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Dear Mr Kelly

Title: Offshore Cable Repair Vessel and Universal Joint

Applicant: TC Ormonde OFTO Limited

Whilst the UK offshore wind industry leads the world, the ultimate success of the existing installed assets and the long term future opportunity for the sector is reliant on driving down costs. The Crown Estate supports industry initiatives which have a clear capacity to reduce the levelised cost of offshore wind energy, and reduce health and safety risks, leading to increased investor confidence.

The TC Ormonde OFTO Limited NIC application for funding to:

- i) Convert an existing telecom-cable repair vessel so that it can also repair OFTO power cables;
- ii) manufacture and test a new "universal" cable jointing system enabling dissimilar sections of OFTO-type subsea cable to be jointed together; and
- iii) train and qualify jointers to repair cables on board the repair vessel referred to in (i) above using the joint referred to in (ii) above,

would, in our view, have the capacity to lead to significantly enhanced availability of a vessel capable of undertaking transmission cable repair work with a well-qualified crew at a price well below that which would otherwise be available on the spot market. We would anticipate overall outages being shorter, less time required to undertake repair operations and a lower risk of a recurrent outage. Successful delivery of this project would therefore represent an important step forward for the offshore wind sector.

We offer our full support to the above application.

Yours sincerely



Ian Pritchard
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