

GWYNT Y MÔR OFFSHORE WIND FARM

Project Update #4

24 October 2012

Offshore



More than 40 wind turbine foundations have now been installed at the Gwynt y Môr site, more than eight miles offshore in Liverpool Bay. The installation vessel, Stanislav Yudin, is fitting monopiles and transition pieces, with a second vessel, the Toisa Warrior (left), completing the process by joining the two foundation sections together with grout. Scottish based, FoundOcean were awarded an £8m contract to supply and install the grout earlier this year. Foundation installation will continue throughout the winter months with weather so far causing little disruption to the construction programme.

Both offshore substations have been installed at two locations more than ten miles offshore. Designed by Siemens in Manchester and built by Harland and Wolff in Belfast, they are currently undergoing commissioning works. Teams of engineers are being transported to and from the offshore site using crew transfer vessels supplied by Holyhead based, Turbine Transfers. High voltage cables in the seabed will connect the wind turbines to the offshore substations and then transmit the power back to the shore.



RWE's new wind farm installation vessel (left), has successfully completed jack-up trails in Liverpool Bay. The Friedrich Ernestine, has been built and designed by RWE Innogy and will carry out installation activities on the project. At 100 metres long and 40 metres wide, the vessel is one of the largest of its kind in the world

The cable laying barge, Cable Enterprise, continues to install subsea export cable at Gwynt y Môr. The vessel is laying the cable from the east offshore substation towards the beach at Pensarn. The vessel deliberately comes ashore to enable the cable to be pulled up the beach and buried for connection underneath the sea wall and railway line to the onshore underground cable. Access along the beach remains at all times with 24/7 security present to ensure the safety of members of the public.

Onshore

Six new apprentices have started a three year wind turbine technician programme in partnership with Coleg Llandrillo Menai in Conwy. The youngsters will spend two years in the college and the final year on site either at the Port of Mostyn or at the onshore wind turbine service centre in Llanidloes, Mid Wales. A new wind turbine training centre is being established with the support of RWE NRL as part of the college's Technology Department.



Members of Cefn Meiriadog Community Council living close to the new onshore substation at St Asaph visited the site recently. Eleven people were given a presentation about the construction of Gwynt y Môr and a tour around the new substation. Visitors were shown around the inside of the new 132kV gas insulated substation which will receive the electricity generated offshore.

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 is liaising closely with local authorities to ensure any potential concerns about noise are investigated swiftly and dealt with appropriately. Please call our project information line, day or night, on 0845 026 0587 if you have any concerns.

Port Activities

Works are beginning at the Port of Mostyn to create the wind turbine installation base and long terms operations and maintenance facility for Gwynt y Môr. Construction activity will be underway for three months to equip the port to receive large quantities of turbine components – towers, hubs and blades. At least 100 long term skilled engineering jobs are being created to staff the operations and maintenance base at the Port.

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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 almost complete, while construction of a 132/400kV substation at St Asaph, North Wales, is being carried out by Siemens and National Grid and is very well advanced.

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

Footnote:

1. Gwynt y Môr represents a total investment of more than EUR2 billion, shared between RWE npower renewables' parent company RWE Innogy(60%); Stadtwerke München GmbH, Munich's municipal utilities company (30%); and Siemens(10%).

2. 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. 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.