

POWER (Pushing Offshore Wind Energy Regions) is a common platform for discussion, exchange and transnational initiatives for North Sea regions to support Offshore Wind Energy developments.

Description & Aims

The POWER project unites North Sea regions with an interest in supporting and realising the economic and technological potentials of offshore wind energy. The project discusses and assesses environmental issues of offshore wind farms, the development of a reliable regional supply chain for the offshore wind sector, and skills development issues.

Transnational co-operation between these regions will create a North Sea competence network for offshore wind energy.

POWER is a three year project funded by the Interreg North Sea Programme. It started in July 2004.

This newsletter provides an introduction to the POWER project's activities. It will be followed by the first newsletter, providing updates on project activities and results. Subsequently newsletters will be published every three months.



www.offshore-power.net

Pushing Offshore Wind Energy Regions (POWER)



June 2005: **INTRODUCTION OF POWER**

Project partners

The POWER project brings together 37 partners, in Germany, The UK, Denmark, The Netherlands and Belgium. The partnership includes a wide range of stakeholders related to offshore wind, including local and regional authorities, business member organisations, economic development agencies, universities and research institutes.

Lead partner: BIS (Bremerhavener Gesellschaft für Investitionsförderung und Stadtentwicklung GmbH (D). BIS manages the project POWER on behalf of The Senator of Construction, Environment and Transport, Free State of Bremen (D).

Regional partners:

Het Gewest Kop van Noord-Holland (NL)
Suffolk County Council (UK)
Port of Oostende (B)
EU Vest-TIC (DK)

POWER activities

The project POWER has four work streams:

- Planning and Participation
- Economic Support/Supply Chain
- Education
- Dissemination

A description of each work stream is given on page 2 of this newsletter.

For more information about the POWER project visit the official website:

<http://www.offshore-power.net>

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Planning and Participation

The intention is to contribute to a better integration of the different planning systems in the Member States bordering the North Sea. Aim of this work stream is to give insight in the ways decision making on the location of offshore wind farms (OWF) is handled and to deliver suggestions how to harmonize planning and information strategies in compliance with government legislation. This includes objective, transparent information and the possibility of participation in the decision making process of all the stakeholders that might be affected by an OWF. Additionally, general information on offshore wind energy and selected sites is part of the work package. Project coordinator for this work stream is the Junior Research Group IMPULSE at the ICBM, University of Oldenburg (D).



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Economic Support/Supply Chain

In its supply chain work, the project aims to increase the supply chain knowledge for the offshore wind industry in the North Sea Region.

It establishes strong networks between leading offshore wind regions, involving both support organisations and businesses of the sector.

One of the strengths of the partnership is the combination of regional expertise in onshore wind energy and in offshore oil and gas industries.

POWER's supply chain activities are coordinated by Suffolk County Council (UK).

Education

This work stream will cover the needs of the offshore sector for qualification and further training of specialized personnel and skilled workers within the complete supply chain. It will develop employment opportunities in offshore industries and its suppliers in structurally weak regions.

Project coordinator for this work stream is Echelon Institute of Management Development (NL).

Dissemination

The project allows for exchange of best practice examples and the transfer of know-how between the project partners and with other actors in the North Sea Region. The project results will be widely disseminated. POWER will produce a website, brochures, newsletters and a travelling exhibition.

Dissemination activities are coordinated by the Bremerhavener Gesellschaft für Investitionsförderung und Stadtentwicklung GmbH (D).

