



# Delivering Europe's offshore energy and security ambitions

The International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) is the global trade association representing companies in the offshore, marine, and underwater engineering sectors. With over 400 member companies in Europe, and more than 800 globally, IMCA's network includes offshore construction contractors, their supply chains, and energy companies leading the clean energy transition.



## Our Board Members



# The marine contracting sector is a strategic enabler of Europe's energy and climate ambitions and its connectivity in the digital age

## Economic contribution

## Environmental contribution

## Social and wider contribution



**Employment:** over **490K** skilled-jobs, **220K** directly employed



**Provides the vessels, equipment and expertise** to meet European offshore renewable energy targets



**Connects a digitised world**, facilitating 99% of international data exchange



**Gross value added:** over **€80bn** of GVA, €45bn of direct GVA



**Develops critical offshore infrastructure**, including wind farms, tidal and wave energy, and carbon capture and storage



**Develops communities** through local employment



**Tax contribution:** over **€15bn** in taxes this year



**Ensures Europe remains a global leader** in ocean and marine engineering, a sector worth over >€30bn a year



**Supports European security** by diversifying energy supply and reducing imports



**Productivity:** GVA per worker is **2.5x** the average for the region

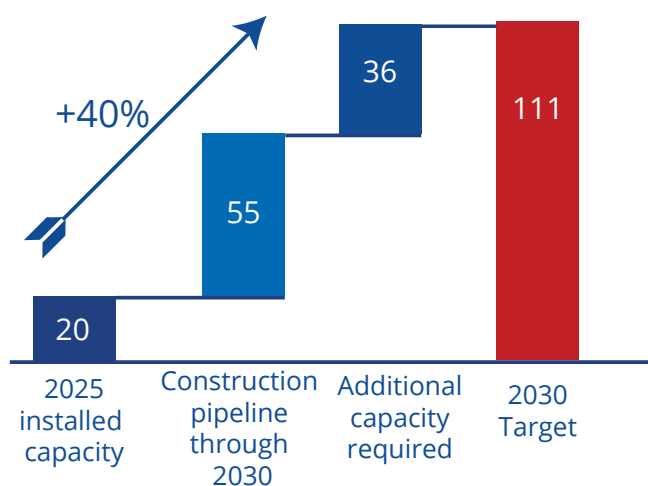


**Provides skills and resources** for marine research and conservation

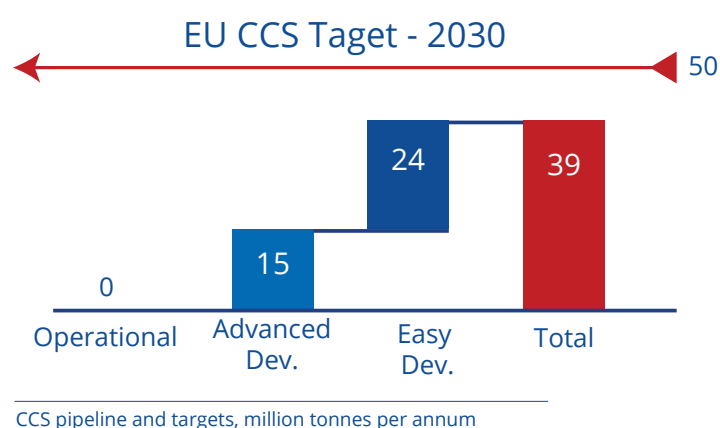


**Drives investment in infrastructure** such as ports, harbours, and terminals

## The EU targets a 55% cut in emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2050



Offshore wind targets, gigawatts (GW)



CCS pipeline and targets, million tonnes per annum



- The EU has ambitious offshore wind capacity and climate targets for 2030 and beyond.
- Delivery will depend on rapidly expanding the European marine services sector to accelerate the pace of offshore wind installation.

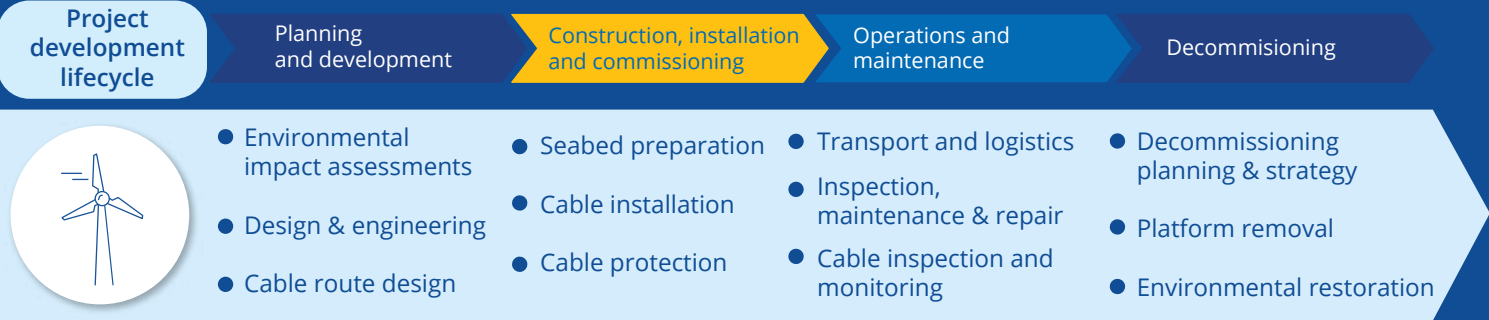


- Carbon capture and storage (CCS) has a vital role to play in decarbonisation
- Offshore CCS greatly increases the capacity available for sequestration
- Marine services will be needed at all phases of the offshore CCS lifecycle.

By constructing, maintaining, and repairing submarine cables and highspeed fiber-optic networks, marine contractors contribute to the growth of international digital economies and facilitate the rapid deployment of enabling technologies such as artificial intelligence and 5G.



The EU has 39 undersea fiber optic cables that connect Member States directly, and a further 74 connecting it to regions across the globe, measuring hundreds of thousands of kilometres.



### To perform this work, the sector uses a range of highly specialist vessels:

Vessel type and approx nos:	Foundation Installation	Heavy Lift	Research & Survey	Cable Laying
	~200 units	~400 units	~100 units	~100 units
Typical parts of the value chain	Construction, Installation	Heavy Lift, Transport, Installation	Survey, Research, Data Collection	Installation, Maintenance, Cable Laying
Sectors	Offshore Wind, Oil & Gas, Subsea Engineering, Renewable Energy, Marine Science, Telecoms, Heavy Transport			

While many components of these vessels are manufactured globally, the most advanced and specialised systems are designed and integrated in Europe, anchoring high-value jobs and industrial capability within the EU.



- The European fleet is made up of >3,300 vessels, ranging from large 'heavy lift' vessels to smaller research vessels
- European vessels serve distinct parts of the value chain, each playing a key role within the industry
- Europe is expected to face shortages of specialised vessels unless further investment is made before 2026/2027.

## Working in partnership with EU institutions to enable the fleet of the future.

The EU's offshore energy goals are ambitious and achievable but only with the support of a fit-for-purpose, sustainable, and future-ready offshore construction fleet.

IMCA and its members seek a partnership with EU policymakers that will enable this fleet to grow, modernise, decarbonise, and deliver – giving Europe the capacity it needs to succeed in the energy transition.

### We ask the EU to:

#### 1. Recognise the marine contracting sector's essential and strategic role within its energy, sustainability, industrial, and maritime policy strategies and frameworks, creating:

- A predictable EU framework that provides the regulatory and market certainty needed for the sector to invest in a modern, sustainable fleet.

#### 2. Provide a fine-tuned and clear pathway to decarbonisation, including:

- regulatory clarity and realistic timelines for adopting low-carbon and alternative fuels,
- adjustment of instruments like the EU Emissions Trading Scheme to reflect the operational specificities of this fleet,
- public and private investment incentives to support vessel upgrades and energy transition efforts.

#### 3. Ensure Europe's ports are fit for the energy transition, providing:

- the widespread availability of alternative fuels — including hydrogen, ammonia, and methanol — at major energy hubs,
- visibility on which fuels will be available, and where, enabling the sector to plan next-generation vessels,
- modernised port infrastructure to accommodate construction and servicing vessels, with onshore power supply and vessel charging at key ports.

## Get in touch with us:



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