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PRESS RELEASE

Cherbourg Port, winning project of the national call for the development of floating wind power

At the end of January 2025, Ports de Normandie submitted a proposal in response to the call for projects launched by ADEME for “Metropolitan Port Infrastructure for the Floating Offshore Wind Industry.”

The project focuses on the construction of a heavy-duty quay extending the Flamands quay at the Port of Cherbourg, with the aim of further developing commercial activity associated with Marine Renewable Energy (MRE).

The selection of the project submitted by Ports de Normandie, announced today by the French Government, is a strong recognition of the pivotal role played by the Port of Cherbourg in the development of this high-growth sector. It also acknowledges the significant investment efforts made by Normandy’s local authorities, led by the Normandy Region.

“This is a major step forward for Cherbourg and for Normandy as a whole. By investing in the ‘Flamands O’ quay, we are firmly choosing the future : a modern, competitive port industry fully committed to the energy transition.

This development is part of a broader strategy of substantial and sustained investment in the Port of Cherbourg, aimed at strengthening its infrastructure and supporting its strategic growth. This major infrastructure investment reflects our ambition to establish Normandy as a leading region in the development of offshore wind, while generating economic activity and employment opportunities for the people of Normandy,” said Hervé Morin, President of the Normandy Region.

In Normandy, Marine Renewable Energies (MRE) have been a strategic priority for many years, combining the need to address climate change with economic opportunities and regional development. Normandy accounts for 31% of MRE jobs in France, with 2,302 jobs, €1.3 billion in turnover and €1.2 billion in investment. All three ports operated by Ports de Normandie are involved in the development of this sector, with the Port of Cherbourg playing a particularly important role.

As a pioneer, Ports de Normandie made an early decision to invest in order to meet the technological and logistical challenges of the MRE sector. Its key strengths? Top level infrastructure, most of which is already tried and tested. A major market opportunity: five offshore wind farms either under construction or planned along the Normandy coastline, a world-class tidal-stream energy site at the Raz Blanchard, and immediate proximity to the United Kingdom and Ireland. All of this is combined with highly specific expertise within Normandy, including heavy-lift logistics, metallurgy and quarrying and aggregates production.

Ports de Normandie is positioned across the entire value chain — industrial production, assembly hubs, marshalling port and maintenance — and across the main marine energy technologies, including fixed-bottom offshore wind, floating offshore wind and tidal-stream energy.

To continue this development, Ports de Normandie plans to build a new heavy-duty quay, with a load-bearing capacity ranging from 15 to 50 tonnes per square metre and a length of 140 to 160 metres. It would make it possible to :

- comfortably accommodate the expected increase in port traffic and eliminate the bottleneck created by having only one heavy-duty quay;
- eliminate conflicts of use resulting from the use of a single quay;
- accommodate two projects simultaneously, such as installation hubs or foundation storage facilities;
- enable industrial companies to achieve economies of scale by concentrating, thanks to the availability of two heavy-duty quays, a greater number of functions for the same project within the same port.

In the long term, this infrastructure will enable the Port of Cherbourg to secure contracts and market opportunities that were previously beyond its reach, while also helping to increase the occupancy rate of its port storage areas.

The project represents an investment of €30 million, which will be used to:

- relocate the breakwater protecting the inner roadstead ;
- extend the North Quay ;
- dredge the area.

At its meeting on 2026, May 19, the Ports of Normandy Committee approved the future construction of the infrastructure under the following funding structure:

- €18.1 million : revenue generated by MRE-related activity at the Port of Cherbourg;
- €10.5 million : ADEME;
- €1.4 million : Cotentin Urban Community.

This project was funded by the Government as part of the France 2030 plan, administered by ADEME.

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 SeineMaritime 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

Press contacts :

Marie-Agnès Gérin – 06.71.90.70.87 – marie-agnes.gerin@portsdenormandie.fr

Anne Pétri-Maillard – 06 23 50 48 99 – anne.petri-maillard@portsdenormandie.fr

Charlotte Chanteloup – 06 42 08 11 68 – charlotte.chanteloup@normandie.fr