

Press release

German-Danish Industrial Dialogue on Offshore Wind Energy

Representatives of Germany's wind energy industry visit Denmark

Bremerhaven, 24 April 2008. Thirty-five participants representing businesses and institutes in Germany visited Denmark during a three-day study trip from 21-23 April 2008 to find out more about Denmark's offshore wind power industry. They met with more than 20 representatives of Danish companies in Esbjerg, a harbour town on the North Sea coast. The Windenergie-Agentur Bremerhaven/Bremen (WAB) organised the study trip in cooperation with the Offshore Center Danmark (OCD). Attention focused on current work at the Horns Rev 2 wind farm, where 91 Siemens offshore wind turbines with a total capacity of some 210 megawatts will be installed off Denmark's North Sea coast starting in 2009. Semco Maritime in Esbjerg described its plans to construct a platform to hold living quarters for service crew, a first in the offshore wind industry. Furthermore, some 60 individual meetings between representatives of German and Danish enterprises took place, underlining the industry's great interest in current developments.

Jan Rispens, WAB's managing director, brought Danish participants up to date on Germany's offshore projects, explaining that some 400 million euro are being invested in new production sites in Bremerhaven, Cuxhaven, Nordenham and Emden. Bremerhaven alone is benefiting from the investment of about 250 million euro in new production sites and infrastructure. Rispens said: "Offshore wind energy is becoming an important economic factor across the entire coastal region. More than 1,000 new jobs are being created by wind turbine manufacturers, suppliers, and in service and logistics." A number of contracts have been already concluded in 2008 for building offshore wind farms in Germany.

Morten Holmager from OCD and Mette Buch from the public Danish Energy Agency talked about developments and outlined the framework conditions for offshore wind energy in Denmark. Siemens Wind Power and Dong Energy gave an account of work on the Horns Rev 2 farm, which they are completing with other partners, among them Bilfinger Berger and Nexans Deutschland. Vestas, a turbine manufacturer and Multibrid, based in Bremerhaven, also described their offshore plans. Participants were able to find out more about offshore safety training during an excursion to the Falck Nuteck company. Steffen Schleicher, WAB's offshore project manager, concluded: "Our industrial network sets great store on an early and detailed exchange of information. This visit to Denmark will strengthen German businesses and institutes and help them make progress in realising projects at sea with high quality."

Evelyn Neufeind from Ambau Stahl- und Anlagenbau (Ambau) underlined the positive effects of the study trip. "It was very helpful to get so much firsthand information on Danish activities. Denmark's many years of experience and the new contacts we have gained are very important to us." Ambau is currently investing about 45 million euro in building a new production facility for offshore wind turbine towers in Cuxhaven, thereby creating some 125 new jobs.

The Horns Rev 2 project is located about 60 kilometres from the Esbjerg harbour. Siemens' 91 turbines will supply about 200,000 Danish households with climate-friendly power. The turbines will be mounted on monopiles (steel tubes) measuring 40 metres in length and four metres in diameter. The monopiles, weighing some 200 tonnes, will stand in waters nine to 18 metres deep.

Semco Maritime from Esbjerg will give an account of its work on the crew housing platform at WAB's WINDFORCE 08 – DIRECTION OFFSHORE conference taking place from 30 June until 2 July 2008 in Bremerhaven.

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