

File name: offshore_wind__rachel__invest_ni (720p).mp4

Moderator questions in Bold, Respondents in Regular text.

KEY: Unable to decipher = (inaudible + timecode), **Phonetic spelling** (ph) + timecode), **Missed word** = (mw + timecode), **Talking over each other** = (talking over each other + timecode).

Rachel Sankannawar: Good morning everyone, good morning, I think we'll kick off the event. Good morning everyone, my name is Rachel Sankannawar, and on behalf of Invest NI, welcome to our event focusing on the opportunities emerging from offshore wind. I would also like to extend a very warm welcome and a sincere thank you to all our speakers who have given up a lot of their time and to help us with this event today. Our programme will highlight the benefits of offshore wind and the-, indeed the extensive supply chain opportunities which exist for businesses in Northern Ireland. We will also hear from some of the companies that are actively exploring the feasibility of offshore wind. Offshore wind is the fastest growing renewable energy-, renewable sector and will make up a significant portion of the energy mix in Europe, Asia, North America within the next ten years. And as you will hear from our speakers, offshore wind is a growth area and can play a key role in developing the green economy by offering business opportunities locally, nationally and internationally. And for Northern Ireland, this is bolstered by the energy strategy and the commitment to develop an action plan for offshore wind. Northern Ireland is ideally placed to have an offshore wind industry, with many companies already exporting goods and services locally and further afield.

With it's world class infrastructure and supply chain capability, Northern Ireland could potentially be one of the lowest cost regions to develop offshore wind in Europe. Our excellence in, in engineering offers very good prospects for companies in key areas that include research and development, device manufacturing and assembly, construction, logistics, asset management and engineering services. Overall, I'm very excited by these opportunities and I see offshore wind as playing a key part in supporting Northern Ireland to address the climate, crisis and indeed to build a green economy. I hope everybody will enjoy the event today and take full advantage of networking in person and, and I'd just like to say thank you for being here and I'd like to hand over to, to Richard Rodgers, head of energy at the Department for the Economy. Thank you.