aimed at strengthening territorial cohesion, the energy transition and competitiveness through improved infrastructure.

As part of this programme, a specific scheme, the AFIF (Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Facility), is supporting the roll-out of alternative fuels infrastructure, such as LNG refuelling points, charging stations for electric vehicles and onshore power systems for ships in dock.

Managed by CINEA (European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency), the AFIF is a mechanism that combines European grants and private or institutional funding to facilitate the implementation of innovative high environmental impact projects.

The Normandy Docks Power project has been selected for this scheme and will receive €10.74 million of co-funding from the European Union to support the overall investment by Ports of Normandy and its partners.

ABOUT PORTS OF NORMANDY

Owner and administrator of the ports of Caen-Ouistreham, Cherbourg and Dieppe, Ports of Normandy represents: 9,000 direct and indirect jobs; €493m invested in Normandy since its creation in 2007; 100 ha dedicated to Marines Renewable Energies, a maintenance base in Caen-Ouistreham and another under construction in Dieppe; 2 million cross-Channel passengers per year; 6.5 million tonnes of cargo per year; more than 60 cruise ship visits per year and more than 300,000 cruise passengers; 3,200 marina berths, a dry stack marina, 25,000 overnight stays and 7000 visitors per year; over 12,000T of fish landed, i.e. a third of all fishery landings in Normandy; over 300 dry dockings per year.

Ports of Normandy is an alliance between Normandy Council, the Departments of Calvados, Manche and Seine-Maritime and the agglomeration communities of Caen-la-Mer, Le Cotentin and Dieppe-Maritime serving economic development in the region. Learn more about Ports of Normandy at portsdenormandie.fr

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Sole responsibility for the content of this publication lies with Ports of Normandy. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union.