

POWER – Pushing Offshore Wind Energy Regions

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NEWS RELEASE

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International project conference in Lowestoft reveals €7.6 billion potential in offshore wind in the North Sea

Experts from five North Sea countries are meeting in Lowestoft today to discuss issues and challenges for offshore wind energy. The event is part of the EU funded POWER – Pushing Offshore Wind Energy Regions project, and marked the launch of two new international studies into offshore wind energy.



The participants at a Business Breakfast were told this morning that the East of England and its POWER partner regions in Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands and Belgium have the ability to present an unequalled offering in offshore wind energy to European and global markets.

John Westwood of leading energy and business analysts Douglas-Westwood Ltd, who conducted the study on behalf of POWER, said: “The POWER region together is the world leader in offshore wind, both in operational and planned capacity, and in capability. While no individual region can demonstrate excellence in every aspect of the offshore wind supply chain, together, the individual regions have full capability throughout all identifiable supply chain activities.”

The East of England could take its share in the forecasted economic and employment growth in this sector. It is forecasted that expenditure in offshore wind in the four Southern North Sea countries examined will amount to more than €7.6 billion over the next 5 years, 59% of all global offshore wind expenditure. In the same period, it is forecast that a total of more than 5,600 new jobs could be created in the sector in these four countries.

More than 100 East of England businesses and stakeholders and international POWER partners attended the breakfast. The event also launched a report with case studies of offshore wind farms in five countries around the North Sea. Later today, an international seminar on skills development issues in offshore wind energy will involve the key regional universities and colleges in this sector.

Suffolk County Councillor Eddy Alcock, Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste and Economic Development, said: “This study makes a very strong case for the regions around the Southern North Sea to work together to ensure that their global leadership is maintained. It puts the East of England with its partners at the forefront of the offshore wind energy sector.

Suffolk County Council is pleased to be leading the UK in this prestigious POWER project establishing a North Sea competence centre for offshore wind energy.”

The event was jointly organised by the POWER Project, Suffolk County Council, the East of England Energy Group (EEEGr) and Waveney District Council.

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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. For more information, see www.offshore-power.net
2. Douglas-Westwood is the leader in business forecasting in the renewable energy industry and operates unique databases of future offshore wind, wave and tidal projects worldwide. It acts as advisers to the energy majors and their contractors, the investment banking sector and agencies of governments and has clients in 33 countries. More information at www.dw-1.com
3. The study is available for download at the POWER website, at www.offshore-power.net