

Aviation Investment Fund Company Limited Prospectus 2024

The Aviation Investment Fund Company Limited (AIFCL) was formed in 2009 as the wind industry funding body to support work streams under the Aviation Plan, which is managed by the Aviation Management Board (AMB). AIFCL supports work aimed at enabling aviation and onshore wind co-existence.

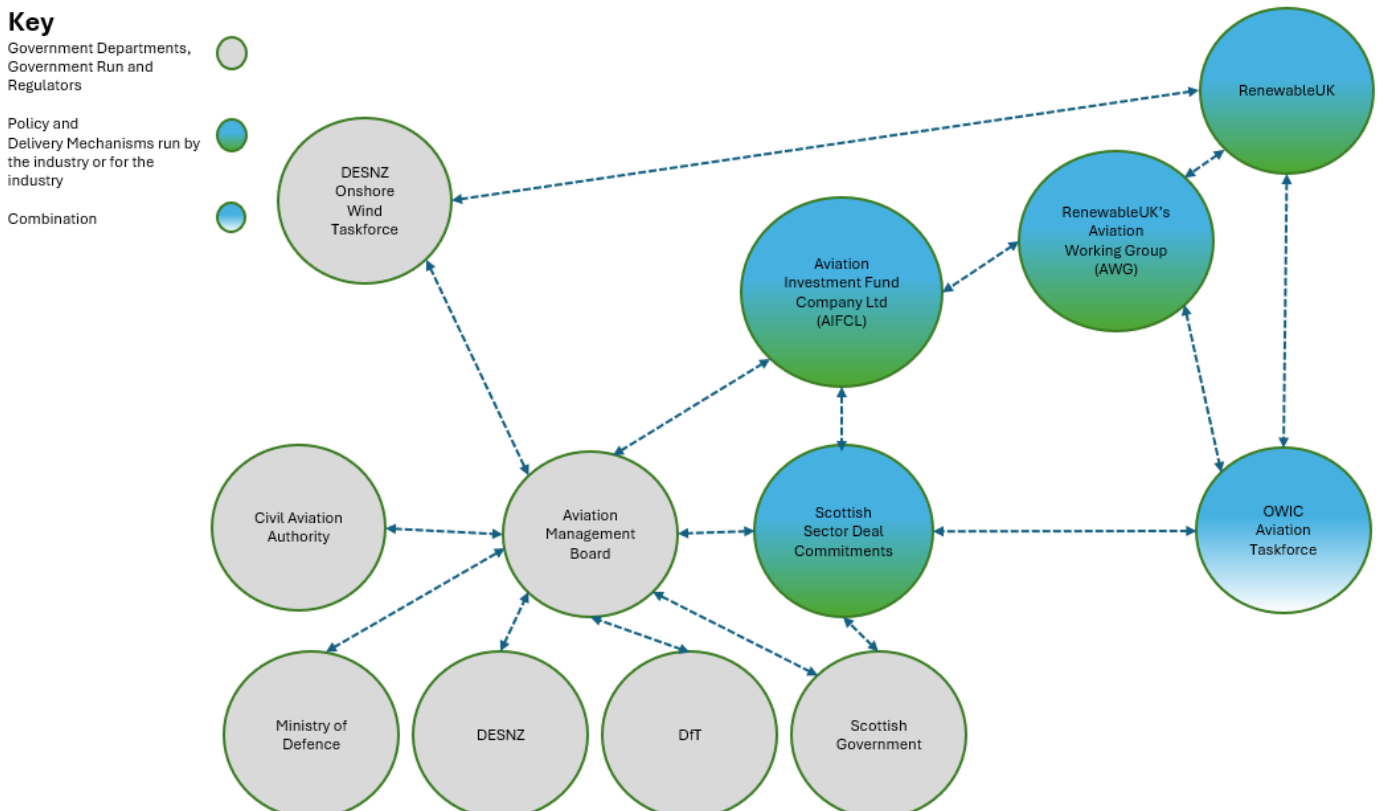
AIFCL aims to provide unbiased solutions to the wind industry to support the current and future development of the industry.

Relationships

AIFCL provides updates to the AMB which is chaired by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).

AIFCL has strong links with the RenewableUK Aviation Working Group (AWG) and the Scottish Onshore Wind Sector Deal Technical Commitment Delivery Group – Onward 2030, as well as cutting across industry and government.

The Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary through their various industry roles support engagement with the relevant stakeholders, are building strong relationships and lines of communication. This includes Scottish Government, the various Ministry of Defence (MOD) teams, Airports UK, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), the Department for Transport (DfT) and the relevant commercial entities including NATS. AIFCL also works with the Offshore Wind Industry Council (OWIC) on cross over pieces between onshore and offshore wind environments.



Governance

Since 2009, AIFCL has undergone a few changes in its Chair and Vice-Chair positions, these are currently held by Samantha Johnson, Senior Aviation Manager at Renewable Energy Systems (RES) and Ian Toothill, Aviation Manager at SSE Renewables. RenewableUK provides a Board Link Director, currently Ian Hunter, Director of Operations Support Services at RES, and added resource, as a paid service for finance and business support through the Head of Finance at RenewableUK Jacklin French and secretariat support from Heidi Douglas-Osborn, Senior Policy Analyst for Onshore and Aviation at RenewableUK

Business cases can be raised by any shareholder with a Director as a sponsor, or via the AWG or AMB. Currently, there are 8 Directors from RES, SSE, Nadara, SPR, Vattenfall, OnPath Energy, RWE and the RUK Board link.

AIFCL is updating their Articles of Association and Shareholder Agreement ahead of increasing the shares that will be open to new organisations as well as existing shareholders.

Current Business Cases

LiveLink Aerospace – Windfarm Air Intelligence System



In 2023, AIFCL set up a contract with LiveLink Aerospace (LLA) to fund an innovation project that would create an alternative to Primary Surveillance Radar (PSR) Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS). This is a multi-sensory system that would have potential cost-savings for the industry as planning authorities (and the public) increasingly object to wind turbine applications that require visible aviation lighting. The total funding needed was £350k and this was provided by LLA (£100k), AIFCL (£125k) and developer contributions (125k). The project first developed its equipment to trialling standards and then completed trials to determine the viability of the equipment. Since then, there have been unmanned flight trials and positive discussions with CAA. The next stage is to conduct manned results. Developers involved in the funding are expected to receive credit towards further work with LLA and their products.

Eskdalemuir

Xi Engineering Consultants



The Eskdalemuir Consultation Zone (ECZ) has prevented development since January 2018. AIFCL supports the work of the Eskdalemuir Working Group (EWG) as it is a commitment under the Scottish Onshore Wind Sector Deal, which aims to establish enduring onshore wind and aviation coexistence solutions that meet transparent and reasonable process and lead to cost neutral implementation.

As part of this AIFCL works with Xi Engineering to provide a way forward for developments in the ECZ area (50km radius). This includes but is not limited to a single reference document to provide clarity on the process necessary to ensure that the complex issue is clear to all stakeholders.

To support this AIFCL also funds Marcus Trinick KC to develop an Industry Guidance Document with the support of BVGA. This is expected to go out for consultation by the end of the year or early next. This work is being produced in parallel with that of the MOD work.

Scottish Sector Deal

AIFCL provides funding support for the implementation of the Scottish Onshore Wind Sector Deal by providing aviation expertise to deliver the Technical Commitments. AIFCL funds Andy Knill, Extensity Consulting to provide support and expertise, and he has developed scopes of work for each Sector Deal Technical Commitment.

As an example, Workstream 1 is a Market Survey on Existing & Emerging Wind Farm Tolerant Surveillance Systems and Costs. The scope has been developed and is now being conducted by a chosen consultancy, which is funded by AIFCL.

It is expected that AIFCL will continue to provide funding where needed to support the delivery of the Sector Deal Technical Commitments and support the development and construction of onshore wind in Scotland and in the long-term across the UK.

Rapid Impact Assessment Tool (RIAT)

As of March 2024, AIFCL funded the development of the RIAT web application that will be hosted on the RenewableUK website with supporting data provided by EnergyPulse. This tool is expected to be formally launched at the Onshore Wind Conference, in September 2024. This web-based application allows the user to quickly identify and assess the various impacts a potential wind farm development, or multiple developments, may have on any surrounding radar and aviation assets.

Lossiemouth Radar, Scotland

AIFCL is working with developers that impact the PSR at RAF Lossiemouth, to establish interim enduring onshore wind and aviation co-existence solutions. AIFCL is proactively working with DESNZ and the MOD and is the contracting party to provide a potential interim solution at RAF Lossiemouth. AIFCL facilitates the conversations with the relevant stakeholders including developers.

Future Business Cases

Following discussions on the future of AIFCL, a Strategy Day in June 2024 set out core principles for future business cases including:

- ATC and responsibility for co-existence and delivery of mitigation
- ANSP issues, education and stakeholder engagement
- Eskdalemuir
- Lighting
- Emerging issues

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All business cases must also have cross check with other aviation and Eskdalemuir working groups to ensure efficiency, a joined-up approach and remove repetition. A crucial factor is also fairness and transparency of responsibility for delivery.

Shareholders

Currently, there are 15 developers that hold shares in AIFCL, with varying levels of shareholding. These include:

- Ecotricity Group Limited
- EDF Energy Renewables Limited
- EnergieKontor UK Limited
- Engie Renewables Limited
- ESB Asset Development UK Limited
- Muirhall Energy Limited
- Renantis UK Limited
- OnPath Energy Limited
- REG Power Development
- RES UK & Ireland Limited
- RWE Renewables UK Limited
- RWE Renewables UK Swindon Limited
- Scottish Power Renewables (UK) Limited
- SSE Renewables Onshore Windfarm Holdings Limited
- Vattenfall Wind Power Limited

Next Steps

AIFCL is looking to increase its current fund to support the future of the onshore wind development industry in the UK, as well as support the new Government's Onshore Wind Industry Taskforce where needed.



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