Case study



Clyde Windfarm

Clyde is a 522MW windfarm developed by SSE Plc in Abington, South Lanarkshire. It is one of Europe's biggest windfarms, boasting 206 turbines and generates enough energy to power 290,000 homes.

Clyde Wind Farm was constructed in two stages, the initial site was granted permission by Scottish Ministers in July 2008 with construction commencing in 2009. At the peak of construction, over 400 people were employed on the site. Over the next two years, 152 turbines were constructed, making the first grid connection taking place in 2011. A further 54 turbines were built in July 2014.

The two construction projects have contributed hundreds of millions of pounds of socio-economic benefits to the Scottish economy, including job creation, skills training and opportunities for local and Scotland-wide businesses. In operation, Clyde Wind Farm employs up to 50 full-time staff.

GLIL Infrastructure investment

GLIL Infrastructure purchased a minority equity stake in March 2016, alongside Greencoat UK Wind Plc, SSE retained a controlling equity stake and would continue to perform long-term management of day-to-day operations.

On investment, the site comprised an operational fleet of 152 Siemens 2.3MW turbines and a further 54 Siemens 3.2MW turbines under construction. Upon the commercial operation date in 2017, GLIL Infrastructure and Greencoat exercised a right of first offer and acquired additional stakes in the business.

For GLIL Infrastructure, Clyde provides an unleveraged, direct investment opportunity for its members in an excellent wind resource alongside a top-tier operating partner in SSE, and enhanced by Government-backed inflation linked revenues.

Achievements

- GLIL Infrastructure's investment supported the construction of the extension site on time and without issue.
- The investment has outperformed GLIL Infrastructure's base case assumptions during its period of ownership.
- The investment supports National Grid's increased requirement for 'reactive power'.

