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# Pushing Offshore Wind Energy Regions (POWER)



Newsletter no. 1, 2006

## POWER Business Breakfast in Lowestoft: Offshore wind energy in the North Sea region

Businesses and stakeholders are invited to join the POWER partners at a business breakfast in the UK, providing a North Sea wide perspective on offshore wind energy. John Westwood of Douglas-Westwood Ltd and Albrecht Tiedemann of DENA will be the main speakers at this POWER event.

Douglas-Westwood Ltd, leading energy, marine and industrial analysts, will present the findings of a North Sea wide supply chain study on the offshore wind energy sector commissioned by POWER. DENA (the German Energy Agency) will outline conclusions of a POWER study analysing case studies of offshore wind farm developments in five North Sea countries (Case Study of Offshore Wind Farms). The event will also give an update on the Offshore Renewable Energy Centre to be built in Lowestoft, and a brief overview of other POWER activities.

The event is part of the 4th transnational meeting of the POWER partnership, with experts from 5 North Sea countries attending. It is jointly organised by EEEGr, Suffolk County Council and the POWER project. Date and location: 30 March 2006, 8.30-10.30, Hotel Victoria, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33 0BZ, UK.

Bookings for this event can be made through EEEGr's website: <http://www.eeegr.com>. Tickets cost £10 which includes a full English or continental breakfast).





## **Case Study of Offshore Wind Farms**

The transnational survey "Case Study of Offshore Wind Farms" has been completed beginning of February this year. This case study gives an absorbing insight in experiences and lessons learned from planning and development procedures of eight offshore wind farms in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, United Kingdom and The Netherlands. In the last months interviews with project developers and operators of the selected best practice projects were evaluated and critical paths were emphasized. The results are of particular interest to developers, planners and operators as well as to national and European authorities. The research work was carried out by the German Energy Agency GmbH (dena), the University of Groningen (Faculty of Spatial Sciences, Netherlands) and German WindGuard GmbH. Within the POWER work stream Planning and Participation the case study was carried out on behalf of the Senator for Construction, Environment and Transport of Bremen (D).

The superior objective of the study is to generate - on the basis of the achieved results - recommendations about "good planning and realisation processes" in the North Sea region for developers, planners and operators of offshore wind farms as well as national and European policy makers. This effort will finally result in a "European Guide for Actors". The first official presentation at the University of Groningen on the 22nd of February 2006, will not only act as occasion for presenting the study to project partners and external experts, but also aims for finding the most challenging subjects related to offshore wind energy that will be finally considered within the "European Guide for Actors".

The preprint of the "Case Study of Offshore Wind Farms" is available on the POWER website: page 'Strategic Issues' – 'Planning aspects and strategies' – 'Case Study'.

## **North Sea wide supply chain study to be launched**

A new international study conducted by Douglas Westwood Ltd for the POWER project will be launched on 30 March. The study assesses the offshore wind supply chain across the North Sea region, outlining market prospects, complementarities and competition between North Sea regions and analysing how the POWER regions' supply chain can be better aligned. The study will be available in April from the POWER website. More information - as well as regional supply chain studies from Denmark, East of England, Northern Germany and the Netherlands - is available on the POWER website: page 'Economic Issues' – 'Supply Chain Studies'.

## **Transnational harmonisation of vocational certification**

The majority of organisations in the offshore wind energy sector is working in international and transnational projects. This implies that employees should be able to work in different countries using their personal qualifications and standardised regulations should be in place to check the quality. On university and polytechnic level the BAMA (Bachelor-Master) structure is the international answer to the request for harmonisation and standardisation. The BAMA structure is based on the Bologna Covenant of the European Union, 1996. On vocational level however, such a harmonisation is not (yet) available. In practice this means that professionals need to get multiple international certifications on the same subject in different countries.

Several POWER project partners have started an initiative to solve this problem: Hochschule Bremerhaven, University Oldenburg, Gauss, Wirtschaftsakademie Schleswig-Holstein, BZEE, bfw, GLA (D), Northumberland College (UK), Delft University of Technology, DHTC (NL) and some other POWER partners will develop or adopt vocational training for the offshore wind energy that is harmonised and approved in all regions. The first half year of 2006 all the information about the programmes of the POWER Partners will be collected. In the second phase the number of participating partners will be extended to outside POWER.



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#### 4th Transnational POWER meeting

This meeting will be held in Lowestoft, UK, from 29-31 March. Additionally to the public Business Breakfast (more information above), key events for POWER partners will include:

- A skills workshop between POWER's skills development work package and East of England higher education institutions in the offshore field
- Workshops with the Douglas-Westwood Ltd and DENA discussing project activities and key issues for the offshore wind sector
- Internal workshops on future work of POWER, including the integration of the different work streams of the project and the content and organisation of the final conference in 2007
- Study visit to Scroby Sands Offshore Wind Farm and its Visitor Information Centre

#### Other POWER meetings & events

30/03/2006	POWER Business Breakfast in Lowestoft (UK)
05-06/04/2006	Renewable Energy Conference, North Sea Commission Environment Group, Leeuwarden (NL)
24-25/04/2006	POWER participates in the Lead Partner Seminar in Malmö (S)
24-28/04/2006	Hannover Messe Energy featuring "HusumWind Hannover" (D)
16-19/05/2006	WindEnergy 2006, International Trade Fair in Hamburg (DK)
24-25/05/2006	All-Energy 2006, Conference and Exhibition in Aberdeen (UK)
14-16/06/2006	POWER participates in the North Sea Region Annual Conference in Aviemore, Scotland (UK)
23/06/2006	5th meeting of the German POWER partners at University of Applied Sciences Bremen (D)

