Pushing Offshore Wind Energy Regions (POWER)

# **Offshore Wind** The Germany / UK Connection





European Week of Regions and Cities Brussels 9-12 October 2006

5<sup>th</sup> October 2006 – Astral Centre, Lowestoft College

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## Offshore Wind & Scroby Sands

A Utility Perspective

Paul Chilvers – Offshore Design Engineering

## eon E.ON Renewables

## **E.ON UK Renewables – Who We Are**



E.ON Renewables are playing a key part in delivering E.ON UK's low carbon agenda

- Developer Owner/Operator
- 20 existing wind farm sites (2 offshore)
- 3 coal plant co-firing biomass
- Building UK's largest dedicated biomass power station.
- Wave and Tidal Team established 2005
- Largest UK purchaser of renewable output from third party projects in 2003/04
- 110 staff based at 4 sites

#### **Scroby Sands Offshore Wind Farm**

- 30 Vestas V80 2MW offshore
- Eon's first commercial offshore wind farm
- **Pioneering project**
- Commissioned Dec 2004
- Built as part of 'Round 1' offshore
- £75 Million project
- Part Government funded via DTI capital grant



### Wind Farm - Site





### **Scroby Site Management**





#### ode – Who We Are









# Site Managers Responsibilities

#### **5 Year Site Management Contract**

#### Employed by E.ON Renewables to provide;

Support E.ON and local representation Planning operations and maintenance Daily management of site activities Provide support to Vestas Routine reporting mechanisms Technical Advice Audit and legislative compliance Community liaison and public relations



## Site Operators Responsibilities



**5 Year Performance Warranty** 

#### **Employed by E.ON Renewables to provide;**

Warranted availability via a performance based contract to ensure maximum performance and availability

Operation and maintenance of wind farm and HV network - Routine preventative maintenance and defects

Provision of maintenance Technicians, sub-contractors, vessels and O&M base

**Remote monitoring** 



## **Operations and Maintenance Challenges**

Offshore pioneering environment – Many long term unknowns? Health and Safety Culture – New Industry, rapidly growing

#### **Turbine Access**

In 2005, 145 days were lost due to bad weather (40%)

#### Gearboxes

Intermediate speed & high speed bearings suffering premature wear

#### Generators

• Insulation and bearing failures



## **Turbine Access**

#### **Transit to Wind Farm**

Fast speed High people capacity & deck space

#### **Transfer vessels**

Stability for safe transfer Suitable platform Highly Manoeuvrable High capability in adverse weather





#### **Maintenance Access Vessels**

#### Jack-Up barge

Used for stable lifting platform

Large external crane for major defect component replacements e.g. gearboxes and generators



## **Environmental Obligation**

#### Wind Farm consent requirements

Pre, During and Post Construction analysis

#### **Surveys**

Seabed profile Beach profile Sea life Little Terns Seals

e 6 monthly 3 monthly Seasonal Seasonal monitoring 11 annual surveys





## **Survey Results**

#### Seabed and beach profile

Local changes as predicted Scour erosion - less that 5% of the total sandbank volume Impact insignificant compared to the natural variability No global effect to the sand bank

#### Sea life

Sparsely populated sandbank No impact from Wind Farm as results Potential for species to develop around monopile



## **Survey Results**

#### **Little Terns**

Chicks decline during 2005 due to Kestrel pair Positive results 2006 Little Terns foraging at Scroby

#### **Seals**

Breeding (July) not impacted by construction Grey seals increasing in population Common seal in national decline



## Bathymetric Surveys (sea bed) 3D Visualisation





## **Bathymetric Survey - Interpretation**

#### **Secondary Scour**

#### Scour tails Prevailing SE tide









## **Cable Burial Depth Surveys**

#### To check the integrity of HV submarine cables

3 x 33kv Export cables 3-4km 29 x 33kv Inter-array cables ~0.5km

#### **Methods**

Tracked ROV Towed sled (runs perpendicular) Diver surveys





## **Public Relations - Local Benefits**

Visitor centre had 35,000 visitors in 2005

- 2000 during windweekend 2006 Community involvement

- Caister Lifeboat
- Working with local Schools High profile tourist attraction Direct local employment
  - 21 fulltime

- Many indirect from local services VIP Visits





### **Performance**

•No major Health and Safety incidents

- Long-term Average Performance, Enough energy for 41,000 homes – Approx Yarmouth, Caister & Gorleston combined
- Energy Production -171 GWh per year
- Reduction of 75,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year



## **Scroby Sands Generation Performance - 2005**

	Long term Average	2005 Actual
Capacity Factor	Budget 32%	Actual 29.8%
Energy Generated	171 GWH	153 GWH - 90% (87% up to June 06)
<b>Commercial Availability</b>	95%	89%
Long Term Average Wind Speed	100%	96.2% 3.8% less wind
<b>Reduction in CO<sub>2</sub></b>	75,000 t	65,000 tonnes
Homes Supplied	41,000 homes	36,000 Homes

## **E.ON UK Renewables - Future Projects**

We are serious about renewable energy generation

•In the last 5 years we have invested £225m

•We have committed to investing a billion pounds over the next 5 years

#### In construction

- •Stevens Croft dedicated biomass plant (44 MW)
- •Stags Holt Onshore wind farm in Cambridgeshire (18 MW)

#### **Imminent decisions and announcements**

•Robin Rigg (Solway Firth) offshore wind farm (180 MW)

#### **Future**

•London Array in Thames Estuary – 1000MW (JV)

## <u>Summary</u>

#### Performance

2005 was the first year of this pioneering site, in which we experienced some technical difficulties. Despite this and lower than average winds, production and profitability has been very good.

#### **Safety**

Our safety performance is excellent with no major incidents

#### **Environment**

Impact on the environment has been negligible and in some cases has had a beneficial effect

#### **Future**

The success and lessons learned has given us the confidence to invest further in offshore sites including Robin Rigg, London Array, etc.

## **Questions and Answers**

## Paul Chilvers Offshore Design Engineering