

Press Release

For immediate release

germanwind: Wind Energy Cluster in Northwest-Germany

Cluster enters final of German Cluster of Excellence Competition

Stockholm, September 15th 2009. The wind energy technology cluster “germanwind – Wind Energy Cluster in northwest Germany” (germanwind), today announced at the European Offshore Wind 2009 conference in Stockholm, that more than 100 partners from the wind industry and science institutes from northwest Germany, have teamed up to support the cluster initiative. The goal of germanwind is to intensify technology research for wind power in northwest Germany and at the same time to promote this highly innovative wind energy region internationally. germanwind has entered the final round of the “Spitzenclusterwettbewerb” (cluster of excellence competition) of the German federal government in June 2009. In this final round, 5 out of 10 competing clusters will be awarded in total 200 Million Euro for specific technology research and development.

The region around Bremen and Oldenburg has been the pioneering region for the development of wind energy in Germany for 20 years. Wind energy companies and research institutes from here play a leading role, both nationally and internationally. To further enhance this regional development, germanwind is supported by the Senate of Bremen, the State Government of Lower Saxony, the City of Oldenburg, the metropolitan region of Bremen-Oldenburg and the regional chambers of industry and commerce.

The goal of the germanwind is to develop innovative technology that allows a constantly increasing amount of wind energy to be integrated reliably into the electricity grid, as is the case with conventional power plants today. At the same time, the efficiency of the turbines will be undergoing significant improvement by optimizing manufacturing technologies, using new materials, reducing the amount of material used and bringing the design of the components to perfection. The overall objectives of germanwind are to reach cost parity of wind energy on a free energy wholesale market by 2015 and to reach a 30%-share of wind energy in electricity supply in Germany by 2020. Offshore wind is an important focus of germanwind, as a coastal area cluster.

The Wind Energy Agency Bremerhaven/Bremen (WAB) acts as the mandated partner of the germanwind cluster. The cluster is coordinated in close cooperation with ForWind - Center for Wind Energy Research of the universities of Oldenburg, Hannover and Bremen, the Offshore Wind Energy Foundation and BIMAQ (Bremen Institute of Measurement Technology, Automation and Quality Science) at the University of Bremen.

In Stockholm, Jan Rispens, managing director of WAB states: “The jury decision for germanwind to enter the final round of the cluster of excellence competition is already an important acknowledgement of our regional wind energy cluster qualities. The planned cluster innovations will have an important impact on securing future energy supply.”

Dr. Stephan Barth, managing director of ForWind adds: “germanwind can play a leading role in developing new technologies to reach a high wind energy penetration level in Europe and throughout the world. At the same time we will focus on improving manufacturing technologies and developing new and optimized turbine components”.

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