

GWYNT Y MÔR OFFSHORE WIND FARM

Project Update

4 May 2012

Offshore

The heavy lift vessel, Stanislav Yudin (right) is anchored in Liverpool Bay awaiting the arrival of the first of two jacket foundation structures for installation at Gwynt y Môr. The two jackets, built by Scottish firm, Burntisland Fabrication, will each support an offshore substation, being supplied by Siemens Transmission & Distribution Limited. These are being constructed by Harland & Wolff in Belfast. From these substations, the electricity generated by the wind turbines will be transmitted to shore and into the National Grid distribution system.



The first jacket is arriving on board a barge being towed by the Union Boxer tug 940 miles (taking approx. five days) around the UK coast from Scotland to Liverpool Bay. The installation of this foundation structure will mark the beginning of visible offshore construction for Gwynt y Mor.



Preparation work is taking place near Pensarn beach before the installation of export cables for Gwynt y Môr, over the summer. Two vessels, the MPR2 and the Union Beaver (left), have been carrying out surveillance and clearance work ahead of the main construction activity.

Merseyside based Hughes Sub Surface Engineering Ltd have been contracted to undertake preparatory works along the subsea cable route.

Onshore

Four monitoring stations have been established at locations along the North Wales coast to assess onshore noise levels during offshore construction, in particular foundation piling work. Gwynt y Môr will be liaising closely with local authorities to ensure any concerns about noise are investigated swiftly and dealt with appropriately. We have an obligation to report noise issues promptly to the local authorities so please ensure you call our project information line, day or night, on 0845 026 0587. Please leave a message with details and you will be called back.

A new apprenticeship programme has been launched in Wales in collaboration with Grŵp Llandrillo-Menai College to support the construction of Gwynt y Môr and other wind farms in Wales. Six apprentice wind farm technicians will be recruited on the three year programme.

Gwynt y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Limited is launching a film featuring Welsh businesses who have won contracts on the project. Wrexham based Prysmian, Jones Bros from Ruthin and MOS Ltd in Mostyn explain how their companies and staff have benefited from the arrival of the offshore renewables industry to North Wales. Gwynt y Môr has awarded contracts worth more than £70million to companies in Wales and more are expected to be announced shortly.

Gwynt y Môr brings with it a community benefit package worth more than £19 million over the lifetime of the programme. The results of a month-long consultation are being analysed and details will be released shortly.

Port Activities

The Port of Mostyn will be the long term operations and maintenance base for Gwynt y Môr, creating nearly a hundred skilled engineering jobs and bringing important investment opportunities into the area. A temporary control facility is being fitted out at the Port of Mostyn and will open next month, ahead of the construction of a permanent base.

Major components for offshore installation, including monopile foundations (right) and transition pieces, have begun arriving at Gwynt y Môr Base Harbour Port Facility on the banks of the River Mersey at Birkenhead.

38 monopiles and 24 transition pieces (the bright yellow components visible from shore) have been fabricated by EEW/Bladt for installation at Gwynt y Môr from July onwards.



ENDS

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Gwynt y Môr background information

At 576MW, Gwynt y Môr is one of the largest offshore wind farms currently under construction in Europe, and is a shared investment between funding partners RWE Innogy, Stadtwerke München GmbH and Siemens⁽¹⁾.

Once fully operational in 2014, energy generation from Gwynt y Môr is expected to be equivalent to the average annual needs of around 400,000 homes⁽²⁾.

The project represents an investment of over €2billion (EURO) into the UK and European offshore wind industry, and will be RWE npower renewables' largest offshore wind farm in construction. It is the company's third offshore wind farm in Liverpool Bay, alongside North Hoyle (60MW) and Rhyl Flats (90MW) offshore wind farms.

Offshore construction of the 160 turbine wind farm is underway more than 13 kilometres off the North Wales Coast, in water depths of 12-28 metres.

Onshore cable installation work is now well underway, while construction of a 132/400kV substation at St Asaph, North Wales, is being carried out by Siemens and National Grid and is also well advanced.

RWE npower renewables has set up a project information line which people can call if they have a query about the construction of Gwynt y Môr.

Call: 0845 026 0587

More information about Gwynt y Môr Offshore Wind Farm can be found at www.rwe.com/gwyntymor

Footnote:

1. Energy predicted to be generated by the proposal is derived using wind speeds monitored in the local area. This enables a calculation to be made to estimate the average annual energy production for the site based on 160 turbines, each of rated capacity 3.6 MW. The energy capture predicted and hence derived homes equivalent figures may change as further data are gathered.
2. Equivalent homes supplied is based on an annual electricity consumption per home of 4700 kWh. This figure is supported by recent domestic electricity consumption data available from The Digest of UK Energy Statistics and household estimates and projections from the UK Statistics Authority.