

The North Sea Region is the world's leading region in offshore wind energy. The POWER initiative forms a North Sea competence network for offshore wind energy. Numerous stakeholders from industry associations, research organisations, and public authorities from Germany, the UK, Denmark, The Netherlands and Belgium have cooperated on offshore wind energy issues through this initiative between 2004 and 2007, under the framework of the European Union INTERREG III B North Sea Region Programme.

## Power Declaration on Offshore Wind Energy

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**We, the POWER partnership,  
conclude the following:**

### **Finding 1**

The North Sea Region has a major role in the field of offshore wind energy on a global scale. 95%, almost 880 megawatts, of the current global offshore wind energy capacity is produced within the POWER countries. Each of the countries involved in the POWER initiative offers complementary offshore wind energy competences. Jointly the North Sea regions can offer a complete supply chain for the offshore wind energy market.

### **Finding 2**

Offshore wind farms contribute significantly to the objective of enhancing renewable energy sources to combat climate change in the European Union. Offshore wind energy offers high potential as a sustainable source in the European energy mix and it is likely to be a reliable, available, politically secure and cost efficient energy source in the long term.

### **Finding 3**

Offshore wind energy offers unique economic opportunities for coastal regions. This applies particularly to those areas where traditional industries are in decline. By diversifying these regional economies, offshore wind energy creates new challenges and offers new business opportunities for the well developed maritime sectors. Forecasts predict the growth of offshore wind energy in the POWER countries up to 3.2 gigawatts up to 2010, with a considerably larger growth expected in the following decade. Accordingly, offshore wind energy offers a considerable potential for job creation and safeguarding of jobs in the POWER countries.

### **Finding 4**

The current situation of the offshore wind energy industry is characterized by high diversity, a considerable innovative potential, but also various challenges concerning legal, planning, technical and skills aspects in the POWER countries.

## To support increased offshore wind energy development in the North Sea, we recommend implementation of the following measures:

### Recommendation 1

The evolving offshore wind energy industry relies on consistent and long-term support by governments in order to reduce insecurities to the market. National governments of regions that could boost their offshore wind potential need to provide appropriate level of subsidies and economic support mechanisms. Furthermore regional authorities must pursue consistent long-term policies and targets in order to develop this sector into a cost effective sustainable energy source.

### Recommendation 2

National and European organisations should further cooperate to work towards increased harmonisation of legal, planning, educational, health and safety frameworks and set common standards for offshore wind developments at a European level, to facilitate the development of a North Sea Region wide and pan-European supply chain in offshore wind energy.

### Recommendation 3

Extensive public participation and information campaigns are needed in planning processes concerning offshore wind energy farms to enhance informed discussions. New ways of informing the broad public would help to increase acceptance of the necessity of offshore wind developments. Public authorities and offshore wind farm developers should cooperate on these issues.

### Recommendation 4

Access to the electricity grid and possible future inter-connection of offshore wind energy grids remain one of the key challenges for offshore wind energy in the North Sea Region. This requires collaborative work and investments by national governments, European bodies and energy and grid companies.

### Recommendation 5

Funding for further research and demonstration projects should be provided, by national and European sources, towards the integration of other offshore energy production methods (e.g. tidal or wave plants, oil and gas platforms) or maritime industries (e.g. sustainable aquaculture) into offshore wind energy activities to benefit from existing synergies and tackle joint challenges.

## Project Partners

Bremerhavener Gesellschaft  
für Investitionsförderung  
und Stadtentwicklung mbH



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## We, the partners in the POWER competence network, are committed to continued working across the North Sea Region, and to the following activities to support offshore wind development in the North Sea Region:

### Commitment 1

We will continue transnational cooperation between industry associations, research institutes and public authorities within the North Sea Region to maintain and widen the region's excellence in offshore wind energy, and to further integrate the supply chain activities in offshore wind energy between the different North Sea regions.

### Commitment 2

We will raise awareness of the findings of the POWER studies in relation to international harmonisation of legislative and planning frameworks, and aim to involve relevant bodies and stakeholders in our competence network to promote our findings.

### Commitment 3

We will implement the recommendations on harmonisation in skills development issues set out within the POWER initiative, and work towards stronger harmonisation of training and related standards.

### Commitment 4

We will promote the globally leading role of the North Sea Region in offshore wind energy and the POWER brand as a label for offshore wind energy excellence internationally, in order to develop new market opportunities and climate protection potentials.

### Commitment 5

In order to promote and facilitate the implementation of the recommendations above, and formalise and deepen the POWER competence network, we will develop a follow-on project bid, POWER PLUS, for the INTERREG IV B North Sea Programme.