



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

The Rt Hon Greg Hands MP
Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth
and Climate Change

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Dear Mr McDonald,

Thank you for submitting a proposal for the Aquila project to be considered as a Pathfinder under the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR). I am writing this letter to welcome your proposal and confirm that we see merit in progressing this project as a Pathfinder.

The British Energy Security Strategy sets out an ambition for 50GW of offshore wind capacity by 2030, and Aquila is considered an important project in delivering this. Through the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR), we are seeking to develop an increasingly coordinated offshore transmission network to minimise the impacts to the community and the environment, reduce costs, and support the acceleration of offshore wind deployment.

The OTNR has taken an ambitious approach to maximising the impact it can have on the offshore wind project pipeline through its triple track approach across the near-, medium- and long-term timeframes. Pathfinder projects are a critical component of this approach and will allow the OTNR to deliver benefits as soon as possible and provide important learnings for the other parts of the review.

The concept of Pathfinder projects was created for such projects that are leading the way in utilising the enabling regulatory and policy changes being developed by project partners to meet the OTNR objectives. Having reviewed this proposal, I am encouraged by the degree of coordination being pursued and look forward to applying the learnings from delivering this project to the wider OTNR.

In confirming this project's inclusion in the first tranche of Pathfinders under the OTNR, BEIS and its other OTNR partners are committed to working closely with yourselves to address regulatory or policy challenges. I look forward to working with you to realise the benefits to consumers, the environment, and the community, that this project has the potential to deliver.

Yours ever,

THE RT HON GREG HANDS MP
Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change