

GWYNT Y MÔR OFFSHORE WIND FARM

Project Update #6

21 December 2012

Offshore



Almost half of the 160 wind turbine locations at Gwynt y Môr now have foundations. The installation vessel, *Stanislav Yudin*, (left) has installed 80 monopiles and made good progress on fitting transition pieces. The vessel will finish on the project shortly.

RWE's new wind farm installation vessel *Friedrich Ernestine* (right) will continue installing foundation components throughout the winter. The 100

metres long and 40 metres wide vessel is one of the largest of its kind in the world and is fitted with one of



the most powerful drills of its type. The reverse circulation pile top drill (left) is being used to drill into small sections of the seabed, to ensure the foundations for the wind turbines reach the required depth. The drill has been designed and built in the UK by LDD, based in Falmouth, Cornwall.



The cable laying barge, *Cable Enterprise*, which will lay subsea export cables, has temporarily left the project for the winter. The marine license for the operation prohibits the installation of some sections of the cable between December and March during the over-wintering of the common scoter duck. The vessel is due to return in spring 2013 when cable installation will resume.

Onshore



The First Minister of Wales, the Rt Hon Carwyn Jones, has formally opened RWE npower renewables new wind turbine technician apprenticeship programme. The scheme, the first of its kind in Wales and the first for RWE Innogy across Europe, is being run by Grŵp Llandrillo Menai in Rhos on Sea at their new wind turbine training centre. RWE NRL has six apprentices, three based in North Wales for offshore projects and three in Mid Wales to support onshore wind farms. Speaking at the opening, Carwyn Jones said: "I know that this centre will create jobs and ultimately will benefit greatly

not just this part of Wales but the whole of North of Wales."

Gwynt y Môr's onshore substation, near St Asaph, is almost complete. Works on the 400kV/132kV substation, which will pass the electricity generated offshore to the National Grid, are expected to be

finished in early 2013. Reinstatement works along the 11km onshore underground cable route to return the fields to their original agricultural use are well underway

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

Work has begun at Gwynt y Môr's Base Harbour Port Facility at Birkenhead to install a pontoon. The design and installation of the six berth pontoon is being carried out by Marine Design Limited, based in Cornwall. Six crew transfer vessels will be based at the pontoon to transport offshore staff to and from Liverpool Bay.

The first wind turbine nacelle for Gwynt y Môr has rolled off the production line at Siemens factory in Denmark. Production of these wind turbine components will continue throughout 2013. Towers, hubs and blades for the wind farm will begin arriving at the Port of Mostyn, the project's wind turbine installation and operations and maintenance base, in early 2013.

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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.