

## Offshore wind turbines installed in Bremerhaven

Multibrid will talk about its business at the WAB WINDFORCE08 – DIRECTION OFFSHORE conference

**16 June 2008, Bremerhaven.** Two more M5000 wind power turbines with a capacity of five MW were installed by Multibrid a few days ago in Bremerhaven. The manufacturers assembled one turbine in two days, the other in three; the hub height is 130 metres off the ground. "This marks the successful launch of the series production of the M5000. Next in line are six turbines for Germany's first offshore wind farm, alpha ventus, and 25 turbines for France's first offshore wind farm, Cote d'Albatre," said Martin Lehnhoff, Multibrid's managing director. Multibrid will report on its business and product developments at the WINDFORCE08 – DIRECTION OFFSHORE conference hosted by the Windenergie-Agentur [Wind Energy Agency] Bremerhaven/Bremen (WAB) from 30 June to 2 July 2008 in Bremerhaven. This year's conference has been completely booked up for some time and will be visited by 375 participants. Sigmar Gabriel, Germany's minister for the environment, is the conference's patron.

The heart of the M5000, its 200-ton nacelle, was moved on heavy road vehicles from the production site in Bremerhaven to its present site near the A27 autobahn. Its three 56.5-metre rotor blades were transported by road from the Multibrid rotor blade plant in Stade to the installation site. "By 2011, we'll be manufacturing 100 turbines per year," continued Lehnhoff. Multibrid, one of the more than 160 members of WAB's wind energy business network, is helping to sponsor the conference.

The German Bundestag on 6 June 2008 adopted an amendment to the Renewable Energy Act (EEG), distinctly improving the feed-in tariff of offshore wind energy. As of January 2009, power from offshore wind farms will be remunerated with EUR 0.13 per kWh. If a wind farm goes into operation before the end of 2015, operators will receive an additional 'sprinter bonus' of EUR 0.02 per kWh. "This really pushes offshore development forward in Germany," said Steffen Schleicher, head of offshore projects at WAB. "It will give turbine manufacturers and wind farm investors a high level of investment security and provide the incentive to build wind farms," he continued. In the German North Sea alone, licences have been issued for wind farms holding more than 1,100 turbines. Many investors have already drawn up supply contracts.

The WAB conference will begin with an excursion to offshore technology sites in Bremerhaven. Some 170 conference guests will visit four different locations, among them the Multibrid plant. The conference will be opened on the evening of 30 June by Matthias Machnig, permanent secretary in Germany's ministry for the environment. During the panel discussion to follow, Ralf Nagel, senator for economic affairs and ports in Bremen, Jörg Schulz, mayor of Bremerhaven, Arno Stabbert, mayor of Cuxhaven, Rudolf Stahl, managing director of Norddeutsche Seekabelwerke, and Dr Dirk Wernicke, managing director of Siemens Wind Power, will talk about offshore wind energy as a driving force of innovation in commerce and industry boosting Germany's northwest region. Andreas Neumann from Radio Bremen TV will present the panel of experts. For more information about the conference, please go to: [www.windenergie-agentur.de](http://www.windenergie-agentur.de).

The main sponsor of the conference is Norddeutsche Seekabelwerke in Nordenham.

Other sponsors are Airtricity, AMBAU Stahl- und Anlagenbau, Beluga Shipping, Ed. Züblin, Essent Wind Deutschland, HOCHTIEF Construction, Multibrid, Nordseetaucher, Oceanteam Power & Umbilical, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Vestas Offshore, WeserWind Offshore Construction Georgsmarienhütte, and wpd think energy. Media partner for the conference is *Energie & Management* magazine.

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