

RWE and North Star sign long-term agreements for next-generation service operation vessels to maintain RWE's growing offshore wind fleet

- **Agreements secure vessel capacities in a tight market: two state-of the art service operation vessels for RWE's North Sea wind farms on 10- and 12-year contracts with extension options**
- **Additionally, reservation agreements signed for two newbuild vessels designated to support the maintenance of RWE's offshore wind fleet from 2028 and 2029 onwards**

Essen, 5 August 2025

RWE has entered into a long-term partnership with North Star, the UK's largest shipowner-operator, backed by global private markets firm Partners Group, acting on behalf of its clients. The companies have agreed that RWE will charter two next-generation service operation vessels (SOVs), the Grampian Eagle and the Grampian Kestrel, from North Star - both capable of using alternative low-emission fuels. Full marine services will be delivered by North Star as part of the charters. RWE and North Star have also signed reservation agreements for two newbuild vessels delivered by the Norwegian Vard Group. This partnership will pave the way for the efficient and low-emission operation of RWE's existing and further growing offshore wind portfolio in Europe.

Thomas Michel, COO of RWE Offshore Wind: "Through this long-term partnership, RWE is taking a strategic step by securing next generation service operations vessels against the backdrop of a tight market. Those service operations vessels are an important enabler for RWE to deliver best-in-class performance across our existing operational fleet, as well as for future projects."

The specialised vessels provide accommodation for service technicians and can remain at the wind farms for several days. Integrated walk-to-work gangway systems make access to the wind turbines much easier, even in rough seas, while also increasing safety. These vessels are therefore an ideal solution, especially for the maintenance of offshore wind farms that are located further offshore.

Gitte Gard Talmo, CEO of North Star: "This landmark deal is the beginning of a strategic partnership between two industry leaders, built on early engagement, mutual trust and shared ambitions. We are proud to secure agreements for four state-of-the-art vessels and grateful for the trust put in us by RWE. Our focus is delivering world class operational performance, utilising all of North Star's expertise and capabilities in SOV services."

The Grampian Eagle is chartered for at least 12 years. This vessel is planned to support the operations and maintenance activities at Triton Knoll offshore wind farm off the British coast. For a minimum of 10 years the Grampian Kestrel will support the maintenance of RWE's German offshore wind farms, located north of the island of Heligoland. Both vessels were built this year and offer the possibility to use alternative fuels to minimise CO2 emissions.

For Germany, the charter contract starts this winter and for the UK in summer 2026. RWE has the option to extend both contracts by up to additional three years.

Until the North Star vessels Grampian Eagle and Grampian Kestrel are available two state-of-the-art vessels will be supplied by Windward Offshore until the end of 2026 - a role-model for cross-industry collaboration.

Furthermore, as part of the reservation agreements RWE has signed with North Star, two newbuild service operation vessels are planned to support the maintenance of RWE's growing offshore wind fleet from 2028 and 2029 onwards. North Star already has selected the global shipbuilding company VARD to construct these vessels.

Leading global player in offshore wind

RWE is one of the world's leading companies in offshore wind. The company currently operates 19 offshore wind farms in five countries with a total installed capacity of 6.2 gigawatts (GW) – RWE's share in these projects amounts to 3.3 GW. Furthermore, RWE currently has four offshore wind projects under construction in four countries: Sofia off the coast of North East England, Thor in Denmark, OranjeWind off the Dutch coast and Nordseecluster north of the island of Juist, Germany. The projects will be completed in the years 2026 to 2028, and will have a combined generation capacity of 4.8 GW, with RWE's share amounting to 3.1 GW. Further offshore wind projects are under development globally.

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RWE

RWE is leading the way to a modern energy world. With its investment and growth strategy, RWE is contributing significantly to the success of the energy transition and the decarbonisation of the energy system. Around 20,000 employees work for the company in almost 30 countries worldwide. RWE is one of the leading companies in the field of renewable energy. RWE is investing billions of euros in expanding its generation portfolio, in particular in offshore and onshore wind, solar energy and batteries. It is perfectly complemented by its global energy trading business. Thanks to its integrated portfolio of renewables, battery storage and flexible generation, as well as its broad project pipeline of possible new builds, RWE is well positioned to address the growing global demand for electricity, particularly driven by further electrification and artificial intelligence. RWE is decarbonising its business in line with the 1.5-degree reduction pathway and will phase out coal by 2030. RWE will be net zero by 2040. Fully in line with the company's purpose - Our energy for a sustainable life.

North Star

North Star is the UK's market-leading fully integrated shipowner-operator, delivering mission-critical offshore infrastructure support services across the offshore wind and oil and gas sectors. Headquartered in Aberdeen with operational bases in Lowestoft, Newcastle and Hamburg, the company employs around 1,400 offshore and onshore personnel. Established over 139 years ago to support the fisheries industry, North Star has since built five decades of proven expertise in the energy sector. Today, it operates a fleet of 45 vessels, including 39 Emergency Response and Rescue Vessels (ERRVs) and Multi Role Vessels (MRV's) that provide continuous support to approximately 50 North Sea installation around the clock, 365 days a year. In support of the energy transition, North Star has invested over half a billion pounds in offshore wind, delivering its first six Service Operation Vessels (SOVs), with two additional SOVs under construction to meet the increasing demands of Europe's offshore wind market. As the UK's largest employer of offshore cadets, North Star is committed to the future of maritime, investing around £1 million annually since 1996 to train the next generation of deck and engineering professionals. By combining safety, service, and quality, North Star delivers reliable, high-performance support in some of the world's most challenging offshore environments.

Partners Group

Partners Group is one of the largest firms in the global private markets industry, with around 1'800 professionals and over USD 174 billion in assets under management. The firm has investment programs and custom mandates spanning private equity, private credit, infrastructure, real estate, and royalties. With its heritage in Switzerland and its primary presence in the Americas in Colorado, Partners Group is built differently from the rest of the industry. The firm leverages its differentiated culture and its operationally oriented approach to identify attractive investment themes and to build businesses and assets into market leaders. For more information, please visit www.partnersgroup.com or follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

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