

POWER Project shortlisted for regional awards

PRESS RELEASE

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Press Release issued by Suffolk County Council on behalf of the East of England POWER Partnership

The European POWER (Pushing Offshore Wind Energy Regions) Project has been shortlisted for the East of England Celebrate Awards.

The Celebrate Awards will showcase some of the achievements which have been made possible thanks, in part, to European funding, recognising the projects, people, businesses, places and communities which have received European funding in the East of England. POWER has been shortlisted in the "Environmental Impact Award" category.

Suffolk County Council manages the UK element of the POWER project. Cllr Eddy Alcock, Suffolk County Council's Portfolio Holder for Environment, Waste Management and Economic Development, said "The POWER project takes a pro-active approach to offshore wind energy, working in partnership with key offshore wind energy regions around the North Sea. EU funding has allowed Suffolk County Council and its regional partners to support regional businesses to enter the supply chain of this evolving market. I am delighted that the success of POWER has been recognised through its shortlisting for this award."

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Notes to the editors

1. The POWER - Pushing Offshore Wind Energy Regions initiative creates a North Sea competence network for offshore wind energy. The project assesses environmental and planning as well as acceptance issues of offshore wind farms, supports the development of a reliable regional supply chain for the sector, and elaborates skills development measures. The project brings together 37 organisations from five countries around the North Sea. It is co-financed by the Interreg IIIB North Sea Programme. Suffolk County Council leads the UK element of the project, working closely on the project with its regional partners East of England Energy Group (EEEGr), Waveney District Council and Renewables East. For more information, see www.offshore-power.net
2. The Celebrate Awards are being hosted by the East of England Development Agency (EEDA), the Government Office for the East of England (Go East) and the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) who are jointly responsible for the delivery of European Structural Funds in the region. POWER has been shortlisted in the "Environmental Impact Award" category. The winners will be announced in a ceremony on 5 October 2006.