



Newsletter: April 2026



Conferences and Events

We are happy to share two engaging video highlights from last year’s Supergen Annual Conference, which was a great success in bringing together academics, industry representatives, and stakeholders from across the energy sector. The videos feature contributions from Supergen Director Phil Taylor, alongside interviews with guest speakers, capturing reflections on key themes, insights, and discussions from the event. They offer an opportunity for readers to revisit the conference or, for those who were unable to attend, to watch back and hear directly from speakers about the ideas and collaborations that emerged during a highly successful conference.



Supergen Impact and Advisory Committee meeting 2026

The Supergen Impact and Advisory Meeting was held on 24 April 2026 in Leeds, bringing together members of the Hub team and industry partners for a productive and forward-looking day of discussion. The meeting provided an important opportunity to reflect on progress, share updates, and focus on what’s next for Supergen and its industry partners.



It was great to exchange knowledge, and bring industry together with the wider Supergen team to discuss shared challenges and priorities.

Conversations spanned topics including forecasting challenges, system flexibility, and resilience, clearly demonstrating the value of close collaboration between academia and industry. The discussions highlighted how Supergen can continue to support, work with, and learn from industry partners to shape research that addresses real-world needs and delivers meaningful impact moving forward.



Team News

University of Bath Vice-Chancellor and Director of Supergen Energy Networks Hub Phil Taylor appointed Honorary Professor of Tsinghua University



We're delighted to celebrate Professor Phil Taylor, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bath and Supergen Energy Networks Hub PI, on his appointment as Honorary Professor at Tsinghua University.

The appointment follows his recent guest lecture at Tsinghua on the global challenges and opportunities shaping future energy systems, and recognises his international leadership and impact. As PI, Professor Taylor continues to provide strategic direction across Supergen's ambitious, interdisciplinary programme.

This milestone highlights the growing global reach of Supergen's work and the value of long-term international collaboration in accelerating progress toward net zero.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story](#)

Laiz Souto delivers RMetS Energy Insight talk and ENTSO-E Iberian Peninsula Blackout summary

Laiz Souto, Lecturer at the University of Bath and a Supergen team member, contributed to knowledge exchange across the energy sector through two recent, independent activities. Following the release of the ENTSO-E Expert Panel Final Report on the Iberian Peninsula Blackout, Laiz produced a concise summary of the report's key findings and recommendations. The Final Report, based on nearly a year of investigation, provides a factual and technical analysis of the sequence of events leading to the blackout and the measures taken to restore the system. Laiz's summary distilled insights from the approximately 470-page report to support wider discussion and understanding of the incident and its lessons for future system resilience.



[Click to view full report](#)

Laiz was also invited to speak at the Royal Meteorological Society (RMetS) Energy Insight talk on 23 April. Contributing to a panel on learning from past weather events, Laiz drew on recent collaboration with the Met Office to discuss system resilience, the impacts of extreme weather on the UK power system, and challenges linked to weather-dependent generation. The presentation set the context through an overview of past severe weather events associated with power outages and highlighted recent research identifying links between high-risk weather patterns and power system failures.

Daniel Donaldson co-authors new publication on wildfire risk to critical infrastructure



Daniel Donaldson, Assistant Professor of Power Systems at the University of Birmingham and Supergen Energy Networks Hub Co-Investigator has co-authored a newly published journal article examining wildfire risk to critical infrastructure. The paper provides a systematic review of the rapidly expanding research in this area and highlights the increasing need for cross-sector collaboration as climate change intensifies the risks posed by extreme events.

The article was co-authored with collaborators from the University of Birmingham and the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya's Centre for Technological Risk Studies (CERTEC), and was supported by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, the FIREPRIME project, and the Supergen Energy Networks Hub

“ Cross-sector collaboration is essential to address the growing threat wildfires pose to our critical infrastructure ”

Simona Dossi, Daniel L. Donaldson, Kerry Little, Elsa Pastor, Wildfire risk to critical infrastructure: A systematic review highlighting the need for cross-sector collaboration, *Climate Risk Management*, Volume 52, 2026

[Click to view full paper](#)



Impact across the Supergen network

Early Career Researcher Jinning Zhang:

My Experience: ECR Net Zero Conference 2026



We're delighted to share this reflective blog from Jinning, a member of the Supergen Energy Networks Hub Early Career Researcher Committee. Drawing on their experiences of planning, attending and speaking at the ECR Net Zero Conference 2026, Jinning offers thoughtful reflections on the value of ECR-led events and the space they create for learning, connection and impact. We're very grateful to Jinning for taking the time to capture and share these insights with the wider Supergen community.

“ It brought together researchers, industry, and funders in a way that encouraged open exchange and showed the value of working collaboratively to tackle shared challenges in the transition to a just and sustainable net zero future ”

[Read Jinnings blog here](#)



Upcoming Events



Expert-led Masterclasses combining theory and practice on topics across offshore renewable energy

- One or two-day Masterclasses.
- Designed for researchers and professionals working within offshore renewable energy.
- £500/day. Free for eligible Early Career Researchers.
- The series continues from May 2026 at leading research centres across the UK.

“Detailed, engaging teaching – brilliant to learn from such an expert.”

Previous Masterclass participant

Environmental Contours & Extreme Value Analysis

University of Exeter (Penryn Campus) | 14 & 15 May 2026

Master the tools and techniques of extreme value analysis in a range of applications in offshore renewable energy.



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READ MORE

Advanced Experimental Fluid Mechanics for Offshore Renewable

EnergyUniversity of Plymouth | 13 May 2026

A unique opportunity to explore the world-class COAST Laboratory, gaining hands-on experience and expert insights into experimental techniques, scaling, and design for testing offshore renewable energy systems.

Offshore Geotechnics

University of Southampton | 18 - 19 May 2026

Explore geotechnical engineering applied to offshore renewable energy problems.



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Registration for each Masterclasses closes two days ahead of the session, or when capacity is reached.

[Click here for further details and registration](#)

AI and Digital for UK Energy Networks Workshop

Supergen Energy
Networks Hub



Supergen will host an AI and Digital Workshop bringing together participants to explore the role of AI and digital innovation in the UK energy network. Building on discussions from a workshop held in January at the University of Bath, the session will focus on sharing perspectives, addressing current research challenges, and co-developing ideas with clear pathways to funding.

Facilitated by Dr Gareth Buchanan and led by Prof Furong Li, the workshop will feature structured, interactive sessions designed to support collaboration and the development of new research directions.

Invitation Only



SUPERGEN
ENERGY NETWORKS

DAFNI Conference Workshop – September (10th September 2026)

Supergen will be hosting an afternoon workshop at the upcoming DAFNI: Data & Analytics Facility for National Infrastructure Conference. The session will focus on bringing together researchers to explore how shared data, models and analytics can support energy network decision-making, while fostering cross-sector collaboration and developing impactful research connections.

Further details to follow

Further information on all news items is available on the [Supergen Energy Networks Impact Hub Website](#)

