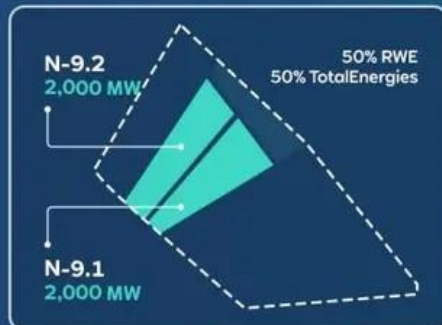




The North Sea

Engine of the energy transition

RWE and TotalEnergies
will jointly realise
two large offshore wind projects
off the German coast



North Sea

Heligoland

Borkum

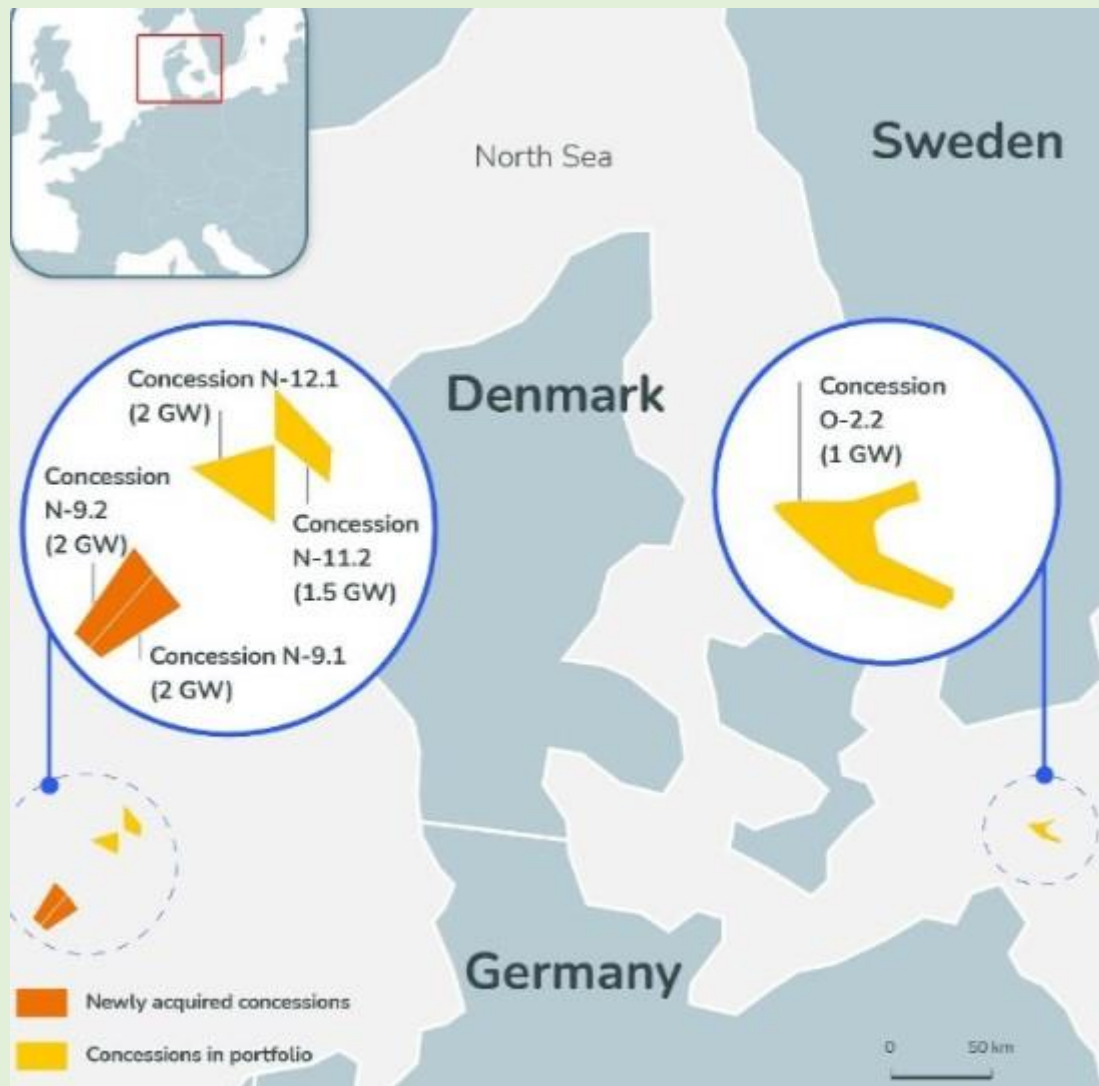
Hamburg

Bremen

Netherlands

Germany

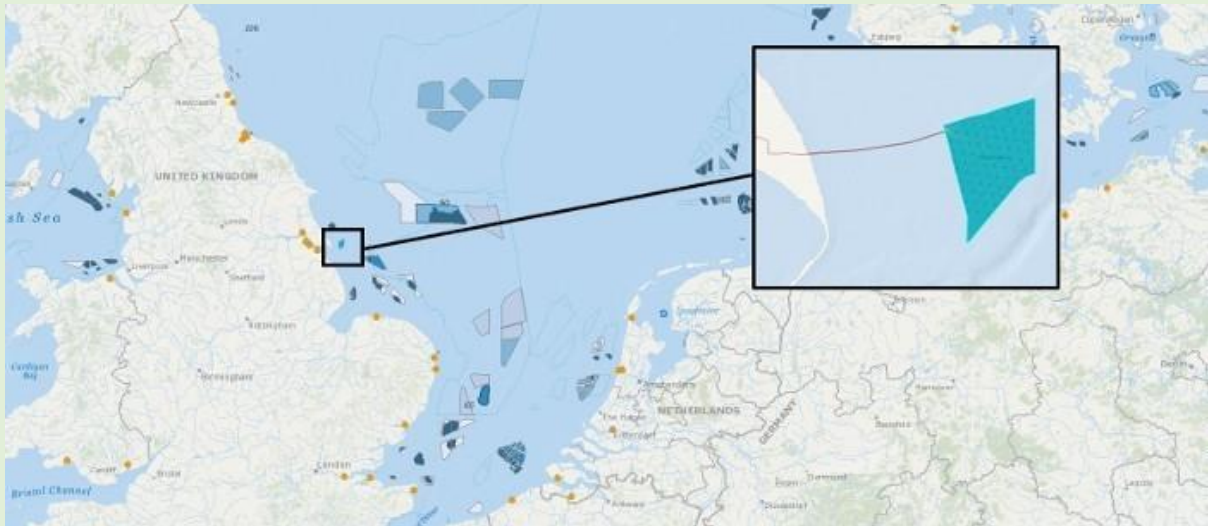
Today's announcement of the partnership between German Utility RWE and French Oil and Gas giant TotalEnergies further highlights the importance of the North Sea for the Energy Transition.



In July 22, 2022 the NeuConnect interconnector had reached financial close prompted me to reflect on how quickly the energy transformation is occurring.



I recall looking at a map of the North Sea area with a senior colleague at midlands- based utility in 2008 and semi-jokingly quipped, 'it's the North Sea - we are going to cover it with turbines' Recent developments indicate that this is pretty much what is coming to pass.



I was working on the Humber Offshore Gateway Array, one of many tongue-twister titles which have peppered my offshore wind career. Mercifully it's now referred to as the Humber Array and is of course up and running off the Yorkshire Coast.

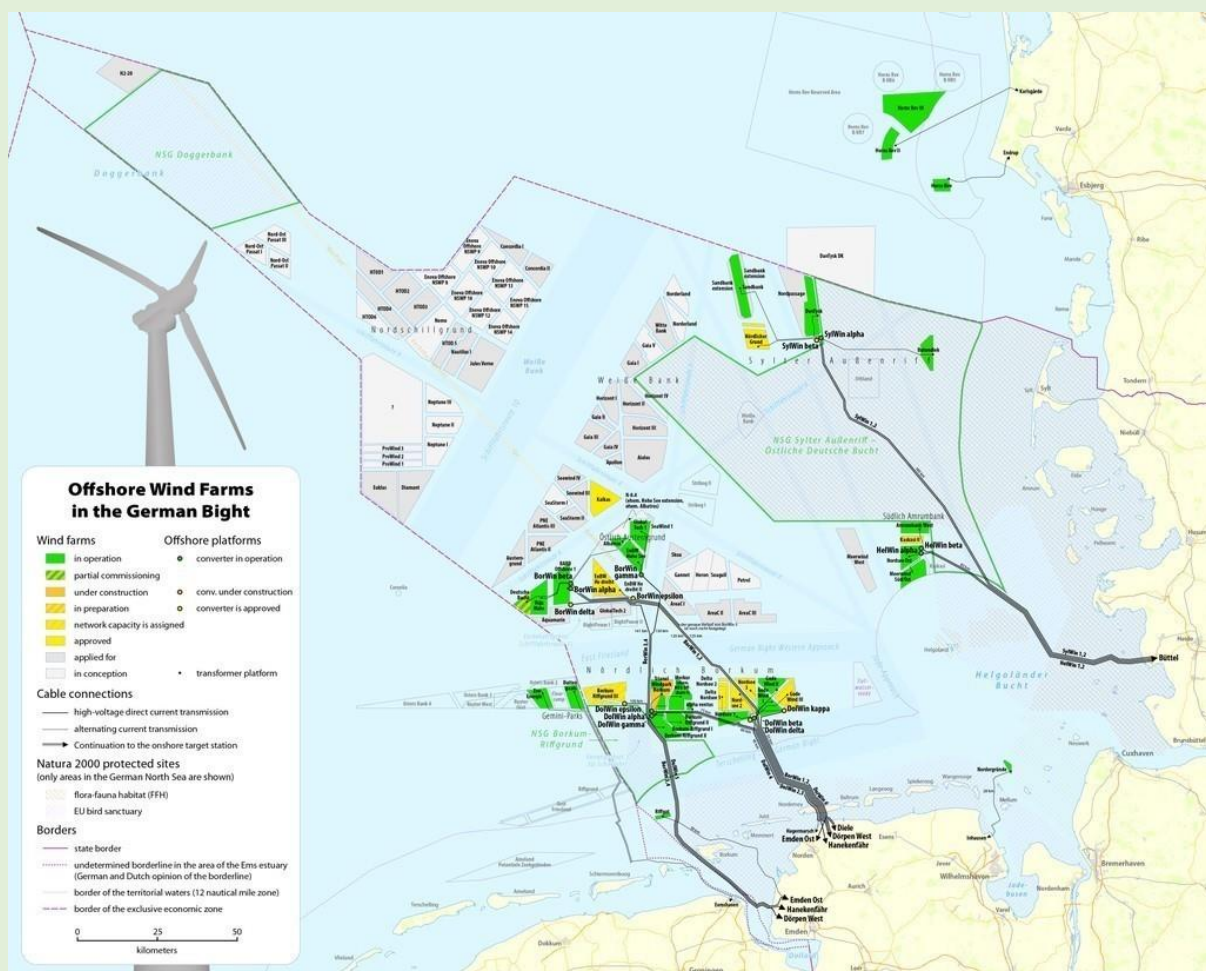


A few months later and checking over the coastline with that same colleague at Spurn point. Spurn juts into the Humber estuary and is a truly remarkable area with second world-war fortifications and abundant bird and wildlife we were keen to

safeguard. We could also see the generating potential which lay in front of us.

Although the company was German, it was the UK leading the race and we are still recognised world leaders.

Germany however is catching up fast, they make many of the turbines, machines which constitute major parts of the total spend and have excellent electrical and engineering capabilities too. Commitments from Berlin around their future in the North Sea with the German bight already being built out as reflected in the below graphic.



The Humber team spent much time in Hull and at [Grimsby](#) as the project brought with it jobs and a regeneration of a fishing community.

As [cop26](#) and political realities manifest themselves we see a political dimension entering the North Sea arena with recent declarations from Esbjerg gaining international coverage

The route of the new interconnector connected is long, at over 700 km, but it is significant that both sides of the North sea will be physically linked

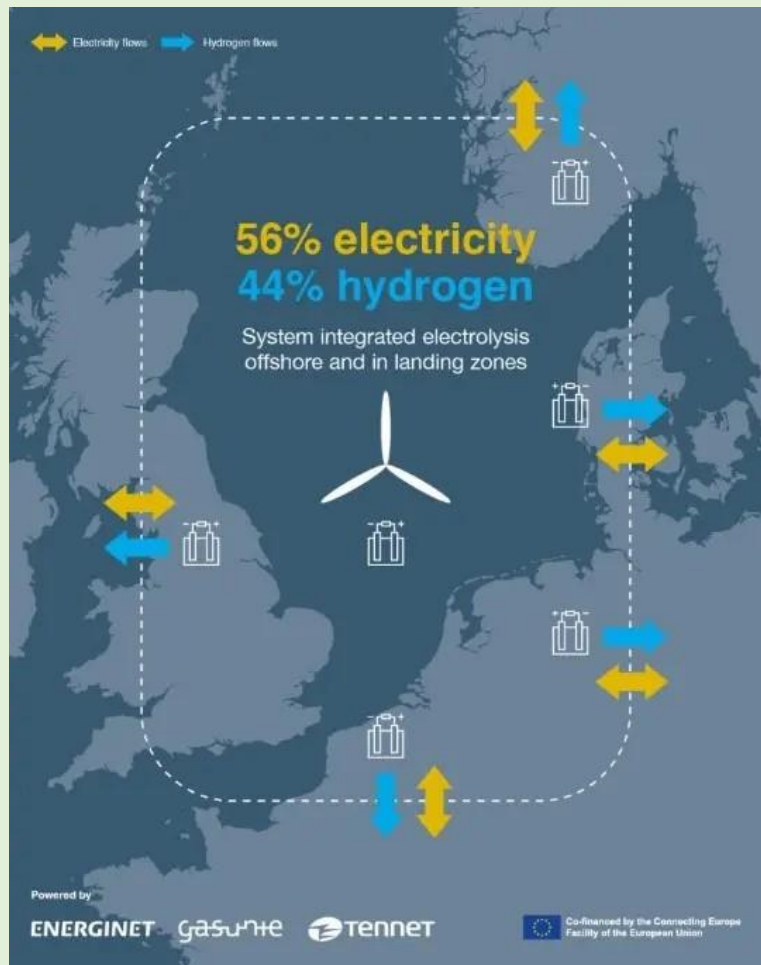
These days it's good to share knowledge globally. There are signs too that commentaries (such as this) are gaining traction, it was still slightly humbling to be highlighted this week as a 'top influencer', an unheard of moniker looking out to sea from Spurn back in 2009.

To help the North Sea function for all stakeholder's dialogue is essential and Grid, which is perhaps the most important stakeholder to unlock projects is trying to help.



North Sea. October 2023

Their [holistic grid](#) approach is taking a strategic and high level rather than project centric approach. Integrated into this is a European hydrogen backbone, unthinkable back in 2008, but very much part of the equation now with Gigastack and other innovations likely to be neighbours of the Humber Array.



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