

DIRECTION

THE FUTURE OF WIND



Offshore wind is expanding to new regions and, with onshore wind already present in all parts of the world, the integration of Vestas and MHI Vestas Offshore Wind includes combining, expanding, and simplifying existing functions within Vestas to meet market demand and create synergies. (Courtesy: Vestas Wind Systems A/S)

Vestas takes next steps in integration of onshore, offshore wind

As the leader in onshore wind and with a vision to become the global leader in sustainable energy solutions, Vestas plays a key role in large-scale deployment of renewables across the globe. To address the climate crisis however, the build-out of renewable energy must accelerate, and Vestas therefore wants to extend its leadership to encompass offshore wind. As a first step in this journey, Vestas has acquired MHI Vestas Offshore Wind (MVOW) and following closing of the agreement, which took place on December 14, 2020, Vestas has begun the integration of Vestas and MVOW into one organization based on one shared operating model and unified culture.

Offshore wind is expanding to new regions of the world and, with onshore wind already present in all parts of the world, the integration of the two companies includes combining, expanding, and simplifying existing functions within Vestas to meet market demand and create synergies. Through this integration, the company is building a stronger and more competitive Vestas across its onshore and offshore businesses, and its planning has shown synergies across several functions, which unfortunately entail redundancies.

Consequently, Vestas intends to lay off approximately 220 colleagues primarily in Denmark and Great Britain, with the majority being in Denmark. No layoffs are expected of hourly paid employees.

“Since we announced the agreement to acquire MHI Vestas Offshore Wind, we have meticulously planned how we can build a united and strong Vestas organization that can lead and scale up in both onshore and offshore wind,” said Henrik Andersen, group president and CEO of Vestas. “I want to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication during a difficult period where my colleagues have contributed to both the integration planning and execution of commercial

commitments. We have now started implementing our integration plans, which unfortunately includes letting around 220 hardworking colleagues go. It is never easy to make such a decision or say goodbye to good colleagues, but integrating and simplifying two companies inherently creates overlaps between functions, and it’s therefore necessary if we want to create a competitive and scalable organization.”

The organizational integration will continue throughout 2021 and include a consolidated and simplified organizational setup, which was scheduled to be announced internally February 1. The new organization will also adopt a strong focus on creating a unified culture rallied around accelerating the energy transition and Vestas’ values of passion, accountability, simplicity, and collaboration.

Vestas will now go into a consultation process with relevant employee representatives and was expected to have clarity for most employees by the end of January. Due to certain legal processes and requirements, the process may, however, take slightly longer outside Denmark. Following the announcement, Vestas employs more than 29,000 globally and about 6,000 in Denmark across onshore and offshore activities.

MORE INFO www.vestas.com

Enel Green Power brings two new U.S. wind farms online

Enel, through its U.S. renewable subsidiary Enel Green Power North America, has begun operating a 199-MW expansion of the Cimarron Bend wind farm in Clark County, Kansas, making the overall 599-MW facility the largest renewable plant owned by the Enel Group currently in operation worldwide.

The 236.5-MW White Cloud wind farm also began operations in Nodaway County, Missouri. The two wind farms bring Enel’s total renewable capacity added in 2020 across the U.S. and Canada to 865 MW. The investment in the construction of White Cloud amounts to about \$380 million, while that of the Cimarron Bend expansion amounts to more than \$281 million.

“We are progressing at full speed toward a sustainable energy future,” said Salvatore Bernabei, Enel Green Power CEO. “In a challenging year across all sectors, our teams have demonstrated exceptional dedication to the achievement of our business goals while continuing to prioritize health and safety. These milestones further prove our track record in the development, construction and operation of high-quality generation assets, enabling the accomplishment of sustainability targets by us and our renewable energy offtakers.”

The start of operations at the Cimarron Bend expansion, on which construction began in the second quarter of 2020, further cements Enel Green Power’s status as the largest wind operator in Kansas by managed capacity. The overall 599-MW facility is expected to generate a total of more than 2.7 TWh per year, equivalent to avoiding about 1.7 million tons of CO₂ emissions. Enel will sell the facility’s energy output through a 150-MW power purchase agreement (PPA) with Evergy, an investor-owned utility based in Kansas City, Missouri, and a 30-MW PPA with the Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission (MJMEUC), a joint action agency [1] of the Missouri Public Utility Alliance (MPUA) [2].

White Cloud, on which construction began in summer 2019, is due to generate about 950 GWh annually while avoiding the emission of more than 621,000 tons of CO₂ per year. Enel Green Power North America signed a PPA with Associated Electric Cooper-

ative Inc. (AECI) in which the Springfield, Missouri-based electric cooperative will purchase the entire energy output from the plant.

In Missouri, Enel also operates the 300 MW Rock Creek wind farm in Atchison County, which sells its entire output to Evergy.

The construction process for Cimarron Bend and White Cloud followed Enel Green Power's Sustainable Construction Site model, a collection of best practices aimed at minimizing the impact of plant construction on the environment.

The Cimarron Bend construction site team adopted a recycling program and is set to be donating office supplies as well as equipment to local schools in need with the aim to extend the products' useful lives alongside diverting them from landfills. The White Cloud operations and maintenance (O&M) building is a refurbished and repurposed space, an approach adopted to reduce the costs and environmental impact from construction of new O&M buildings.

In the final stages of construction, Enel closely monitored the emergent COVID-19 pandemic and responded to protect the health of its workers and the community. While abiding by the guidance of public officials, the company implemented strict travel guidelines and enhanced sanitation, as crews implemented safe working habits and physical distancing instructions. Furthermore, Enel North America announced more than \$1.3 million in contributions to relief efforts across the U.S. and Canada.

Enel Green Power has three projects under construction in the United States: the 299-MW Aurora wind farm in North Dakota and two solar-plus storage projects in Texas: Lily (181 MW) as well as Azure Sky (284 MW).

As part of the Enel Group's three-year strategic plan announced in November, the company is planning to bring an additional 3 GW of renewable capacity online in North America by 2023.

MORE INFO www.enelgreenpower.com

Siemens Gamesa seals first wind project in Ethiopia

Siemens Gamesa has signed its first wind-power project in Ethiopia with state-owned electricity company Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP), strengthening its leadership in Africa as the country begins to expand its green energy capacity to meet ambitious renewable targets.

The 100-MW Assela wind farm will be between the towns of Adama and Assela, approximately 150 kilometers south of the capital, Addis Ababa, and will contribute to clean and affordable power for the country's electricity grid.

The country has set an ambitious target to supply 100 percent of its domestic energy demand through renewable energy by 2030. According to the African Development Bank, Ethiopia has abundant resources, particularly wind, with a potential 10 GW of installation capacity and having installed 324 MW at present.

"Siemens Gamesa is intent on expanding its leadership across Africa, and in turn help a growing transition to green energy across the continent," said Roberto Sabalza, CEO for Onshore Southern Europe and Africa at Siemens Gamesa. "So, we are extremely pleased to begin work in Ethiopia and look forward to collaborating with both EEP and the country to continue to promote their drive to install more renewables and meet transformational energy targets."

According to a Wood Mackenzie forecast, about 2 GW of wind power would be installed in Ethiopia by 2029.

The wind farm will be made up of 29 SG 3.4-132 wind turbines and is expected to be commissioned by the start of 2023. The project will generate about 300,000 MWh per year. Siemens Gamesa will provide full engineering, procurement, and turnkey construction.

The Assela wind project will be financed by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs via Danida Business

Finance (DBF) adding to a loan agreement signed between the Ethiopian Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation (MoFEC) and Danske Bank A/S.

Ethiopia has many renewable resources covering wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass, and the country aspires to be a power hub and the battery for the Horn of Africa.

The country's National Electrification Program, launched in 2017, outlines a plan to reach universal access by 2025 with the help of off-grid solutions for 35 percent of the population.

Siemens Gamesa is among the global leaders in the wind power industry, with a strong presence in all facets of the renewable energy business: offshore, onshore, and services. With more than 107 GW installed worldwide; Siemens Gamesa is an ideal partner for Ethiopia at this critical juncture in the East African nation's accelerating energy journey.

MORE INFO www.siemensgamesa.com

Ashtead appoints CFO, expands management team

Ashtead Technology recently appointed a chief financial officer (CFO) and five managers for newly created roles across its international team.

The appointments underline the integrated subsea technology and services company's strategic growth plans to cement its leading position in the global offshore energy market and build on its recent success in new and emerging markets, including in offshore wind and decommissioning.

Ingrid Stewart assumed the new CFO position, bringing 23 years of corporate finance experience to the Aberdeenshire headquartered business, which employs 170 people around the world.

Stewart spent eight years with EnerMech Group as corporate development director where she managed

the completion and integration of multiple acquisitions for the firm, as well as developing and executing long-term strategies.

Prior to this, she was a member of the senior U.K. management team at Simmons & Company International, becoming the investment bank's first ever female corporate finance director in 2009.

A specialist in subsea construction, IMR, and decommissioning services, Ashtead Technology has acquired five businesses since 2017 and, as a result, boasts one of the largest equipment fleets in the industry and a depth of associated services capability.

In her new role, Stewart will work with the senior team to position the company for further growth and further leverage existing capability.

"After watching the business successfully grow through acquisition over the past few years and increase its foothold in the offshore renewables and decommissioning sectors, I



Ashtead Technology CFO Ingrid Stewart. (Courtesy: Ashtead Technology)

am thrilled to be joining the talented team at Ashtead Technology," she said. "The company has significant growth potential, and I'm looking forward to supporting its future aspirations."

The new Aberdeenshire based managerial hires across Ashtead Technology include Lili Hughes as group QHSE manager, Stephen Booth as decommissioning

BD manager, and asset integrity project manager Michael Gibson. In addition, Mark Vela has joined as U.S. operations manager in Houston, and Dan Davies has taken up his new role as NDT market manager within the company's inspection solutions team in Bedfordshire, England.

"Ingrid's substantial corporate finance and energy industry experience will make a significant contribution to our growth ambition as we further integrate and invest in our global operations to support the increase in business in offshore wind, decommissioning, and oil and gas," said Ashtead Technology CEO Allan Pirie. "Bolstering our management team in the U.K. and the U.S. will ensure we are well equipped to support our clients as we navigate the current challenges and capitalize on the opportunities presented by the energy transition and the blue economy." ✎

MORE INFO www.ashtead-technology.com

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