

# SNS 2025

## Freeport East Update

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025





- Freeport East is a public-private partnership
- Freeport East Ltd acts as counterparty to Government to deliver freeport policy
- Formed in 2022 with HQ in Harwich
- We bring together ports, Universities, innovation centres, research institutes, innovative SMEs and major international companies, together with national, regional and local Government
- Freeport area covers over 1000sqkm in total
- 3 specific “catalyst” sites with tax reliefs (Harwich, Felixstowe and Stowmarket/G14)
- £300m+ of business rate income over 25 years
- We aim to work with ambitious UK and international businesses looking to grow their footprint in the UK.....

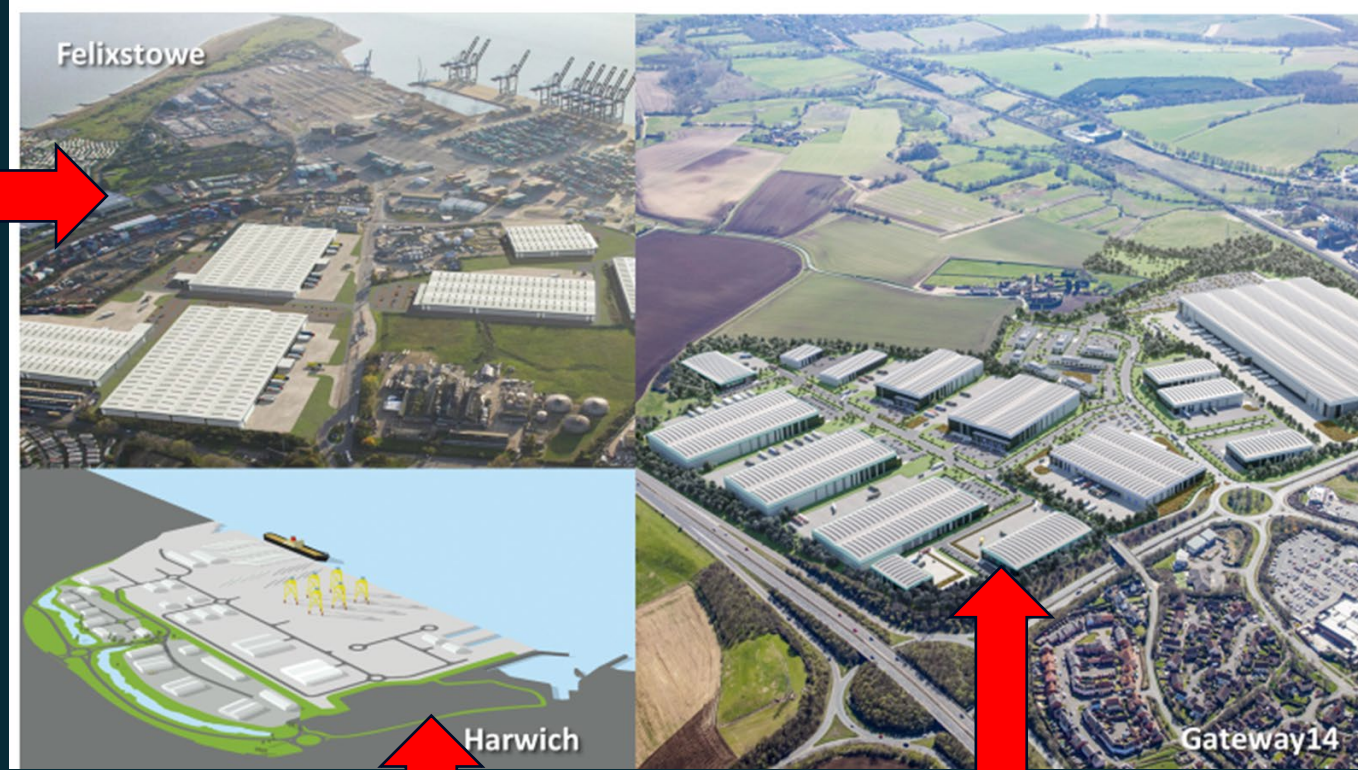


# Freeport East Tax Sites

## Felixstowe Logistics Park

76 acres

- Scottish Power developing an electrolyser
- Some of our funds will be used for Grid upgrade to site



## Bathside Bay Harwich

Clean Energy Hub (300 acres/122 ha)

Discussions taking place with

HV cable manufacturers

Windfarm EPC companies

Turbine blade recyclers

## Gateway 14 Stowmarket

The Range – 1.17 m sq ft (operational)

**Under construction**

Bauder – 44 000 sq ft

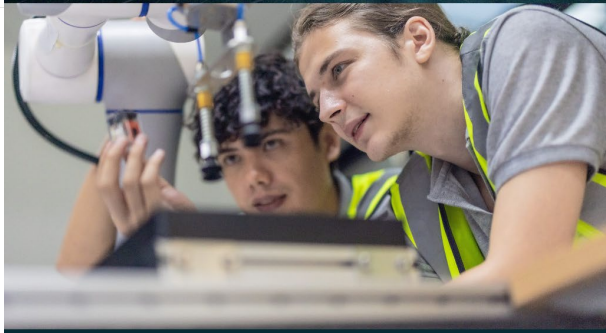
Assan Panel – 86 565 sq ft

Skills and Innovation Centre – 35 000 sq ft  
(of approx. 2.2 m sq ft)

**FREEPORT EAST**  
A GLOBAL FREEPORT FOR A GLOBAL BRITAIN

**FELIXSTOWE  
GATEWAY 14  
HARWICH**





5 SEPTEMBER 2024

**Freeport East invests nearly £1 million to grow local businesses and skills in high-growth sectors**

The **Freeport East Innovation and Skills Fund** focuses on building access to innovation and skills opportunities, particularly in underserved communities and in sectors relevant to the Freeport East area, such as clean energy, logistics and trade. Recipients of funding support include:

- **A consortium of further education providers, led by Suffolk New College**, who will provide a range of specialist skills support across the Freeport East area, designed to support learners of all ages into future opportunities in growth sectors
- **Road to Logistics** helps to attract new talent into the transport and logistics sectors, particularly by focusing on individuals who need specialist support to enter the industry
- **MENTA** provides business and innovation support for enterprises and SMEs, and will include digital and trade-related businesses in their new programme across the Freeport East area
- **Reboot Education** offers alternative education for children aged 7 to 16, focusing on IT and computer science qualifications
- **Stempoint** will organise workshops for the energy sector aimed at students in years 6-8 including in Harwich and Felixstowe
- **Aspire Education** provides mentoring provision for year 12-13 students and will focus its support in Tendring

The **Freeport East Clean Growth Fund** offers financial assistance to local businesses operating within clean energy and Freeport East's other target sectors, such as green hydrogen, agritech, engineering and digital. Recipient businesses for the Fund include:

- **MKC Rail**, a Clacton-based railway engineering specialist working to develop more efficient and innovative materials for use in rail projects
- **Acer Resources**, a fast-developing vertical farming firm working with researchers at the University of Essex in Colchester.
- **Rux Energy**, a developer of breakthrough materials for green hydrogen storage, deploying a pilot of its technology at a Harwich site, while also partnering with regional universities to build industry partnerships and develop graduate-level green hydrogen skills
- **Automotion** works on deploying Artificial Intelligence to decarbonise diesel engines from its base in Felixstowe
- **Versatile RobotX**, a spin-out of the University of Essex based in Colchester, is developing ECOFARM, affordable fruit-picking robots for use on farms in Tendring and the wider East of England
- **Insight Energy Renewables** based near Ipswich is delivering new commercial models and technologies to support Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure for commercial customers and fleets
- **Revolve Labs** is developing enhanced healthcare training for the NHS, utilising VR and innovative technology from its base in Stowmarket
- **University of Suffolk** will also run a specialist programme to support a range of local innovators to grow their businesses and attract new investment funding



# Green Freight Corridor Initiative

## *"Freeport East and East Midlands Freeport sign green freight corridor initiative"*

Building the future  
**UK Freeports**



- Freeport East and East Midlands Freeport have announced a new partnership to support a green freight corridor between our locations
- The corridor initiative will help decarbonise transport and drive enhanced skills and employment initiatives along the length of one of the UK's most important transportation routes.
- Working together, we aim to accelerate the technologies, business models, innovation and infrastructure needed to drive decarbonisation by utilising green hydrogen, electric charging systems and novel technology applications, such as digital twins.



- **Hydrogen Storage Inward Investor in Harwich**
- **SPOHL Collaboration (CMD C 4 ended 31/3/25)**
  - Hydrogen Smart-Sponge (metal organic framework)
  - World's first Type V carbon fibre fuel tank for hydrogen storage.
  - Aspiration to manufacture in a Freeport tax site subject to Series A funding
- **HYZEM Collaboration (UK-Aus Renewable Hydrogen Innovation Partnership – ends 31.12.25)**
  - Designing a fuel tank for a hydrogen repowered workboat for 3 days' duty
  - Regulatory issues regarding hydrogen tank storage and integration on vessel
  - Presentation at Australia High Commission – 16/9/25 during London
  - International Shipping Week
  - **Seed fundraising also underway / 2.4 people in Harwich working on tank design / integration**
    - Launch of 50 kg mobile storage tanks planned for Q2 2026
    - Aim to get 2 tanks on a trailer towable by pickup truck

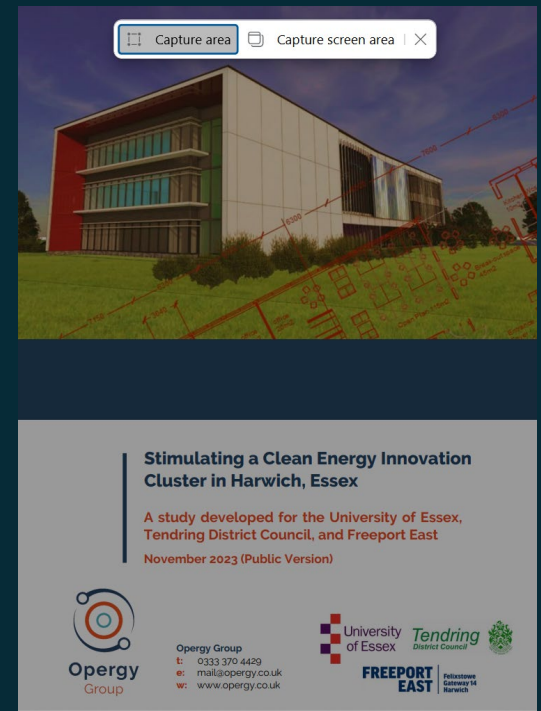


# Other Areas of Energy Innovation ....

- **Hyhaul (DFT Innovation Project) –**  
Looking for hauliers who would lease a Hydrogen fuel cell truck HGV for 5 years (at 80% subsidy) plus local H2 refuelling at Port One.
- **CMDC 6 Bids (FPE unfunded partner) – Decisions announced 2<sup>nd</sup> June**
  - **Maritime Multi-Energy Vector Production and Power Distribution System**  
Involving pre-trial demonstrator of integrated methanol production via carbon captured in ports as an add-on to electrolyser
  - **Port-2-Ship Hydrogen**  
Pre-trial demonstrator for supplying hydrogen (delivered using a Rux System) to provide cold ironing with a hydrogen steam turbine generator for a cruise ship on Port of Tyne.
  - **Hy-Pontoon**  
Similar to above only the fuel cell generator and (Rux) hydrogen fuel tank will be installed on towable/fixed pontoons rather than the quayside

# Harwich Innovation Hub now open (since last week !)

- In part with Tendring DC and University of Essex , Freeport East commissioned a report about we could foster an Energy Innovation Cluster in Harwich
- It recommended we needed a “space”
- We now have premises at Scandinavia House, Harwich offering
  - Freeport East Office
  - Hot-desking
  - Bookable meeting room
  - Partitionable private offices
  - Starlink satellite internet with video conferencing
  - Networking space
- Next stage is to explore finance and development models for small hands-workshop space





**Thanks for your time !**  
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