APPENDIX 6-2

ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESMENT

BiGGAR Economics

Economic Impact of Sceirde Rocks Windfarm

A report to MKO
November 2024

BiGGAR Economics

Contents

Glossary and Acronyms

Table 0-1: Glossary

Term	Definition
CAPEX	Capital Expenditure
DECEX	Decommissioning Expenditure
Direct Impact	Economic impact associated with the activity of primary contractors involved in the development, construction and operation and maintenance of the Project.
EIAR	An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAR) is a statutory process report by which certain planned Projects must be assessed before a formal decision to proceed can be made.
Indirect Impact	Economic impact associated with the spending taking place across the supply chain of those businesses involved in the development, construction and operation and maintenance of the Project.
Induced Impact	Economic impact associated with the spending across the economy of those workers involved in the development, construction and operation and maintenance of the Project.
OPEX	Operational Expenditure
Study Area	This is an area which is defined for each EIA topic which includes the windfarm site as well as potential spatial and temporal considerations of the impacts on relevant receptors. The study area for each EIA topic is intended to cover the area within which an effect can be reasonably expected.
The Developer	Corio Generation
The Project	All components of Sceirde Rocks together. That is the Offshore Infrastructure, Onshore Grid Infrastructure and Operations Maintenance Facility.
TOTEX	Total Expenditure

Table 0-2: Acronyms

Term	Definition
aFTEs	Annualised Full Time Equivalents
CSO	Central Statistics Office
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
FTEs	Full Time Equivalents
GVA	Gross Value Added
GW	Gigawatt
MW	Megawatt
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
OMF	Operation and Maintenance Facility
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
RD&I	Research, Development and Innovation
RSES	Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator

1. Executive Summary

The development, construction, operation and decommissioning of Sceirde Rocks Windfarm has the potential to generate a significant level of economic activity in the local and Irish economy. This report has been prepared as part of the planning application for Sceirde Rocks Windfarm.

Corio Generation proposed offshore wind farm – Sceirde Rocks Windfarm is expected to feature 30 turbines generating a total expected capacity of around 450 MW. This will be the first offshore wind farm off the west coast of Ireland, a region that will be crucial to the ambition to install 37GW of offshore wind by 2050 and has the potential to support over 5,000 jobs in the sector by the end of the 2030s.

It is estimated that the Sceirde Rocks Windfarm will require an initial capital investment of approximately €1.4 billion, and would represent one of the largest ever private sector investments in the Atlantic Region. Figure 1-1 below shows the estimated contract values associated with each phase of Sceirde Rocks Windfarm by study area, including County Galway, the Atlantic Region, comprised of the West, Mid-West and North-West Regions, and the Republic of Ireland as a whole, as well as total expenditure (TOTEX). All values reported are inclusive i.e. spending in Ireland includes spending in the Regional Area.

Figure 1-1 Assumed Contract Values and Shares by Project Stage

Phase	County Galway	Atlantic Region	Ireland	TOTEX
CAPEX	€25 m (2%)	€43 m (3%)	€89 m (7%)	€1,360 m
OPEX (Annual)	€11 m (40%)	€14 m (54%)	€16 m (61%)	€27 m
DECEX	€2 m (2%)	€5 m (7%)	€5.2 m (8%)	€65 m
TOTEX	€430 m (18%)	€587 m (25%)	€708 m (30%)	€2,433 m

The impacts have been measured across three project stages: capital expenditure (CAPEX including Development), operational expenditure (OPEX) and

decommissioning (DECEX). During the lifetime of Sceirde Rocks Windfarm it is expected that €2.4 billion will be spent on the development, construction, operation and decommissioning of the wind farm. Companies and organisations in County Galway are estimated to be awarded contracts worth approximately €430 million during this period and the Atlantic Region, comprised of the Mid-West, West, and North West Regions of Ireland, is expected to benefit from contracts valued at €587 million. Based on the current industrial structure in Ireland, and the ability of businesses to provide relevant goods and services associated with Sceirde Rocks Windfarm, it is expected that businesses across Ireland would receive €708 million. The largest short term economic opportunity will be during the development and construction phase of Sceirde Rocks Windfarm however the long term operation and maintenance (O&M) activity will be the main economic benefit from this project.

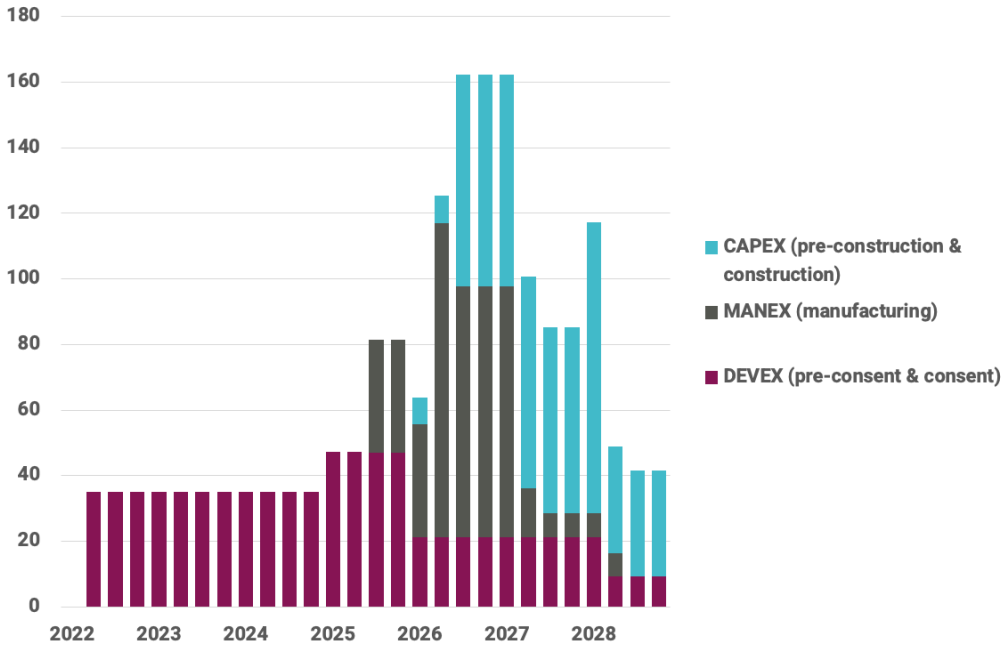
This expenditure will drive economic activity through the Gross Value Added (GVA) and jobs that it supports. As with spending, GVA and employment impacts are inclusive, i.e., impacts in Ireland include those occurring in the Atlantic Region. During the development and construction phase, it is expected that Sceirde Rocks Windfarm will support:

- 140 Annualized Full-Time Equivalent Jobs (aFTEs) and generate €13 million GVA in County Galway;
- 250 aFTEs and generate €22 million GVA in the Atlantic Region; and
- 610 aFTEs and generate €53 million GVA in Ireland.

This economic activity and jobs include those directly employed by Sceirde Rocks Windfarm and its contractors as well as the supply chain companies who have allocated a proportion of their time to Sceirde Rocks Windfarm.

The impact during the development and construction period is expected to peak in 2026, with an estimated average employment of 160 FTEs across Ireland.

Figure 1-2 Development and Construction Jobs over Time (Direct and Indirect)



Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

The economic impacts during the operational phase of the Project will be long term and this phase represents a significant opportunity to both the regional and Irish economies. In an average year, the operational expenditure on Sceirde Rocks Windfarm is expected to support:

- 80 jobs and €3 million GVA per annum in County Galway;
- 110 jobs and €5 million GVA per annum in the Atlantic Region; and
- 130 jobs and €8 million GVA per annum in Ireland.

When the development, construction and operational impacts are combined, the total impact on the direct contractors and the supply chain is expected to be:

- €102 million GVA in County Galway;
- €152 million GVA in the Atlantic Region; and
- €190 million GVA in Ireland.

If the full impact is considered, including the induced impacts (i.e., impacts from staff spending across the wider economy), over the lifetime of the Project, Sceirde Rocks Windfarm, will generate:

- €202 million GVA in County Galway;
- €338 million GVA in the Atlantic Region; and
- €564 million GVA in Ireland.

Table 1-1 Total Economic Impacts by Stage and Geographic Area (excluding Induced)

	County Galway	Atlantic Region	Ireland
CAPEX			
GVA (€m)	€13	€22	€53
Jobs (aFTEs)	140	250	610
Annual OPEX			
GVA (€m)	€3	€5	€8
Jobs (FTEs)	80	110	130
DECEX			
GVA (€m)	<€1	€1	€1
Jobs (aFTEs)	10	40	50

There is the potential for these impacts to be even greater and Sceirde Rocks Offshore Windfarm is working with local supply chain companies to promote engagement with the supply chain. In a more ambitious scenario, there is the potential for the project to support even more jobs, including up to 150 across Ireland during the lifetime of the project.

2. Approach

This section outlines the overall approach to the estimation of the economic impact of Sceirde Rocks Windfarm, including the parameters of the study and the data sources that were used.

2.1 Definitions

This assessment considered the direct, supply chain and staff spending economic impacts of Sceirde Rocks Windfarm. Unless stated otherwise, costs are reported in nominal terms. This involved the following considerations:

- costs have been adjusted for inflation, therefore the values given reflect the nominal, or face, value the contracts will have at the time they are completed;
- where it is known how a supplier may procure goods or services, this expenditure has been subtracted from the initial supplier contract and assessed individually to avoid double counting; and
- contract values are all reported in Euros.

In some instances, when necessary, values are reported in real prices. In each case this is explicitly highlighted.

This analysis has considered:

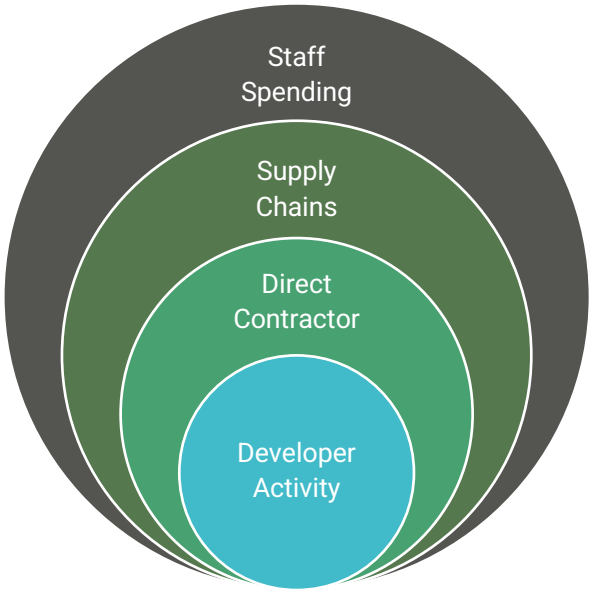
- **Direct impacts** - those impacts that arise from the initial organisation of spend;
- **Indirect impacts** - those impacts that arise from the supply chain that supports the initial organisation of spend; and
- **Induced impacts** – those impacts that arise from staff spending their wages in the wider economy.

This way of reporting the economic impacts from offshore wind farms reflects best practice and mirrors the approach followed within the EIAR. For example, if a construction company was contracted by the developer to do the groundworks and foundations for the onshore substation, the direct impacts would capture the jobs directly supported in this construction company by this contract. In addition, this contract would have economic impact and support jobs in their supply chain, such as concrete providers, haulage companies and plant hire. This would be captured in the supply chain impact calculations.

In addition, our analysis has considered the wider economic impact associated with Sceirde Rocks Windfarm by providing an estimate of its induced impacts, that is, the

economic impact which is associated with the directly employed staff spending their money in the wider economy.

Figure 2-1 Levels of Economic Activity and Impact



The analysis of the economic impact from Sceirde Rocks Wind Farm considers two commonly-used measures of economic activity: Gross Value Added (GVA) and FTEs.

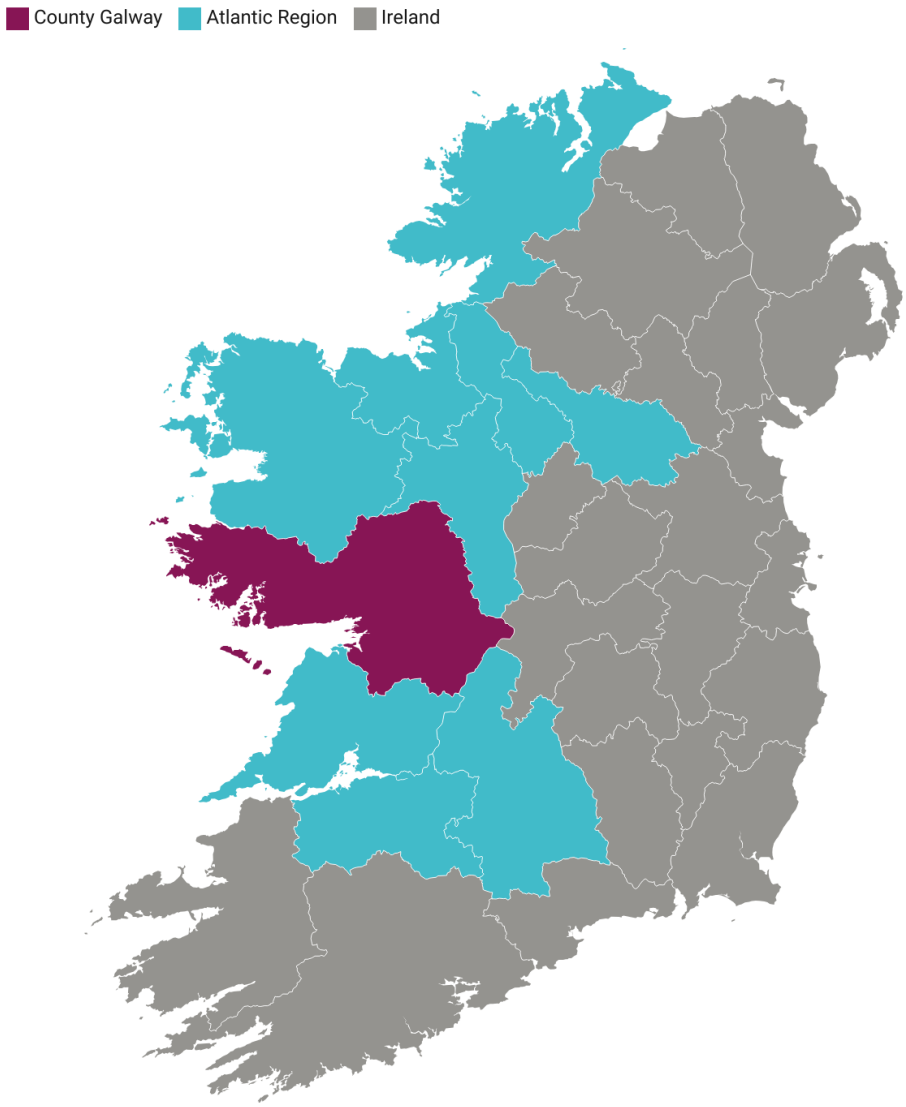
- **Gross Value Added (GVA) –** this is a measure of economic value added by an organisation or industry. It is typically estimated by subtracting the non-staff operational costs from the revenues of an organisation. This has been reported in nominal values, as with expenditure, throughout this report unless stated otherwise; and
- **Full Time Equivalent (FTEs)** – this is a measure of the employment which is equivalent to one person being employed full time and is used for long term impacts such as those during the operational phase of Sceirde Rocks Windfarm. For short term contracts or cumulative employment periods, these employment impacts have been annualised, to indicate one year of full-time equivalent employment. This is denoted as aFTEs.

Gross Value Added has been included in the analysis since it gives a more comprehensive picture of the economic impact of Sceirde Rocks Windfarm.

The geographic areas which are used in this analysis allow for consideration of activity at construction and O&M ports. The study areas are:

- the County of Galway;
- the Atlantic Region, comprised of the Mid-West, West, and North West regions of Ireland; and
- the Republic of Ireland.

Figure 2-2 Sceirde Rocks Economic Impact Study Areas



Unless otherwise stated, the values for each geographic area are reported inclusively, i.e., the figure for the Atlantic Region includes the activity within County Galway.

2.2 Method

An economic model has been designed to assess the economic impacts of the proposed offshore wind development. The principle of this model, to focus on direct and indirect GVA to determine the value of economic activity in the study area has been applied by BiGGAR Economics to multiple offshore developments, both before and after construction, and the assessment of over 150 onshore renewable energy developments. These principles have also been applied by other assessors when considering the economic impact of offshore wind farms (BVG Associates, 2017) and are considered best practice.

This model is based on the level of development, capital and operational expenditure for Sceirde Rocks Windfarm and the impact that this expenditure would have on the companies and organisations involved. The model estimates the direct, supply chain and induced economic impacts from this expenditure.

The key steps, and data sources that are used at each step of the methodology for estimating the total economic impact of Sceirde Rocks Windfarm are outlined in Figure 2-3. This approach ensures that leakages are considered, including at Step 3 when the initial contracts are distributed by geographic area. Leakage is the term used to describe economic value that is generated outside the study area, for example from imports to Ireland.

Figure 2-3 Economic Impact Methodology and Data Sources

1. Total Investment	• Developer data • Sector Studies
2. Estimate Contract Value by Type	• Developer data • Sector Studies • BiGGAR Economics Experience
3. Estimate Contract Content by Geographic Area	• Economic and sectoral analysis of each Geographic Area • Developer data and sector Studies • BiGGAR Economics Experience
4. Convert Contract Values to FTEs	• Company data • CSO Business Demography Survey • CSO Institutional Sector Accounts Non-Financial
5. Estimate GVA from Contract Values	• Company data • CSO Institutional Sector Accounts Non-Financial
6. Estimate Supply Chain Impacts	• CSO Supply and Use and Input Output Tables for Ireland 2020
7. Estimate Induced Impacts	• Irish Government Input Output Tables
Total Economic Impact	

Source: BiGGAR Economics

3. Context of the Development

This section outlines the regional and national policies and strategies of the areas of impact associated with Sceirde Rocks Windfarm

3.1 Policy and Strategic Context

This section outlines the regional and national policies and strategies of the areas of impact associated with Sceirde Rocks Windfarm

3.1.1 Programme for Government

Ireland's most recent Programme for Government, updated in 2021, outlines the major priorities of the Irish Government, and how they will aim to address the challenges facing the country while in government. The lasting impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic are highlighted across the Programme, with its effects on growth and employment posing a major threat to Ireland's economy and the wellbeing of Irish citizens. In order to rebuild Ireland's economy and prevent major shocks having such an effect in future, the Programme for Government promises that policy will both support growth and embed resilience in Ireland's economy, while improving quality of life across the regions of Ireland. With this goal, the Irish Government outlines 12 main missions.

Included in these missions is Reigniting and Renewing the Economy, under which the Irish Government aims to support growth and build an economy which enables a fair, prosperous, caring and sustainable society. This mission will be supported by a 'jobs-led recovery,' with the Government intending to reverse the effect Covid-19 had on Ireland's unemployment rate by supporting people into work and creating 200,000 new jobs by 2025. In doing so, the Government aims to build a "stronger, fairer, and more sustainable economy prepared for the next phase of disruptive technologies and on a pathway to a low-carbon future." As part of this effort, the Programme for Government highlights the opportunity to embed the requirement for a "just transition" from fossil-fuel dependence into Ireland's approach to climate action, committing to direct funding from the European Green Deal towards decarbonising projects, such as renewable energy.

The Programme also outlines the mission of A Green New Deal, emphasising Ireland's ambition to more than halve carbon emissions produced by Ireland over the course of the decade, while ensuring that all parts of the country can benefit from the opportunities of a Just Transition, enhancing quality of life and delivering a brighter future. Committing to a 7% per annum reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2021 to 2030, the Government commits to enacting policies which will support this ambitious target and enable Ireland's businesses to transition effectively. Meeting this target effectively will be driven in part, by the expansion of

Ireland's renewable sector, with the Government committing to rapid decarbonisation of the energy sector, aiming deliver at least 70% renewable electricity by 2030. The Programme emphasises the opportunities presented by the offshore wind sector in delivering both effective decarbonisation and positive impacts for Ireland's economy. To take advantage of these opportunities, the Irish Government has committed to producing a long-term plan which sets out how the country should take advantage of the potential for offshore renewables and put Ireland on the path to achieving 5 GW capacity in offshore wind by 2030.

3.1.2 National Energy & Climate Plan 2021-2030

The Irish Government's latest statement on its plans for Ireland's energy sector are outlined in the National Energy & Climate Plan, which looks ahead to 2030 and how the country will utilise the sector to drive decarbonisation. The plan is interlinked with other strategic documents in a concerted effort to increase energy efficiency; reduce emissions and eradicate fuel poverty. The plan identifies five key national objectives and targets for Ireland's energy supply sector, including:

- Decarbonisation: working towards the decarbonisation of the economy to reach net zero in Ireland by 2050;
- Energy Efficiency: intensifying efforts and investments to enable Ireland to deliver primary energy savings of 62,171 GWh by 2030;
- Energy Security: cost-effectively maintaining the security of Ireland's energy system by offsetting the risks posed by climate change through mitigation and adaption;
- Internal Energy Market: supporting internal energy infrastructure which diversifies Ireland's energy supply and supports interconnection with other European countries; and
- Research, Innovation and Competitiveness: support investment in low-carbon technologies to drive innovation and establish Ireland as a major competitor in the energy market internationally.

3.1.3 Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2019-2031

In 2019, the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly published its Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES), comprised of various strategic plans and an investment framework which outline together how the organisation aims to shape future growth throughout the area, comprised of the Midland, Eastern and Dublin regions of Ireland. The RSES was written with the key vision "to create a sustainable and competitive Region that supports the health and wellbeing of our people and places, from urban to rural, with access to quality housing, travel and employment opportunities for all." In order to achieve this vision, the strategy sets out three key cross-cutting principles, reflecting the challenges and opportunities for the region, including:

- Healthy Placemaking: to promote people's quality of life through the creation of healthy and attractive places to live, work visit, invest and study in;
- Climate Action: the need to enhance climate resilience and to accelerate a transition to a low carbon society recognising the role of natural capital and ecosystem services in achieving this; and

- Economic Opportunity: to create the right conditions and opportunities for the Region to realise sustainable economic growth and quality jobs that ensure a good living standard for all.

As part of the principle of taking action on the climate, the strategy highlights the role which renewables will play in Ireland's future energy system, supporting the transition to a low carbon economy by 2050. This presents an opportunity in the development of the renewable energy sector in Ireland, which has the potential to support the economies of rural areas and enable local regeneration.

3.1.4 Ireland's Industry 4.0 Strategy 2020-2025

Published in 2019 by the Department of Business, Enterprise, and Innovation the strategy addresses the transformation capacity of digital technologies in manufacturing value chains, supply chains and business models to remain and refine competitive advantage for firms and national economies. Given Irelands strong manufacturing base and the projected overall growth in manufacturing employment in the next five years it is imperative that productivity growth and innovation in goods and services across the value chain remain internationally competitive and that Industry 4.0 drives that capability. The Strategy sets out a clear goal for Industry 4.0 to be led by firms with 18 strategic actions distributed between six themes and assigned responsibility to relevant bodies for each action.

The vision underpinning this strategy is that by 2025 Ireland will be competitive, innovation-driven manufacturing hub at the frontier of the fourth industrial revolution (Industry 4.0).

The strategy identifies the important role the State has in the development of a supportive ecosystem of relevant skills, RD&I supports, standards development, international connectedness, policy, legal and regulation.

3.1.5 Galway County Development Plan 2022 – 2028

The Galway County Development Plan sets out a range of proposed policy objectives for development up to 2028. Galway County Council recognises the pivotal role of the economic, enterprise and retail sectors to the county. It is the primary aim of the plan to build on the economic strengths within the county and address in a sustainable manner, the areas of the county that requires attention in this regard.

The strategic aims include promoting growth and employment across the county, ensuring the

attractiveness of Galway and development as a location for domestic and foreign direct investment.

The Plan sets a high level policy objective to work toward a jobs ratio of 0.70 and above for our main urban areas and taking into account metropolitan and key towns with their strategic potential from self sustaining towns to small growth towns.

Spatial Employment Designations like the Strategic Economic Corridor between Oranmore and Athenry and the Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) which covers nine counties and ten Local authorities which include Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway, Clare, Limerick and Kerry. The AEC development stems from the need to address regional imbalance in Ireland and provide a viable alternative to the east region for investment and population growth. The strategic aims of the AEC are to impact population growth in the area by retention of talent and inward migration across the AEC.

3.1.6 Project Ireland 2040 Pipeline

Published in 2019, the Project Ireland 2040 Pipeline of Major Infrastructure Projects place a long-term strategy for Ireland's future development put in place by the national government to guide strategic development in the relating sectors. Project Ireland 2040 consists of the National Planning Framework for Ireland which sets out its spatial strategy for Ireland backed by the National Development Plan which is the infrastructure investment programme.

Project Ireland 2040 Pipeline links spatial planning and public investment together in a bold and ambitious vision for the future of Ireland.

The projects highlighted in the Pipeline have a budget of greater than €20 billion and include public transportation projects, ports and airports, energy projects and road and water projects. Housing, health and higher education projects are also included in this pipeline plan to 2040 complemented by an investment package of €116 billion in the years to 2027. Public investment is aimed to reach 4% of national income which is well above the EU average of 2.9%.

While the Sceirde Rocks wind farm development does not form part of this pipeline, Project Ireland highlights the need for capital projects to drive economic growth and this project works towards achieving this goal.

3.1.7 Powering Prosperity – Ireland's Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy

The scale of the economic opportunity is highlighted Ireland's industrial strategy for offshore wind *Powering Prosperity.* The strategy identifies four key pillars to

maximise the economic development potential associated with Ireland's offshore wind resources. These are:

- Supply chains
- Research, Development & Innovation;
- Future demand and end users for Renewable Energy; and
- Balanced regional economic development opportunities.

The ambition within this strategy is that by 2030, there will be up to 5,000 jobs across Ireland in the offshore wind sector and related industries. There is also the ambition to develop major industrial hubs around key deployment and O&M ports. The strategy also highlights the role that offshore wind can have in supporting economic growth in rural and coastal areas of the country to support balanced economic growth. This has included supporting Regional Economic Partnerships to identify and support the economic development potential of the offshore wind sector.

3.1.8 Future Framework for Offshore Renewable Energy

Future Framework for Offshore Renewable Energy policy aims to position Ireland as a global leader in offshore renewable energy (ORE).

It sets ambitious targets of 20GW by 2040 and 37GW by 2050, promoting the development of offshore wind through 29 key actions.

The policy focuses on maximizing economic benefits, such as job creation and investment, and explores export opportunities for excess energy. Key principles include protecting the maritime environment, ensuring affordable energy, fostering technological innovation, and engaging with stakeholders and communities.

The policy is based on evaluating economic opportunities to boost investment and optimize financial and economic returns from offshore renewable energy for the State and local communities. It also examines the potential for exporting surplus renewable energy through enhanced interconnections and considers opportunities to utilize excess renewable energy for alternative energy products and services that could be marketed internationally.

3.2 Economic Context

This section outlines the regional and national areas of impact associated with Sceirde Rocks Windfarm and the current socio-economic demographics and projections

3.2.1 Population Estimates

As shown in Table 3-1, using the 2022 census figures from the Central Statistics Office official statistics, County Galway has a total population of 281,240 while the total population of the Atlantic Region was 1,360,698. Together, the population of these area's was equivalent to 31% of the total population of Ireland (5,278,975).

Within County Galway and the Atlantic Region, the population aged 15 to 64 years old accounted for 66% and 65% of their total populations, respectively. These values are in line with the share of this demographic across Ireland, where 66% of people are working age.

In 2021, the share of the population accounted for by people aged 65 and older was 15% in County Galway and 16% in the of the population of the entire Atlantic. This was slightly above average compared to the share accounted for by this demographic across Ireland (14%).

Table 3-1: Population Estimates, 2021

	County Galway	Atlantic Region	Ireland
Total population	281,240	1,360,698	5,278,975
% aged <15-year-old	19%	19%	19%
% aged 15-64 years old	66%	65%	66%
% aged 65+ years old	15%	16%	14%

Source: Central Statistics Office (CSO), (2023), Population Estimates

3.2.2 Population Projections

The CSO produces population projections at the regional level for Ireland based on six scenarios, as reported by the Irish Government. The most conservative (M3F2) and the least conservative (M1F2) estimates are presented in Table 3-2. Both scenarios follow an increasing trend for population estimates that is in line with current estimates of population growth.

The most conservative estimates project that between 2021 and 2036, the population of the Atlantic Region will increase from 1,655,253 to 1,725,799, while the population of Ireland is projected to increase from 4,939,938 to 5,330,556. It is expected that the population in this scenario will increase by 4% for the Atlantic Region in this period which is less than half of the projected increase of 8% for all of Ireland.

Considering the least conservative scenario for the same period, the population projections for the Atlantic Region are predicted to increase by 11%, from 1,687,166 to 1,875,549.

This expected increase would be less than Ireland as a whole, for which the total population is expected to increase by 15.4% during this period from 5,044,334 to 5,812,497.

Table 3-2 Regional Population Projections, 2021-2036

	M1F2			M3F2		
	2021	2036	% Change	2021	2036	% Change
Atlantic Region (Millions)	1.7	1.9	11%	1.7	1.7	4%
Ireland (Millions)	5,.0	5.8	15%	4.9	5.3	8%

Source: CSO (2021, Current Population and Labour Force Projections (2016 Based)

3.2.3 Employment Structure

As shown in Table 3-3, in 2021, a total of 234,070 people were employed in County Galway and 908,275 people were employed in Atlantic Region, with employment in the Local Area increasing by an average 0.4% each year between 2008 and 2021. In 2021, total employment in the Atlantic Region accounted for 19.3% of total employment across Ireland (908,275). In Ireland overall, the average number of jobs increased by an average of 1.7% between 2008 and 2021.

Human Health and Social Work Activities was the largest sector of employment for individuals in County Galway, accounting for 23.5% of jobs in the area compared to 15.7% across the Atlantic Region as a whole and 14.0% across Ireland.

Manufacturing employment was above average in County Galway and the second largest employment by sector. The sector accounted for 15.0% of employment in County Galway and 17.4% of employment in the Atlantic Region. This is considerably higher than the average level of employment in the manufacturing sector in Ireland as a whole (10.6%).

Construction employment was also higher than average in County Galway and the Atlantic Region, accounting for 8.2% and 10.8% of employment, respectively, compared to 7.7% of employment across the entirety of Ireland. This suggests these areas could be well-placed to benefit from construction activity associated with the Project.

The wholesale and retail trade sector were also in the top three employment sectors in the region accounting for 14.4% of employment in County Galway and 17.2% of employment in the Atlantic Region. The share for County Galway was below average compared to Ireland as a whole, where the sector accounted for 16.8%.

Employment in accommodation and food service activities, generally associated with the tourism industry, was above average in the Atlantic Region (9.6%) when compared to Ireland as a whole (7.3%).

Employment in professional, scientific, and technical activities was equivalent to 5.6% of employment in County Galway and 6.0% of jobs in the Atlantic Region, below the share accounted for by this sector across Ireland (8.3%).

Table 3-3: Employment by Sector, 2021

	County Galway	Atlantic Region	Ireland
Human Health and Social Work Activities	23.5%	15.7%	14.0%
Manufacturing	15.0%	17.4%	10.6%
Wholesale and Retail Trade	14.4%	17.2%	16.8%
Construction	8.2%	10.8%	7.7%
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	9.4%	9.6%	7.3%
Administrative and Support Service Activities	6.4%	5.4%	6.8%
Education	6.5%	6.4%	8.4%
Transportation and Storage	2.6%	3.7%	4.6%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	5.6%	6.0%	8.3%
Financial and Insurance Activities	1.7%	1.6%	5.1%
Information and Communication	2.8%	2.3%	6.0%
Real Estate Activities	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	1.5%	1.6%	1.8%
Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	0.8%	0.7%	0.5%

Mining and Quarrying	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply	0.0%	0.1%	0.5%
Total	**234,070**	**908,275**	**4,709,079**

Source: CSO (2023). Business Demography: Persons engaged in 2021

3.2.4 Economic Activity

In 2022, the employment rate in County Galway was 92.1%, slightly higher than the national average of 91.7%. The same year, the unemployment rate in County Galway was 7.9%, below the unemployment rate of Ireland as a whole (8.3%).

In 2019, average income per person was €33,835 in County Galway and €31,473 across the Atlantic Region, lower than the average compared to Ireland as a whole where average income per person was €35,878.

Table 3-4: Economic Indicators

	County Galway	Atlantic Region	Ireland
Employment Rate	92.1%	91.7%	91.7%
Unemployment Rate	7.9%	8.3%	8.3%
Average Income per Person (€)	€33,835	€31,473	€35,878

Source: CSO (2023), Population Estimates for Ireland from Administrative Data Sources and CSO (2022), Estimates of Household Income, 2019

3.2.5 Economic Trends

The Western Development Commission (WDC) is a state agency with responsibility for promoting the economic and social development of the Western Region of Ireland. These include the counties of Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway and Clare.

The economic trends published in the 2019 report on insights on key issues for the Western Region of Ireland[1] highlighted Industry as the largest employer and plays a greater role in the region's economy and labour market than nationally. The region also has a higher reliance on foreign owned firms and investment which has a corresponding impact on the regional economy for Irish owned sub-suppliers and jobs in manufacturing.

[1] WDC Insights, Industry in the Western Region – Regional Sectoral Profile, 2019

Upskilling of the current regional industrial workforce was highlighted as a key regional priority to mitigate the threat to certain jobs as a result of digital transformation which also creates new occupations and activities.

3.2.6 Education

Qualification levels by study area are shown below in Table 3-5. The population of the Atlantic Region had higher than average levels of secondary qualifications (34%) when compared to Ireland (31%) but less than half of those in County Galway (14%) had completed secondary education. The share of people in County Galway with vocational qualifications or apprenticeships was 7% in the Atlantic Region however, it was 14% which was slightly higher than the Irish average at 13%.

However, educational attainment at the further education level was below average in County Galway and the Atlantic Region of people having achieved a further education qualification, in comparison to Ireland as a whole. Of those who had completed their education in County Galway, 31% had achieved a further education qualification 35% in the Atlantic Region which was below average in respect to the national average of with 39% of people finished with education having achieved this qualification.

Table 3-5: Highest Level of Education Completed, 2016

	County Galway	Atlantic Region	Ireland
No formal education	1%	3%	2%
Primary education	3%	9%	7%
Secondary	14%	34%	31%
Vocational/Apprenticeship	7%	14%	13%
Further education	31%	35%	39%

Source: CSO (2017). Education

4. Economic Impact Assessment

This section outlines the economic impacts that Sceirde Rocks Windfarm could have and the process through which those calculations are made.

4.1 Expenditure Assumptions

The first step is considering the total level of investment. This would include both the capital investment during the development and construction phase of Sceirde Rocks Windfarm and the ongoing investment that would be required during the 38-year operational lifetime.

The basis for estimating the cost elements of this project are informed by BiGGAR Economics' experience working on similar offshore wind projects.

Table 4-1 Contract Elements by Value

Elements	Expenditure
Development and Project Planning	€113 m
Turbine	€523 m
Balance of Plant	€497 m
Installation and Commissioning	€227 m
Total CAPEX	**€1,360 m**
Operations and Maintenance (Annual)	€27 m
Decommissioning	€65 m

4.2 Geographic Split

The next stage in estimating the economic impact associated with this development is to consider the likely location of companies that would be awarded these contracts. The process for estimating this was to check the availability and number of suppliers for each sub-product or service in County Galway, the Atlantic Region, and then rest of Ireland based on the following:

- BVG Associates (2024), Building our Potential: Ireland's Offshore Wind Skills and Talent Needs;
- the capacity of companies to deliver the goods or services in each area; and

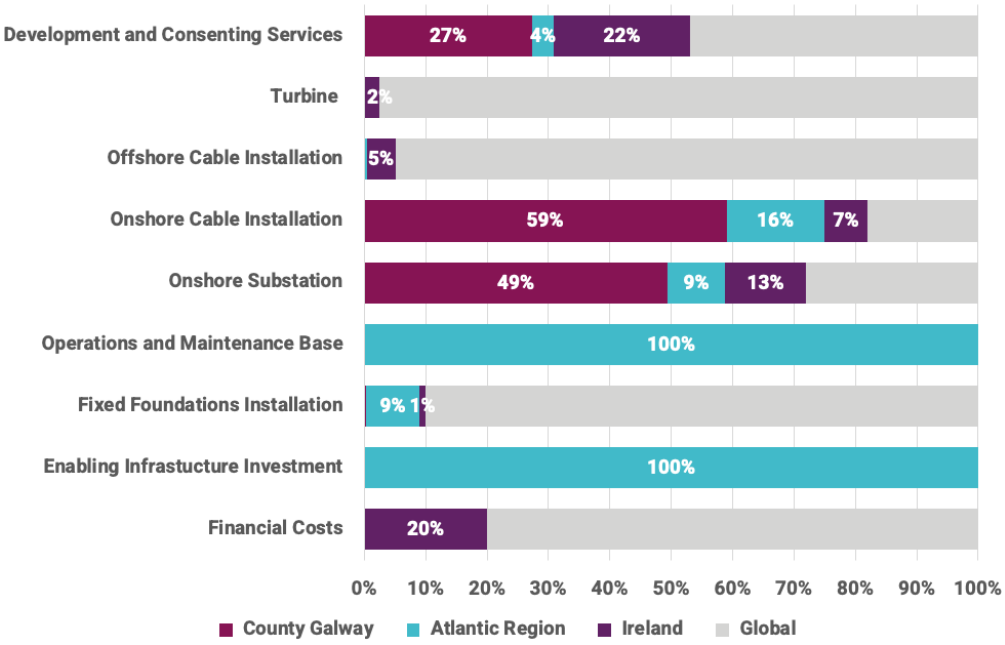
- BiGGAR Economics experience of similar offshore wind projects.

1.1.1 Capital Investment

Based on BiGGAR Economics' experience working on similar offshore wind projects, in total the capital investment will require an estimated €1.4 billion. The contract and market analysis estimated that €89 million (7%) is likely to be secured from Ireland. This includes €43 million (3%) that is likely to be secured in the Atlantic Region and €25 million (2%) expected to be secured in County Galway.

The splits of CAPEX by region and contract category are shown in Figure 4-2.

Figure 4-1 Contract Share by geographic area

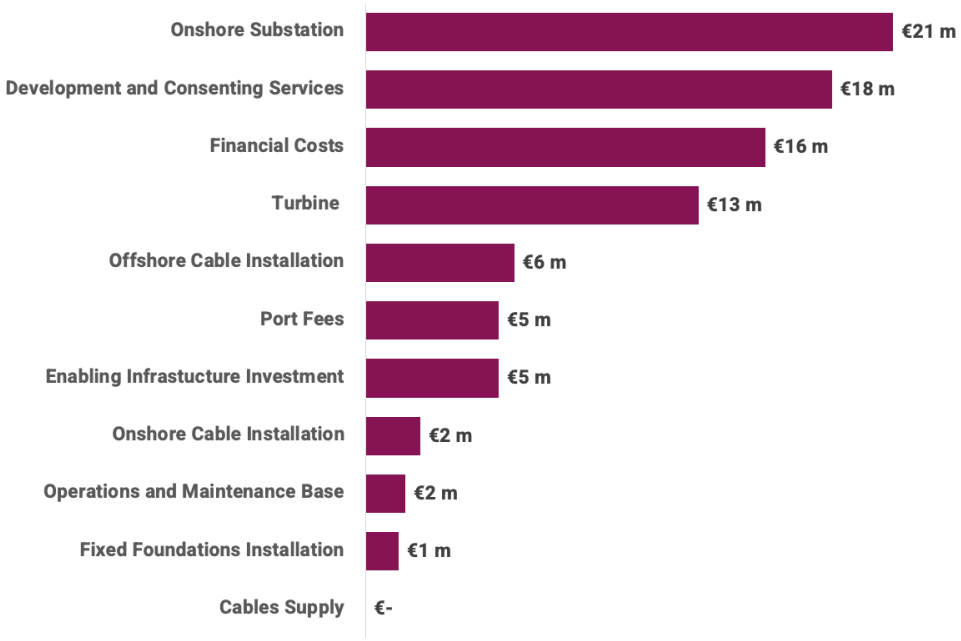


Source: BiGGAR Economics Assumptions

The largest opportunity for securing contracts in Ireland will be linked with the development and construction of onshore infrastructure, including the substation and cable route. It is estimated that companies in Ireland will be able to secure contracts worth up to €21 million in this area.

The following most significant opportunity is linked with development and consenting services, including the specialised engineering services required at the design stages of the Project as well as the completion of geological and hydrological surveys. This contract area could be worth €18 million.

Figure 4-2 Largest contract opportunities in Ireland



Source: BiGGAR Economics Assumptions and developer data

1.1.2 Operational Investment

It is estimated that 61% of the overall operational expenditure will be retained in Ireland, including 54% which will be retained in the Atlantic Region and 40% retained in County Galway.

4.2.1 Decommissioning Investment

Estimating the share of decommissioning expenditure that will occur in in Ireland is complex as there is a higher degree of uncertainty about the what the domestic capacity will be able to provide in decades to come. For example, the port capacity to deal with the construction of major offshore wind projects does not currently exist in Ireland (Wind Energy Ireland and Gavin & Doherty Geosolutions, 2022). However multiple ports have investment proposals to provide these services and therefore could provide services for the decommissioning activities as well. It was therefore assumed that 8% of decommissioning expenditure would occur in Ireland and this would predominantly be linked with port activities and pre-decommissioning engineering works.

4.3 Estimating the economic impact

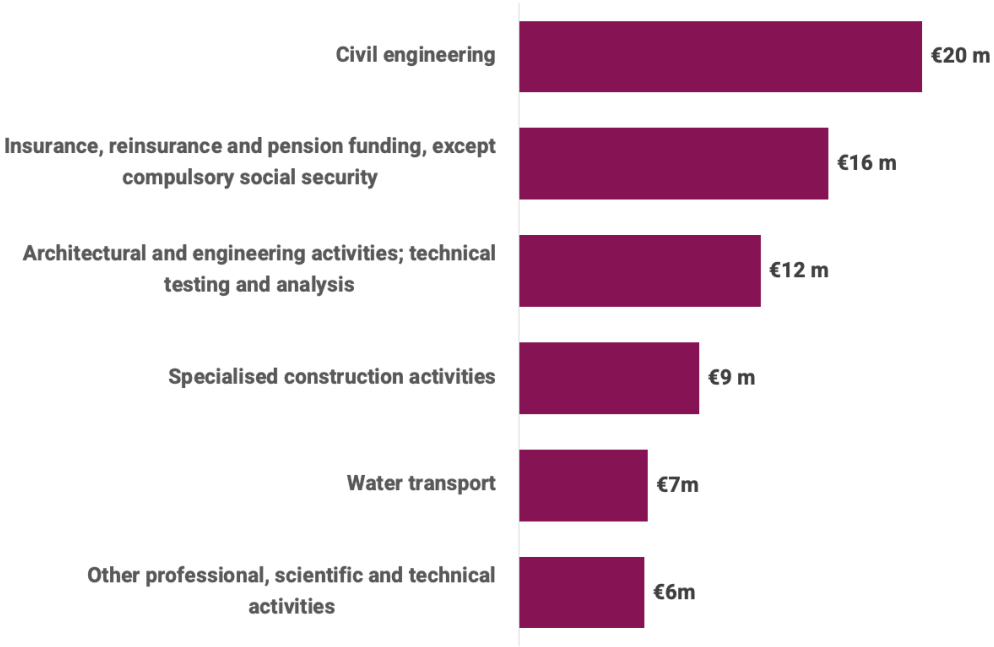
The contract values potentially awarded in each region would represent an increase in turnover of businesses in these regions.

The industries that would benefit during the capital investment stage in Ireland are typically those in the Construction and Technical sectors. In particular, the sector in Ireland that is expected to see the largest value contracts will be civil engineering sector, which is estimated to be awarded contracts with a value of €20 million during

the development and construction of Sceirde Rocks Windfarm. These will be linked with the contracts to construct the onshore infrastructure and the works around the OMF.

The top 6 industries for expected contract opportunities in Ireland are shown in Figure 4-3.

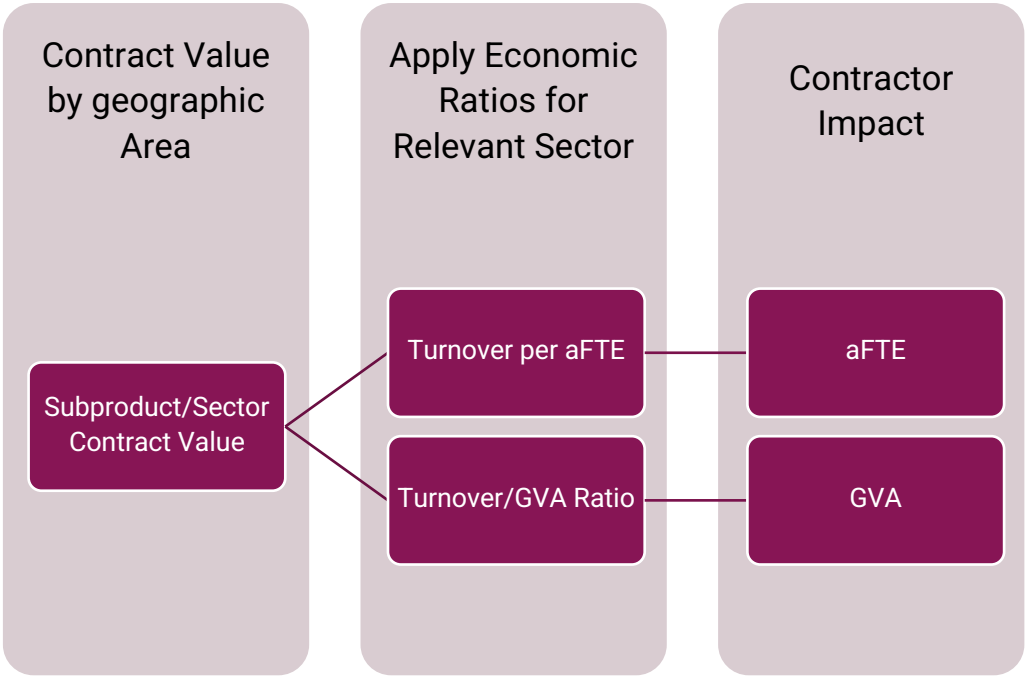
Figure 4-3 Project turnover by industry of supplier in Ireland, Top 6 (€ million)



Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

The Irish National Accounts (CSO, 2023) provides the turnover/ GVA ratio for each section of the economy. This data is used to estimate the direct GVA impact from any increase in turnover from all of the relevant industries. Similarly, the same data source can be used to estimate the employment that this increase in turnover would support. The National Accounts provides data on the headcount employment in each. This calculation was based on real prices, as the survey data is based on turnover per aFTE in 2020 prices.

Figure 4-4 Direct Contractor Impact Process



On this basis it was estimated that the initial contracts awarded for development and construction of Sceirde Rocks Windfarm would directly support 426 aFTEs in Ireland, including 217 aFTEs in the Atlantic Region and 128 aFTEs in County Galway. The majority of the opportunities would be linked with the construction of the onshore infrastructure, while across Ireland the greatest direct employment opportunity will be in the development phase.

Table 4-2 Indicative Employment Impacts in Directly Contracted Companies (aFTEs)

	County Galway	Atlantic Region	Ireland
CAPEX	128	217	426
Annual OPEX	76	94	99
DECEX	12	35	39

The Gross Value Added from the initial contracts associated with development and construction would be €35 million in Ireland, including €18 million within the Atlantic Region and €12 million within County Galway. Each year during the operational phase it is estimated that the direct employment on the Sceirde Rocks will generate €4 million GVA for Ireland's economy, including €3 million GVA in the Atlantic Region and €2 million GVA in County Galway.

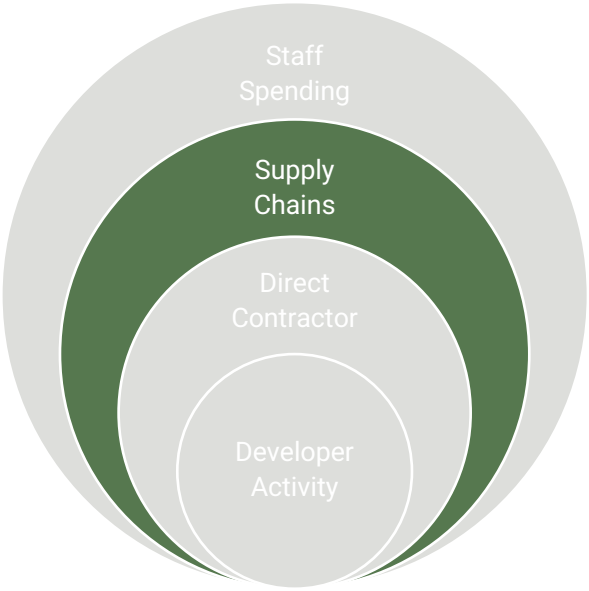
Table 4-3 Directly Contracted Impact - GVA (€m)

	County Galway	Atlantic Region	Ireland
CAPEX	€12	€18	€35
Annual OPEX	€2	€3	€4
DECEX	<€1	€1	€1

4.4 Estimating the wider supply chain impacts

There would also be knock on effects in the supply chain. This includes the elements of the supply chain that would work closely with the main contractor, such as subcontractors that would also be based on the construction yard, and also elements of the supply chain which are further afield, such as the companies which provide the raw materials, the tools, and professional services that the main contractors rely on.

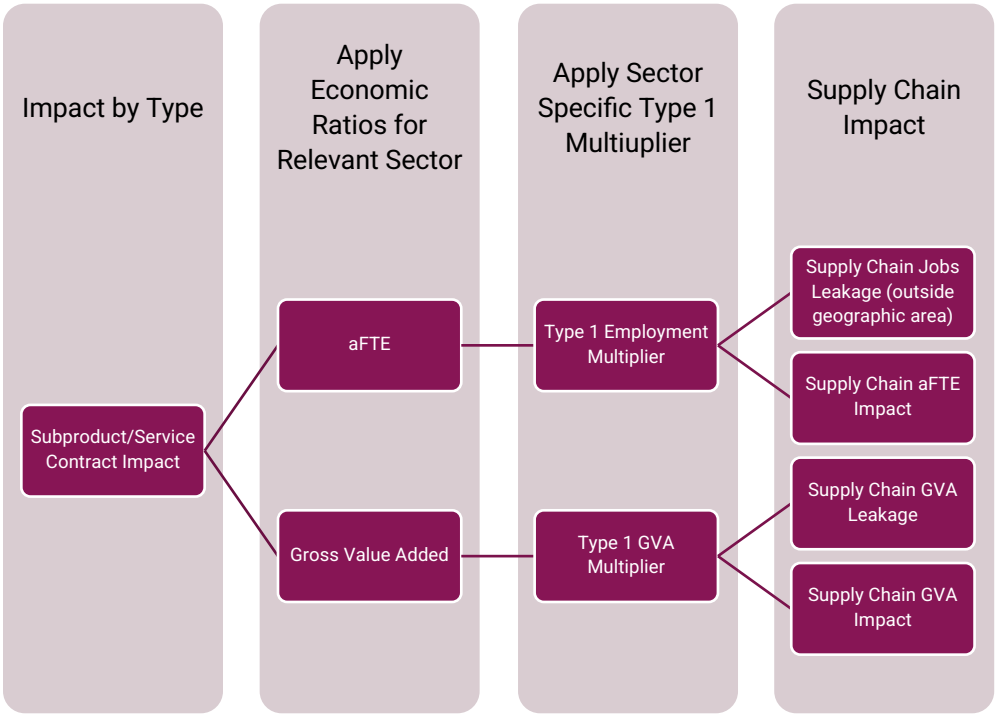
Table 4-4 Stages of Economic Impact Assessment: Supply Chain Impact



To estimate what this impact would be, it is necessary to use Type 1 multiplier which are calculated based on the Irish Input Output (CSO, 2023) tables and are specific for each sector. These multipliers calculate which elements of the supply chain of a particular sector are procured from either Ireland or abroad. In this way it is possible to consider the likely level of value generated outwith each study area (leakage) within each supply chain and exclude that from the analysis. This would include, for example, the typical share of imports within an industry's supply chain.

An overview of the process for calculating this impact is shown in Figure 4-5. This process considers that there can be a significant proportion of the supply chain which is external to each geographic area. Unless data is known for a specific company that could be included in the supply chain, it is assumed that the supply chain of the companies that are involved in these contracts would be similar to the sector they are in. For example, the Input Output tables find that 55% of the supply chain across all elements of the Irish construction sector is from Irish companies. The Irish construction sector imports the remaining 45% is of it supplies. This would be considered leakage when calculating the impact in Ireland.

Figure 4-5 Supply Chain Impact Process



This analysis was done for each Subproduct/service and at for each geographic area. The Type 1 multipliers that were used were those of the corresponding relevant sector.

On this basis it was estimated that the supply chain for the initial contracts awarded for development and construction of Sceirde Rocks would directly support a further 228 aFTEs in Ireland, including 74 within the Atlantic Region and 30 within County Galway.

Table 4-5 Supply Chain Employment Impacts by Stage and geographic area (aFTEs)

	County Galway	Atlantic Region	Ireland
CAPEX	30	74	228
Annual OPEX	15	28	40
DECEX	2	10	16

During the construction and development stages the Gross Value Added from the supply chain to the initial contracts would be €18 million in Ireland. This includes the supply chain within the Atlantic Region that would generate €3 million of GVA and the supply chain in County Galway which would generate €2 million GVA. Each year, the wider supply chain in Ireland would also generate an average of €4 million GVA from operational expenditure across Ireland.

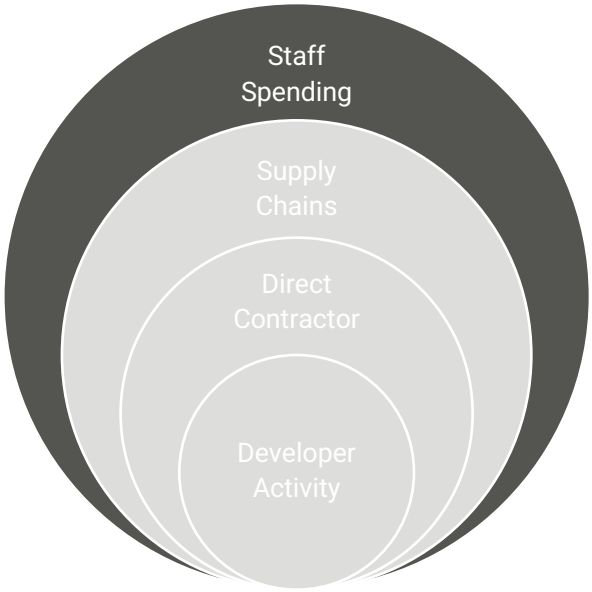
Table 4-6 Supply Chain GVA Impacts by Stage and geographic Area (€m)

	County Galway	Atlantic Region	Ireland
CAPEX	€2	€3	€18
Annual OPEX	€1	€1	€4
DECEX	<€1	€1	€1

4.5 Induced Economic Impacts

In addition to the impacts associated with the direct contractors and their supply chains, the staff employed in these companies will also have an impact on the economy through the spending of their wages. This is the induced impact, and although it is not included in typical economic evaluations, they are included in this analysis to give a full picture of the economic impacts of Sceirde Rocks. The induced impact can be particularly important in rural communities, where the success of small rural businesses can be heavily dependent on the spending of local workers.

Table 4-7 Stages of Economic Impact Assessment: Staff Spending Impact



This impact is calculated for each sector of direct impact using the appropriate Type 2 multipliers for that sector.

Table 4-8 Induced Impacts by Stage and geographic Area

	County Galway	Atlantic Region	Ireland
CAPEX			
GVA (€m)	€4	€10	€28
Jobs (aFTEs)	30	74	228
Annual OPEX			
GVA (€m)	€2	€3	€5
Jobs (FTEs)	15	28	40
DECEX			
GVA (€m)	<€1	€1	€1
Jobs (aFTEs)	2	10	16

4.6 Total Economic Impacts

The direct and supply chain (indirect) impacts represent the economic activities that will need to occur to realise the Project. As shown in Table 4-9, the total of this activity would be 609 aFTEs across Ireland during the development and construction phase, of which 252 would be in the Atlantic Region and 145 would be in County Galway. This employment would generate €53 million for the Irish economy, of which €22 million would be within the Atlantic Region and €13 million would be in County Galway.

Over the lifetime of the Project, the €8 million of annual GVA generated by the operational phase would be equivalent to over €305 million for the Irish economy, the majority of which would be retained in the Atlantic Region.

Table 4-9 Total Economic Impacts by Stage and geographic Area (Direct and Indirect)

	County Galway	Atlantic Region	Ireland
CAPEX			
GVA (€m)	€13	€22	€53
Jobs (aFTEs)	145	252	609
Annual OPEX			
GVA (€m)	€3	€5	€8
Jobs (FTEs)	85	107	134
Lifetime OPEX			
GVA (€m)	€126	€187	€305
Jobs (FTEs)	3,227	4,047	5,095
DECEX			
GVA (€m)	<€1	€1	€3
Jobs (aFTEs)	13	39	53

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

The inclusive impacts for each geographic area are given in Table 4-10 and include the direct, indirect and induced effects. This shows that across Ireland, Sceirde Rocks will support €81 million GVA and 837 aFTEs during its development and construction and a further 174 jobs and €13 million GVA during each year of its operation.

Table 4-10 Total Economic Impacts by Stage and geographic Area (including Induced)

	County Galway	Atlantic Region	Ireland
CAPEX			
GVA (€m)	€17	€32	€81
Jobs (aFTEs)	174	325	837
Annual OPEX			
GVA (€m)	€5	€8	€13
Jobs (FTEs)	100	135	174
Lifetime OPEX			
GVA (€m)	€184	€304	€479
Jobs (FTEs)	3,799	5,127	6,605
DECEX			
GVA (€m)	€1	€2	€4
Jobs (aFTEs)	16	50	69

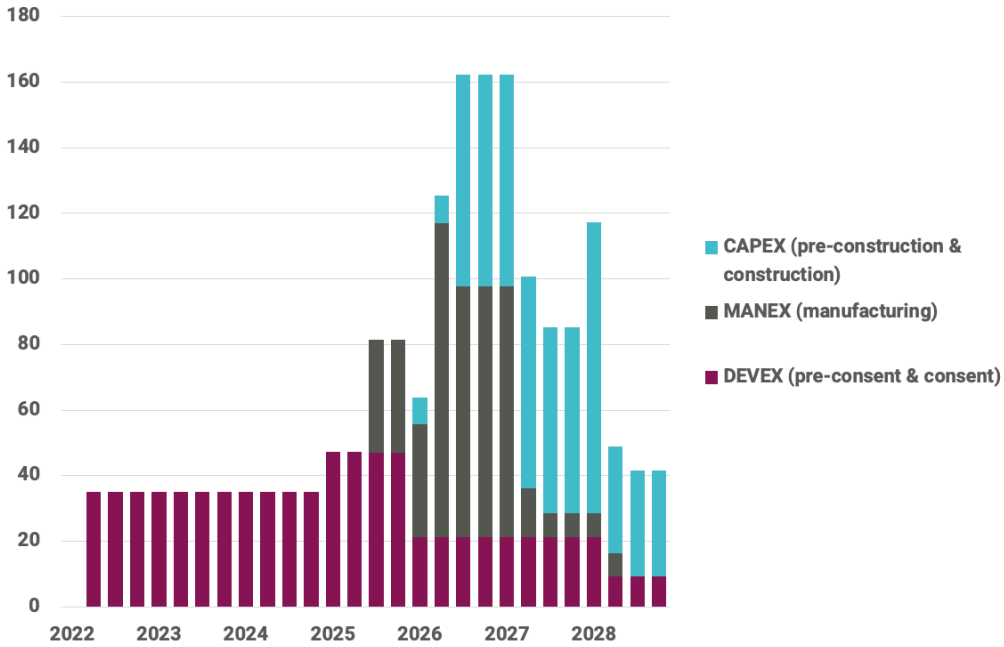
Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

4.7 Impact Timescales

4.7.1 Development and Construction

The capital investment impact is expected to be spent over a -year period, from 2022 to 2029. This includes development activity that has already taken place. The economic impacts which are described in Section 4 will be distributed over this time period. This analysis considered how the impact of the directly contracted and supply chain companies was distributed over this time period.

Figure 4-6 Development and Construction Jobs over Time (Direct and Indirect)



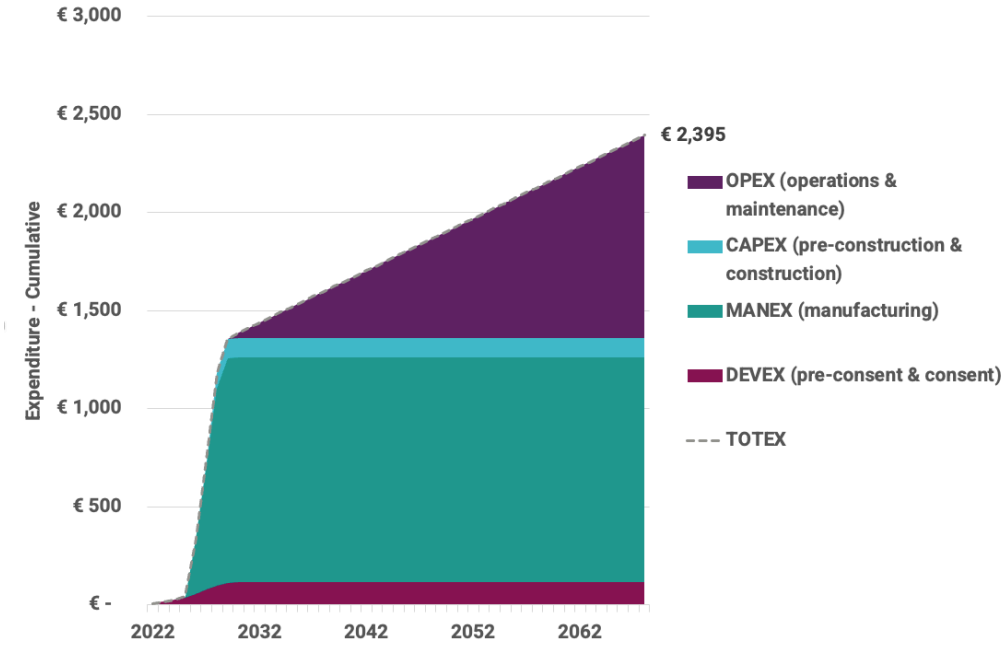
Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

The peaks in employment in Ireland would occur from 2026, which would see an average of 162 directly contracted and supply chain FTEs supported at this point. This peak aligns with the construction of the onshore infrastructure. This would occur during the construction period of the onshore infrastructure and enabling works.

4.7.2 Entire Project Life Cycle

Over the lifetime of the Project, it is estimated to spend around €2.4 billion across development, construction operations and decommissioning. The majority of this expenditure will occur during the development and construction phase.

Figure 4-7 Total Expenditure over Project Lifecycle



Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

The peak in employment experienced in during the construction phase would represent the highest point of employment for the lifetime of the Project. During the operational phase it is expected that the Project would support 134 jobs either directly or in the wider supply chain across Ireland. This long term employment opportunity represents the greatest economic opportunity to Ireland from Sceirde Rocks.

Figure 4-8 All employment in Ireland over time (Direct and Indirect)

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

5. Maximising Economic Impacts

There is potential for Sceirde Rocks to have a greater economic impact in Ireland depending on the development of the wider Ireland offshore wind supply chain

5.1 Supply Chain

5.1.1 Building Our Potential: Ireland's Offshore Wind Skills and Talent Needs
In January 2024, BVG Associates published a report which outlines the potential opportunities for Ireland to develop its offshore wind supply chain and enable the country to maximise the economic benefits which could be generated from the development of offshore wind projects. The report sets out two scenarios to assess the potential for local content in Irish offshore wind projects:

- Business as Usual (BAU) Scenario: where the current capability of the Irish supply chain will grow organically with little major government intervention to address skills shortages and increase local content; and
- Intervention Scenario: where government actively addresses skill shortages and attempts to increase local content in Ireland.

The report outlines a number of supply chain categories under the Intervention Scenario where government intervention could increase the economic impacts generated by offshore wind projects.

For fixed offshore wind farms during the development and construction phase this includes:

- Environmental surveys;
- Resource and metocean assessment;
- Geological and hydrographical surveys;
- Engineering and consultancy;
- Project management;
- Turbine tower manufacturing;
- Construction port; and
- Offshore logistics.

During the operations and maintenance phase, this includes:

- Operations;
- Maintenance; and

- Offshore vessels and logistics.

5.1.2 Sceirde Rocks Supply Chain Engagement

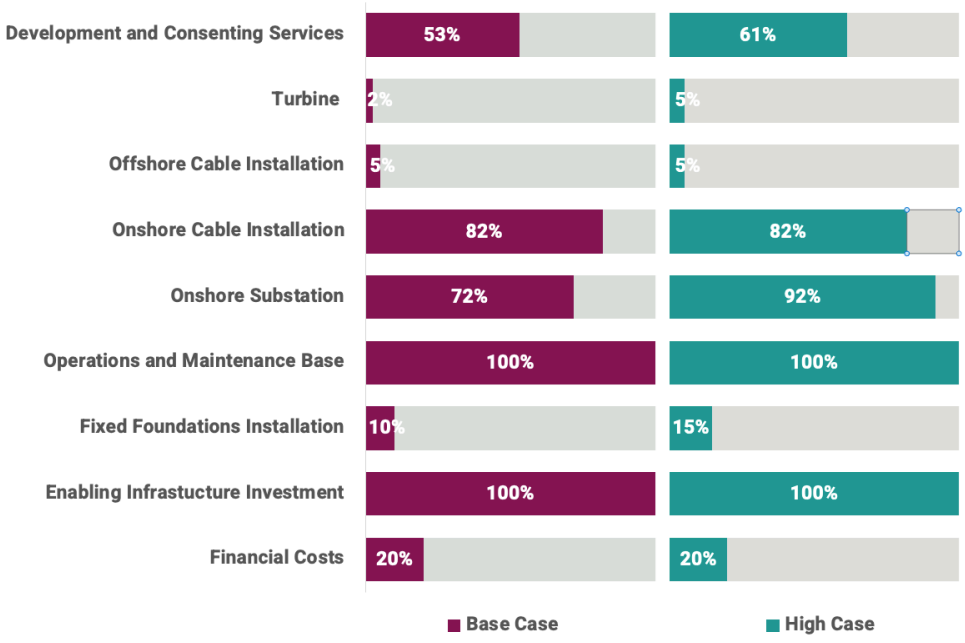
As well as the development of the offshore wind supply chain in Ireland, the proportion of the contracts which are secured in each study area will be dependent on the contractors that are selected for particular elements of the work and their ability to utilise local resources.

In 2023, the developer held an event with over 50 national and local suppliers and businesses to outline the opportunities that will be available for companies in the supply chain during the construction and operation of the Project. By engaging with Irish businesses, this can also deliver larger economic impacts for Ireland.

5.2 Economic Impact of High Case Scenario

Figure 5-1 demonstrates the potential range of outcomes for Irish content, dependant on supply chain development and the ability of local contractors to deliver the required works.

Figure 5-1 Range of Irish Content Commitments of Tier 1 Bidders



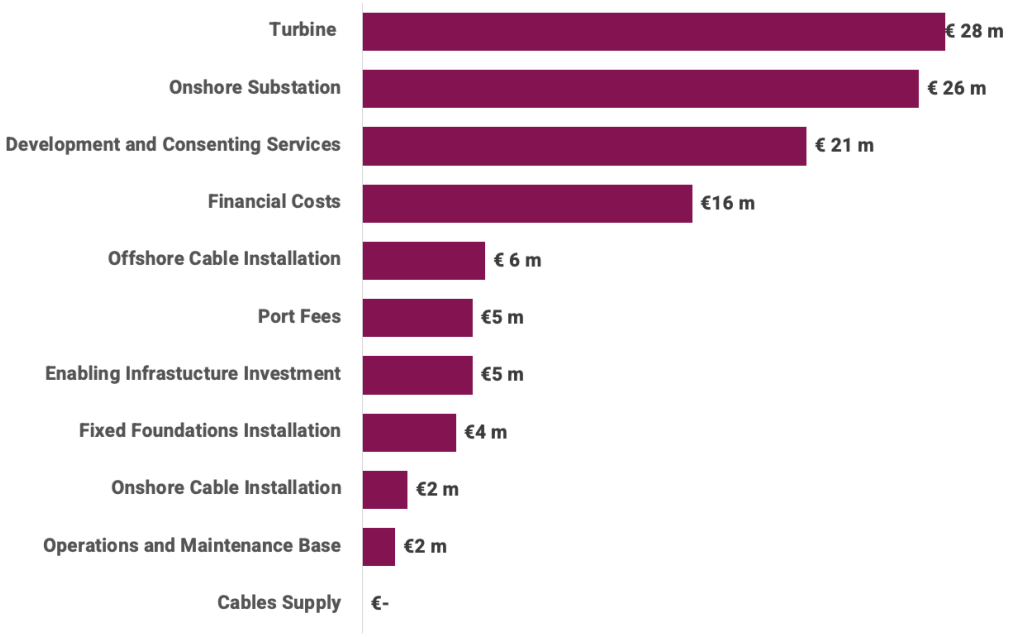
Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

5.2.1 Share of Contracts Secured

This economic impact assessment considers the potential economic impact of the Project if the Irish offshore wind supply chain is developed through appropriate Government intervention. Under this scenario, the level of CAPEX secured in Ireland would increase to 8% from 7%, which is equivalent to an additional €26 million of spending within the Irish supply chain. The largest opportunity would

be in development and consenting services, with additional spending on associated contracts of around €8 million.

Figure 5-2: Contract Shares, High Case



Source: BiGGAR Economics Assumptions

5.2.2 Economic Impact of CAPEX Under High Case

The additional capital expenditure secured in Ireland would increase the GVA and employment impacts locally. Overall, increasing the share of CAPEX secured in Ireland would result in the generation of €67 million GVA across Ireland during the construction phase, an increase of €14 million GVA (26%). The level of employment generated by this phase of the project would increase by 160 aFTEs, from 610 to 770 aFTEs.

Table 5-1: Total Economic Impacts

	Ireland
CAPEX	
GVA (€m)	€67
Jobs (aFTEs)	770
CAPEX Including Induced	
GVA (€m)	€102
Jobs (FTEs)	1,080

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

5.2.3 Operations and Maintenance Impacts

There will also be the opportunity for the Project to increase the proportion of the local content during the operations and maintenance phase of the project. Under the Intervention Scenario, expenditure on operation and maintenance contracts awarded to Irish companies could increase by 14%, from €16 million to €18 million.

Table 5-2: Share of Operation and Maintenance Expenditure, Ireland

	Expenditure in Ireland	% Share
OPEX	€18	70%

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

The additional operational and maintenance expenditure secured in Ireland would increase the GVA and employment impacts locally. Overall, increasing the share of OPEX secured in Ireland would result in the annual generation of €9 million GVA across Ireland during the construction phase, an increase of €1 million GVA (14%). The level of employment generated by this phase of the Project would increase from aFTEs, from 130 to 150 aFTEs.

Table 5-3 Operation and Maintenance Impacts, High Case (Direct and Indirect)

	Ireland
OPEX	
GVA (€m)	€9
Jobs (aFTEs)	150
Lifetime OPEX	
GVA (€m)	€348
Jobs (FTEs)	5,700

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

Table 5-4 Operation and Maintenance Impacts, High Case (Including Induced)

	Ireland
OPEX	
GVA (€m)	€14
Jobs (aFTEs)	200
Lifetime OPEX	
GVA (€m)	€547
Jobs (FTEs)	7,600

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

5.3 Summary of High Case Economic Impacts

The direct and supply chain (indirect) impacts represent the economic activities that will need to occur to realise the Project. The total of this activity would be 770 aFTEs across Ireland during the development and construction phase,
This employment would generate €67 million for the Irish economy.

Over the lifetime of the Project, the €9 million of annual GVA generated by the operational phase would be equivalent to over €348 million for the Irish economy. Each year, the operation and maintenance phase would generate 150 aFTEs, or 5,700 aFTEs over the expected 38 year lifetime of the Project.

Table 5-5 Total Economic Impacts by Stage (Direct and Indirect), High Case

	Ireland
CAPEX	
GVA (€m)	€67
Jobs (aFTEs)	770
Annual OPEX	
GVA (€m)	€9
Jobs (FTEs)	150
Lifetime OPEX	
GVA (€m)	€348
Jobs (FTEs)	5,700

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

The inclusive impacts for each geographic area are given in and include the direct, indirect and induced effects. This shows that across Ireland, Sceirde Rocks will support €102 million GVA and 1,080 aFTEs during its development and construction and a further 200 jobs and €14 million GVA during each year of its operation. Over the lifetime of the Project, the operational and maintenance phase would generate €547 million GVA and 7,600 aFTEs.

Table 5-6 Total Economic Impacts by Stage (Including Induced), High Case

	Ireland
CAPEX	
GVA (€m)	€102
Jobs (aFTEs)	1,080
Annual OPEX	

GVA (€m)	€14
Jobs (FTEs)	200
Lifetime OPEX	
GVA (€m)	€547
Jobs (FTEs)	7,600

Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

6. Wider Impacts of Sceirde Rocks Offshore Windfarm

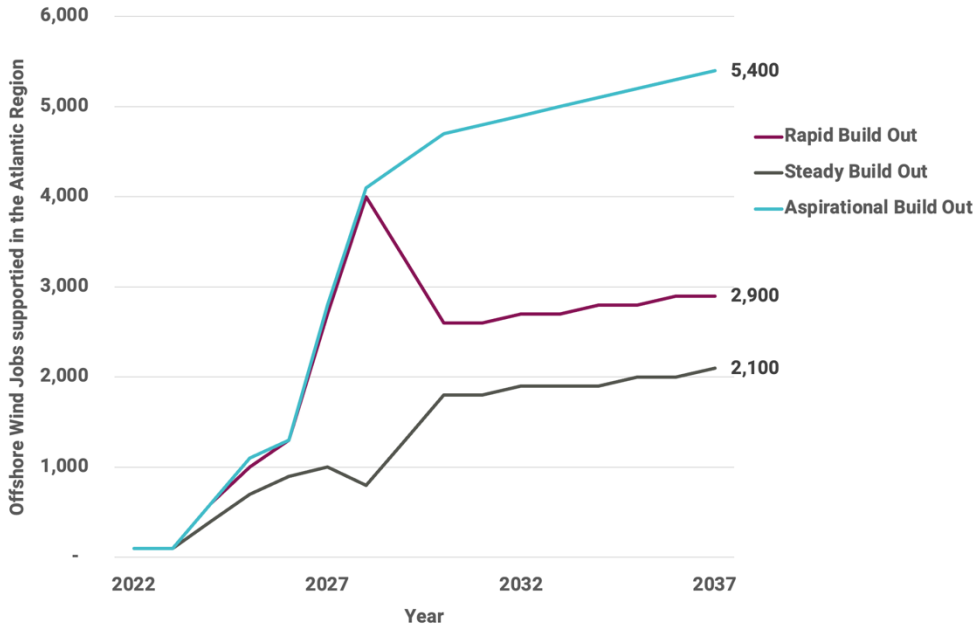
Sceirde Rocks Offshore Windfarm is expected to generate additional benefits in addition to the economic benefits that the project will generate during the construction and operation of the project.

6.1 Sectoral Development

The Sceirde Rocks Offshore Windfarm will be the first offshore wind farm in the Atlantic Region and by the late 2030's it is estimated that there could be almost 10 times the capacity (4GW) of Sceirde Rocks OWF installed in the Atlantic Region. The development of the offshore wind sector in the Atlantic Region has the potential to support thousands of long term jobs during the development, construction and operation of projects.

Previous analysis by Dublin Offshore Consultants and BiGGAR Economics found that in the Aspirational Build Out scenario, the sector would support 5,400 jobs in the Atlantic Region by 2037. The key determinant of the economic benefits of the offshore wind sector to the Atlantic Region will be the speed at which offshore wind projects are developed off the western coast of Ireland. Even with the most conservative assumptions of the development of the sector found that it could support over 2,000 jobs by the late 2030s.

Figure 6-1 Employment supported by offshore wind in the Atlantic Region, by Scenario



Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis

Early projects, such as Sceirde Rocks Offshore Windfarm, will be crucial in enabling the wider development of the Atlantic wind resource and enabling the local supply chain to understand the needs of the sector.

One of the key recommendations from (DOC Report) was the development of pre-commercial or demonstrator sites within the Atlantic region. This follows the experience and approach in Scotland, with the development of demonstrator sites at the European Marine Energy Centre in Orkney and the initial small scale offshore wind projects that were consented in the Celtic Sea. The purpose of these demonstrators is to:

- Test new technologies and innovative solutions;
- Introduce local supply chain companies to the offshore wind sector at a scale that is more manageable;
- Build up expertise within the labour force, to enable it to take advantage of future projects;
- Stimulate the necessary grid investments required for further expansion; and
- De-risk further expansion to lower the finance and insurance costs associated with wider development.

This recommendation has been implemented in Ireland's Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy, which has committed to developing a demonstrator site to facilitate the development of the floating offshore wind resource in the Atlantic.

Experience that local contractors have in any element of the supply chain for the Sceirde Rocks Offshore Windfarm will be support them win future contracts on other offshore wind projects

While Sceirde Rocks is not a demonstrator site, its role as the first mover will enable it to play a similar role as a demonstrator site for some aspects of the supply chain. Sceirde Rocks will support the business case for investment in the supply chain int eh Atlantic Region in a way that will enable it to be well prepared for the future offshore wind developments off the west coast of Ireland. This will include major investments, such as in port infrastructure, but also smaller decisions around training and equipment.

6.2 Community Benefit

The Sceirde Rocks Offshore Windfarm will also directly contribute to the communities which are local to the development in line with the Community Benefit Funding proposals. The Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme (ORESS) requires that each supported development establishes a community benefit fund. The value of this fund will be €2/MWh.

It is estimated that the annual electricity production of Sceirde Rocks Offshore Wind Farm will be approximately 1.75TWh. Therefore, the annual value of the fund will be approximately €3.5 million once the project is fully operational. This will represent a significant increase in the value of funding that is available to these communities.

The value of the Community Benefit Fund will be equivalent to 55% of all grants paid out by Údarás na Gaeltachta in 2022

The communities that will benefit from this funding will be along the western coastline of Connemara, the Aran Islands and the surrounding areas. The fund will be managed by a committee sourced from the local community, which will determine the aims and objectives of the fund, in line with the guidance published by the Department for Energy, Climate Action and Communications.

The social and economic value of the community benefit funding will be determined by the projects that are supported and the strategy for investment that is adopted by the community. However, there the potential for the community benefit funding to support the economic development of the area. The guidance does not exclude commercial enterprises from applying for the funding, provided they are able to

demonstrate that it will provide benefit to the communities in question. This could for example be in collaboration with a third sector organisation.

During the operational phase the economic value of the Sceirde Rocks Offshore Windfarm will be approximately €3 million GVA within the supply chain of companies in County Galway. The funding received from the Community Benefit Funds will effectively double the value of the project to local communities.

7. References

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