



The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities said two wind projects would bring about \$6.8 billion in economic benefits to the state. (Courtesy: Attentive Energy)

► CONSTRUCTION

New Jersey awards offshore wind contracts

New Jersey has awarded offshore wind contracts to the 1.3-GW Attentive Energy Two and the 2.4-GW Leading Light Wind projects in an accelerated auction round.

Attentive Energy Two is a joint venture between TotalEnergies and Corio Generation. Leading Light, which is expected to start producing power in 2031, is a partnership between U.S. energy firms Invenergy and energyRe.

“Today’s Third Solicitation awards are undeniable proof that the future of offshore wind in New Jersey is as

strong as ever,” said Gov. Phil Murphy.

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities said the two projects would bring about \$6.8 billion in economic benefits to the state and provide enough clean energy to power about 1.8 million homes.

The projects will support the construction of a turbine tower factory at the New Jersey Wind Port and invest in the expansion of the EEW monopile facility at the Port of Paulsboro, the board said in a statement.

The awards came after a tumultuous year that saw the cancellation of several offshore wind projects in the northeast U.S. due to higher costs. In October, Orsted canceled Ocean Wind 1 and 2 off the coast of New Jersey, citing soaring inflation, rising interest rates, and delays in securing ships

needed to build the projects.

New Jersey, which plans to build 11 GW of offshore wind energy by 2040, is slated to launch another offshore wind solicitation this year and expects to award those new contracts in early 2025.

MORE INFO www.reutersevents.com/renewables/wind

► CONSTRUCTION

American Wire names renewable energy sales VP

American Wire Group (AWG) has appointed Scott Taylor as vice president

of regional sales for its renewable energy division. Taylor will be responsible for serving AWG's customers engaged with new construction, repower, operations, and maintenance within the wind, solar, and battery energy storage industries. He will report to Norman Russell, chief revenue officer at AWG.

"We are excited to welcome Scott to our growing renewables team of seasoned professionals," Russell said. "His diverse experience in the industry will prove to be a valuable asset for our company, contributing insights and driving business success in every collaborative endeavor."



Scott Taylor is AWG's new vice president of regional sales for its renewable energy division. (Courtesy: American Wire Group)

Scott is based in Houston, Texas, and brings more than 20 years of experience in electrical engineering, regional sales management, and business development within the wire and cable manufacturing and distribution sectors. He holds

an electrical engineering degree from the University of Tennessee.

American Wire Group (AWG) is a leading material supplier of wire and cable, hardware, equipment, and accessory solutions for the utility and renewable-energy market.

MORE INFO www.buyawg.com

CONSTRUCTION

Clearway partially repowers 55-MW wind farm in Texas

Clearway Energy Group recently announced it completed a partial repower of the Ocotillo Windpower wind farm ("Ocotillo") in Howard County, Texas.

The 55-MW wind farm will generate enough electricity each year to power more than 19,000 homes for another decade. In addition, the wind-project repower will provide an additional \$2 million in property taxes to Howard County and extends landowner lease payments over the same period.

"The industry has reached a point of maturity where some of the windiest places in the country already provide clean, reliable energy for Americans," said John Martinez, SVP of Operations at Clearway. "The innovation of repowerings like this one proves that renewable energy projects don't need to have a shelf life. By upgrading components with the latest state-of-the-art technology on the market, we're able to keep wind farms generating power for decades longer than anyone could have imagined."

The repower replaced major components across the site's 26 turbines, including blades, generators, gearboxes, and drive-train parts for some turbines, and upgraded operating systems for all turbines.

The wind farm began its original commercial operations in 2008. Clearway's public affiliate, Clearway Energy, Inc., acquired the project in 2020 to extend the life of the project, leveraging prior repowering experience.

A portion of the renewable attributes from Ocotillo were purchased on behalf of eight corporate buyers through Ever.green, a marketplace for high-impact Renewable Energy Certificates ("REC"). The RECs will go toward supporting Ever.green's corporate customers in achieving their respective decarbonization goals through REC purchases.

This is Clearway's fourth wind farm repower in Texas and fifth across its portfolio. Research firm Wood Mackenzie estimates that repowerings will be performed on 20 percent of the country's existing wind fleet by 2028.

Clearway Energy Group is leading the transition to a world powered by clean energy. Along with its public affiliate Clearway Energy, Inc., it owns



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Ocotillo Windpower wind farm will generate enough electricity each year to power more than 19,000 homes for another decade. (Courtesy: Clearway Energy Group)

and operates more than 8 GW of renewable and conventional energy assets across the country. As it develops a nationwide pipeline of new renewable energy projects for the future, Clearway's 5.6 GW of wind, solar, and energy storage assets offset the equivalent of more than 10.5 million metric tons of carbon emissions for its customers. Clearway Energy Group is headquartered in San Francisco with offices in Carlsbad, California; Scottsdale, Arizona; Houston, Texas; and Princeton, New Jersey.

MORE INFO clearwayenergygroup.com

CONSTRUCTION

BOEM approves construction plan for offshore project

In support of the Biden-Harris administration's goal of deploying 30 GW of offshore wind energy capacity by 2030, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) recently announced its approval of Empire Wind's Construction and Operations Plan (COP), which authorizes construction and operation of the wind-energy project offshore.

This is the project's final approval from BOEM, following the agency's Record of Decision approving the project in November 2023.

"We are proud to announce BOEM's final approval of the Empire Wind offshore wind project," said Director Elizabeth Klein. "This project represents a major milestone in our efforts to expand clean-energy production and combat climate change. The Biden-Harris administration is committed to advancing offshore wind projects like Empire Wind to create jobs, drive economic growth, and cut harmful climate pollution."

The approved plan includes construction and operation of two offshore wind facilities, known as Empire Wind 1 and Empire Wind 2. The lease area is about 12 nautical miles south of Long Island, New York, and about 16.9 nautical miles east of Long Branch, New Jersey. Together these projects would have a total capacity of 2,076 MW of clean, renewable energy that BOEM

estimates could power more than 700,000 homes each year.

On Nov. 21, 2023, the Department of the Interior announced its approval of the Empire Wind offshore wind project, which is the sixth commercial-scale offshore wind project approved by the Biden-Harris administration. It is expected to generate significant economic benefits for New York and the surrounding region, including supporting more than 830 jobs each year during the construction phase and about 300 jobs annually during the operations phase.

Since the start of the Biden-Harris administration, the Department of the Interior has approved the nation's first six commercial-scale offshore wind-energy projects. BOEM has held four offshore wind lease auctions, which have brought in almost \$5.5 billion in high bids, including a record-breaking sale offshore New York and New Jersey and the first-ever sales offshore the Pacific and Gulf of Mexico coasts. BOEM has

also advanced the process to explore additional opportunities for offshore wind-energy development in the Gulf of Maine, Gulf of Mexico, offshore Oregon, and the Central Atlantic coast. The Department has taken steps to evolve its approach to offshore wind to drive toward union-built projects and a domestic-based supply chain.

MORE INFO www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/empire-wind

INNOVATION

Ocean Winds, Zelim work to enhance offshore wind safety

Zelim, a U.K.-based startup developing search and rescue solutions, is joining forces with Ocean Winds, an international company dedicated to offshore wind energy and 50-50 joint venture

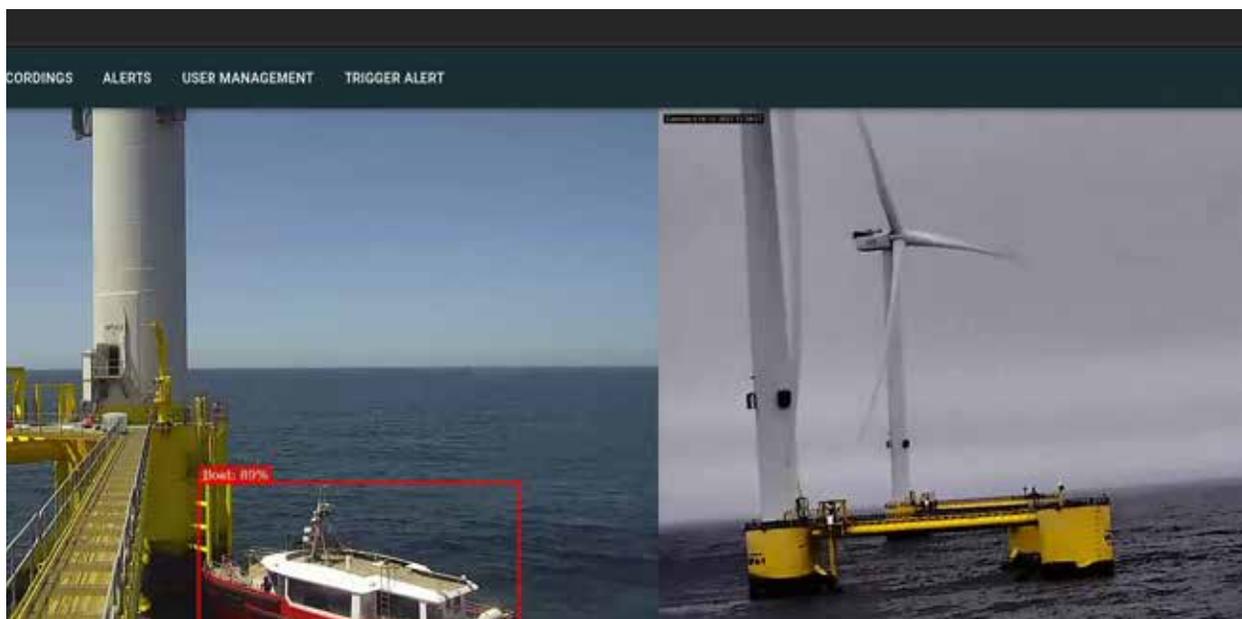


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Zelim has been developing its AI-enabled person detection software for floating offshore wind farms for the last three years. (Courtesy: Zelim)

between EDP Renewables and ENGIE, in a pilot project to test AI-enabled person detection software for floating offshore wind farms. The objective is to test and prove Zelim's ZOE technology, AI-enabled software dedicated to person overboard detection and capable of finding and tracking people, vessels, and other objects in real time and in harsh maritime conditions.

During the collaboration, Zelim will offer continuous monitoring of ZOE's live feed from cameras installed on two turbine foundations on Ocean Winds' WindFloat Atlantic project. The project will serve to train and improve the ZOE detection models whilst proving its capability.

ZOE will be detecting people and objects in the waters surrounding the turbines, providing direct alerts to the operation and maintenance control center in the case of a person falling overboard or an external vessel approaching the windfarm. By proving this capability, ZOE will support the site's operation and effectiveness by providing an additional layer of health and safety support.

"Finding someone in distress at sea is often a game of chance, especially when you factor in waves, sea spray,

darkness, and how quickly people can drift in the current," said Doug Lathan, Zelim chief technology officer. "Couple that with the limitations of a human searcher's eyesight and concentration. We have been developing ZOE over the last three years to increase certainty in search, even in challenging conditions. We see ZOE providing a safety net around offshore assets, where if somebody ends up in the water, they will be detected and an immediate alert sent, thereby enabling a fast and efficient rescue. We are thrilled to be working with the team at Ocean Winds to create a new benchmark in safety for offshore workers."

"As a pure offshore wind developer and operator of over 1.5 GW in the world, a key focus at Ocean Winds is the increase of the safety and health of our workers and communities, which always come first," said Elena Caja, HSSEQ director. "We are very excited for the implementation of this project and are looking forward to the results, and potential deployment throughout our projects already in operation or under construction."

MORE INFO www.zelim.co/find
www.oceanwinds.com

INNOVATION

Weidmuller introduces smallest crimping tool

Weidmuller USA, a provider of smart industrial connectivity and automation products and solutions, has developed and launched the PZ 2.5 S, the smallest professional crimping tool on the market for wire end ferrules.

In control cabinet construction, cables of the most diverse cross-sections are fitted with wire end ferrules. On average, 90 percent of these connections are in a cross-section range of AWG 14 (2.5 square millimeters) and smaller. A focus on this cross-section range makes the PZ 2.5 compact and ergonomic – the small handle width and the opening angle, as well as the weight, make the tool easy to use without incurring fatigue in the hand, wrist, or arm.

The PZ 2.5 tool features a length of 160mm with a small grip width so it can easily fit in the palm of the hand. Weighing about 10 ounces, this compact tool is light to carry around for ergonomic advantage.

The trapezoidal crimp in the cross-section range of AWG 26 to AWG 14 (0.14-2.5 square millimeters) complies with all current standards. The practical universal die prevents incorrect insertion and ensures error-free work. The focus on small cross-sections also reduces wear, leading to a doubling of the service life of the PZ 2.5.

“By focusing on small cross-sections, it was possible to keep the size, weight, opening width, and actuating force of the PZ 2.5 small, without compromising on crimp quality,” said Niklas Bode, business development manager for workplace solutions in Weidmuller USA’s Cabinet Products Division.

MORE INFO www.weidmuller.com

INNOVATION

Siemens certifies Pfisterer’s Connex system

The Connex pluggable connection system from Pfisterer has been certified by Siemens Energy for use in 420 kV Clean Air switchgears. Clean Air is an environmentally friendly, non-polluting insulating medium as an alternative to the well-known insulating gas sulphur hexafluoride (SF6). Clean Air consists of natural components of ambient air, such as oxygen and nitrogen. The use of Clean Air is intended to help minimize the environmental effects of electrical switchgears.

Pfisterer’s Connex product family is the first pluggable connection technology for switchgear to be certified by Siemens Energy for 420 kV Clean Air applications. The socket forming the interface with the switchgear passed the dielectric type test with Clean Air according to IEC 62271- 203. The design of the socket was tested under increased pressure conditions, among other things.

“If electric power is generated in an environmentally friendly way, transmission and distribution must follow suit,” said Alejandro Escobin, head of



Weidmuller USA’s PZ 2.5 S is the smallest professional crimping tool on the market for wire end ferrules. (Courtesy: Weidmuller USA)



Pfisterer is the first manufacturer to be certified for Clean Air switchgears. (Courtesy: Pfisterer)

product management HV cable accessories at Pfisterer. “Because our technology is used at the interfaces, it plays an important part in this. The successful testing confirms its reliability for Clean Air, which is an important step toward climate-friendly energy transmission.” “The pluggability of the Connex system allows it to be installed

quickly and easily, with a minimal space requirement and maximum flexibility,” said key account manager Norbert Fink. “We are delighted that this technology will in future be contributing even more to improving sustainability.”

MORE INFO www.pfisterer.com



THInK will offer a personal and customizable approach to development, offering in-person, virtual, and hybrid training sessions. (Courtesy: DNV)

INNOVATION

Emerson's PC built to connect industrial floor to cloud

Emerson recently announced the new PACSystems™ IPC 2010 Compact Industrial PC (IPC), a rugged industrial computer designed to handle a wide range of machine and discrete part manufacturing automation applications. The new solution is designed to serve manufacturing sites and OEM machine builders that need a ruggedized, compact, durable IPC to cost-effectively support their Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) and other digital transformation initiatives.

The IPC 2010 addresses this by pre-loading the PACEdge™ industrial edge platform and elements of Movicon.NEX™ SCADA software, helping users run applications quickly using browser-based configuration. Provisions are included for keeping the software platform current and passively maintained, minimizing user effort,

while maximizing reliability.

Running an industrial version of Linux and including serial and Ethernet connectivity, the IPC 2010 can be used as a communications gateway in a variety of topologies and simultaneously or separately as an edge computing device.

Users can implement the IPC 2010 as a flexible protocol converter — and for many other computing functions — in many IIoT, edge, OT/IT convergence, HMI visualization, SCADA connectivity, and digital transformation roles.

Both the hardware and software are designed to be adaptable, universal, and scalable, providing a standardized and unified user experience that is easy-to-use, powerful, and supported by Emerson's lifecycle services.

The compact form factor IPC 2010 features the widest operating temperature range of any passively cooled IPC, with a low power consumption of just 4 watts and tough packaging, so it can be installed virtually anywhere.

The IPC 2010 offers an advantageous price/performance ratio, with no ongoing annual licensing costs, or charges for general and cybersecurity



Emerson's PACSystems™ IPC 2010 Compact Industrial PC is designed to serve manufacturing sites and OEM machine builders who need a ruggedized, compact, durable IPC. (Courtesy: Emerson)

updates. Additional features, such as Movicon Connex[®] or WebHMI, can be activated or added at any time.

“Many customers undergoing a digital transformation want to start small and earn trust as they seek out value from edge-enabled applications,” said William Paczkowski, product manager for the IPC 2010 for Emerson's discrete automation business. “The IPC 2010 is specifically designed as a pre-packaged and economical solution so they can get running quickly and cost effectively.”

Emerson is already building the IPC 2010 into a range of larger offerings for leak detection, compressed air monitoring, batching systems, cloud enablement services, and other packaged solutions.

This flexible industrial technology will enable customers of all types to benefit from their advanced capabilities.

MORE INFO www.emerson.com



METIS has developed a way of visualizing SOV operations which correlates the full range of vessel activities to fuel efficiency and emissions in the context of a five-day forecast for weather conditions. (Courtesy: METIS)

INNOVATION

METIS, ESVAGT join forces to bring analytics offshore

METIS Cyberspace Technology is expanding its portfolio of data acquisition, real-time performance monitoring, and intelligent analytics solutions to include the needs of service operation vessels (SOV). The move follows a collaborative project covering fleet performance optimization with leading offshore service provider for wind/oil & gas industries, ESVAGT.

The SOV fulfils multiple roles — as transport ship, accommodation vessel, warehouse and workshop — presenting a challenge when it comes to assessing overall efficiency. Following an ESVAGT initiative, METIS has developed a portfolio of applications to enhance SOV operations. Leveraging ESVAGT’s operational expertise and data, METIS utilized its high-frequency data acquisition and advanced performance evaluation analytics to provide transparency in the performance of SOVs.

“The result is an exciting example of how advanced analytics deliver a competitive edge, in this case creating the opportunity for SOVs to offer

added value services to end clients,” says Panos Theodossopoulos, chief executive officer, METIS Cyberspace Technology. “I would like to thank ESVAGT for its cooperation in taking our product and service development in a new direction.”

METIS has developed a way of visualizing SOV operations, which correlates the full range of vessel activities to fuel efficiency and emissions in the context of a five-day forecast for weather conditions, according to Theodossopoulos.

Features include a new depiction of total fuel oil consumption by activity across multiple scenarios, including transit, personnel transfer, time-in-port, etc., which takes account of different weather conditions. The enhanced software functionality also introduces a heightened level of transparency to dynamic positioning (DP) operations taking into consideration that DP systems play a critical role in maintaining positions and ensuring the safe transfer of technicians to offshore installations using “walk-to-work” gangways.

DP systems use a vessel’s propellers and thrusters to maintain a position and heading, taking account of external conditions. The new METIS DP Motion Analysis App analyses the performance of the vessel’s power system during DP to deliver a visualization of aggregated SOV performance based on fuel and energy efficiency, environmental conditions and motion dynamics.

Also new is METIS functionality harvesting weather forecast and vessel performance data with the transparency to help site managers and vessel operators work together to schedule maintenance most effectively. The “Smart Scheduler” refines existing METIS voyage routing optimization to take account of planning for wind farm operations, including safety requirements.

“The new functionality supports better voyage planning and performance at sea during the key tasks which define SOV utilization,” said Kristian Ole Jakobsen, DCEO, ESVAGT. “In doing so, AI-based analytics is helping vessel

operators to contribute to a more efficient and sustainable offshore wind industry.”

MORE INFO www.metis.tech

MAINTENANCE

DNV opens training hub in Abu Dhabi

DNV, the independent assurance and risk management provider, has formally opened THInK, its new Training Hub for Industrial Knowledge, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

The dedicated training facility, the first of its kind in the region, will offer a range of comprehensive programs, underscoring DNV’s commitment to enhancing the abilities of those entering, and already in, multiple industry

sectors. Ensuring that workers have the latest skills and knowledge is essential for businesses to create a competitive advantage in a rapidly evolving and challenging industry.

THInK will offer a personal and customizable approach to development, offering in-person, virtual, and hybrid training sessions. DNV will also make use of virtual reality (VR) technology to safely replicate hands-on experiences in high-risk industries.

The hub will allow access to a variety of internationally accredited courses on safety, lifting, Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWP), earth-moving machinery, and scaffolding, among others. Fully customized classes can be developed and adapted to meet the specific needs of clients or industries.

Each course is designed to cater to different areas of expertise and will be taught by trainers with years of field experience and are still involved in real-life projects on a daily basis.

“THInK will become a repository of industry knowledge that will truly allow people to realize their full potential and accelerate their development,” said Mohamed Houari, DNV Inspection’s global managing director. “This will be done through a combination of traditional training methods as well as innovative methodologies such as virtual reality and artificial intelligence. THInK is the latest testimony of our investment in UAE and our commitment to In-Country-Value.”

MORE INFO www.dnv.com

MAINTENANCE

Newhaven receives pontoon upgrade

As part of the refurbishing of the op-



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Blade Team will bring additional maintenance support to the region by providing in field-deployed rotor blade maintenance. (Courtesy: GEV Wind Power)

erations and maintenance (O&M) base for the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm, Inland and Coastal Marina Systems (ICMS) has installed a floating concrete breakwater within the Port of Newhaven to provide safe berthing facilities for crew transfer vessels (CTVs).

Working with civil engineering firm Knights Brown, ICMS designed and installed a 90-linear-meter concrete breakwater with 1-meter freeboard, suitable for berthing CTV vessels up to 140-metric-ton displacement. The floating structure, with external pile guides, has a width of 4.5 meters, providing ample space for the associated electrical, water, lighting, and fuel services required.

“Working closely with the team at Knights Brown, we were able to install the new access system and pontoon without disruption of the 24/7 operations and maintenance activities of the wind farm,” said Jon Challis, ICMS sales manager.

“We also worked alongside sub-contractors for the pontoons’ services to ensure full compliance with health, safety and quality management procedures as we installed the new berthing facility, which will benefit vessel

operators for years to come.”

Rampion was the first offshore wind farm off the south coast of England and is owned and operated by RWE Renewables. The O&M base is a permanent structure within the Port of Newhaven, comprising offices, warehousing, and berthing and quayside facilities for the wind-farm commissioning and maintenance vessels.

Manufactured in ICMS’ highly controlled pre-cast facilities in Banagher, Ireland, the concrete pontoon has a 200mm rubber D-fender and one-meter freeboard to match that of the vessels using it, creating a comfortable berthing facility for the CTVs serving the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm.

With a durable, textured decking designed for commercial use, the crews have continuous safe access to their vessels night and day, year round, whatever the weather.

“I can truly say it’s been an absolute pleasure working with Inland and Coastal’s project team from the start of the design stage to the delivery of the breakwater and the successful hand over to our client,” said Arron Dolan, contracts manager at Knights Brown. “We have found the project team to be

user friendly and always on hand to support the team with any queries. We found their on-site team helpful and accommodating at all times. I would personally highly recommend them.”

MORE INFO www.inlandandcoastal.com

► MAINTENANCE

GEV Wind Power launches Blade Team

GEV Wind Power, a turbine blade repair and maintenance company, has further bolstered its services with the launch of a division called Blade Team.

Dedicated to the U.K. and Ireland onshore market, Blade Team will bring additional maintenance support to the region by providing in field-deployed rotor blade maintenance, using powered access platforms and associated services. Five permanent roles have been created as a result of the new division.

Stephen Robinson has been appointed Head of Operations at Blade Team and will lead the management team. Robinson, who was previously a director of U.K.-based Blade Wind Services, brings a wealth of experience and knowledge within the industry.

“I’m excited to be partnering with a global blade maintenance provider, supported by such an experienced team and comprehensive infrastructure,” Robinson said. “The integration of Blade Team’s expertise with GEV’s extensive industry knowledge and operational excellence, creates a dynamic and appealing collaboration.”

“As experts in rotor blade maintenance, it is important for us to identify the optimal method for executing routine and unplanned maintenance that best addresses the window to complete blade works,” said David Fletcher, GEV Group’s CEO. “The launch of Blade Team underlines this and will further enhance GEV’s service offerings.”

GEV has evolved as a leader in blade maintenance and repair through growth and acquisitions that build on



North Star's new SOV has been tailored to meet EnBW's specific requirements (Courtesy: North Star)

its blade competence capabilities and in-house expertise across complex repairs, upgrades and maintenance combined with specialist blade advisory, risk and technology solutions.

Most recently, the Group acquired Rigcom Group, Australia's largest domestic independent service provider (ISP), which specializes in field deployed rotor blade maintenance and a range of height safety services.

GEV has more than 1,000 technicians worldwide, believed to be the world's largest blade-focused talent pool, and supports more than 200 projects across Europe, North America, and Asia with a network of operational bases in the U.K., U.S., Australia, Poland, and Denmark.

In the Group's 2023 financial year alone, 1,122 blades were maintained by GEV, enough to annually power 320,000 homes and save more than 1 million tons of CO₂ emissions.

MORE INFO www.Bladeteam.co.uk

MAINTENANCE

North Star secures first German contract

North Star has secured a contract with energy utility giant EnBW to deliver a new hybrid-electric service operations vessel (SOV) on a decade-long minimum charter to service the He Dreiht wind farm off the coast of Germany.

The agreement marks the firm's first offshore wind win outside the U.K. market, a milestone step in its European growth strategy to add 40 new SOVs to its fleet by 2040.

The newbuild is of VARD 407 design that has been tailored to meet EnBW's specific requirements. To drive high performance and efficiencies, the high-specification vessel includes Voith Schneider eVSP propulsion and is prepared for the use of methanol as a fuel.

The ship is also equipped with a height adjustable motion compensated gangway and 3D compensated crane. In addition, it supports decarbonization, including North Star's Decision Support system.

Scheduled to commence long-term charter with EnBW at the end of next year, the walk-to-work vessel will provide accommodation in field for up to 34 wind technicians as they maintain the development's 64 wind turbines, about 90 kilometers northwest of the island of Borkum and 110 kilometers west of Helgoland. The SOV will also act as a logistics hub and warehouse.

"He Dreiht is currently one of Europe's largest energy-transition projects and once operational, will supply green power to 1.1 million homes," said Caspar Blum, North Star European renewables lead. "Following the highly regulated EU tendering process, we are thrilled to be selected by EnBW as part of their maintenance solution to ensure once completed, the wind farm



Nearthlab has been redefining drone solutions since 2015, pushing practical boundaries beyond industry norms. (Courtesy: Nearthlab)

remains consistently operational and generating renewable electricity. With high operability a key component to providing fast, safe and efficient personnel transfers, we worked closely with EnBW and our partners VARD to develop a robust and superior SOV to mitigate sea state and wave height challenges.”

“This vessel will be the backbone of our service and logistics operations at our He Dreiht wind farm,” said Michael Splett, EnBW’s global head of O&M Wind Offshore. “Working with North Star, we were able to specify its setup to ideally meet the requirements of our operations teams. Its innovative, methanol-based propulsion system helps us to further decarbonize our industry’s operations. This perfectly aligns with EnBW’s strategy of continually optimizing the operation of its offshore wind farms through the deployment of new technologies in the field.”

This contract for North Star marks the seventh newbuild SOV for the com-

pany since entering the renewables market in 2021.

MORE INFO www.northstarshipping.co.uk

▀ MAINTENANCE

Gutiérrez will lead RES’ asset management and O&M services

RES recently enhanced its global asset management and operations and maintenance (O&M) services for customers through the appointment of Juan Gutiérrez as CEO of its global services business unit.

Gutiérrez brings a wealth of experience and expertise to RES, having spent 19 years in the energy industry including 12 years at a global wind-turbine manufacturer. With a proven track record of leadership and a deep understanding of what customers need

to maximize the performance and returns from renewable assets, Gutiérrez is well-positioned to drive RES’ continued growth in this area.

“We are thrilled to welcome Juan to RES,” said Eduardo Medina, RES CEO. “His experience of leading complex, international projects with a focus on operational excellence will be invaluable as we continue to develop and grow our services business to meet the evolving needs of our customers across the world.”

“It’s an exciting time to be taking up this position as RES continues to expand its global footprint and enhance its service offerings as a leader in this fast-growing industry,” Gutiérrez said. “I look forward to building on that and working with our customers to provide the solutions they need.”

The news follows the announcement of RES’ planned acquisition of Ingeteam’s Service division, which, upon completion, will make RES the largest renewable energy support services provider in the world with circa 41 GW of assets under management across 23 countries. Gutiérrez will join RES’ Group Executive team, reporting to Global CEO Eduardo Medina and taking up the appointment May 1, 2024.

MORE INFO www.res-group.com

▀ MAINTENANCE

Nearthlab, PowerCurve team to streamline O&M

Nearthlab, a leading provider of autonomous drone solutions, and PowerCurve, a pioneer in annual energy production (AEP) loss analysis, recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) aimed at optimizing wind-farm operations and maintenance (O&M).

Under the agreement, Nearthlab’s cloud-based analytics platform, Zomable, will integrate aerodynamic performance calculation capabilities from PowerCurve’s flagship AEP anal-

ysis tool, AeroVista, into its framework. The integration will enable site managers to understand AEP loss attributed to each blade surface defect, such as leading-edge erosion identified through Zoomable.

Surface degradation on the leading edge often leads to significant power output reductions. With AeroVista integrated into Zoomable, site managers will be able to determine the impact of each defect on turbine performance, facilitating targeted maintenance and resource allocation.

“Spotting defects is one thing; understanding their financial impact is another,” said Jay Choi, co-founder and CEO of Nearthlab. “Teaming up with PowerCurve marks a significant step towards fostering an environment where wind farms can operate at their best.”

Niels Bruhn Brønnum, CEO of PowerCurve, echoed Choi’s sentiments.

“Driven by the shared commitment to a sustainable future, our partnership will redefine how the wind industry approaches O&M,” he said.

MORE INFO <https://www.nearthlab.com>
www.powercurve.dk

MANUFACTURING

US Forged Rings to invest \$700M in tower facility

US Forged Rings Inc. has announced a \$700 million investment in the U.S. offshore wind industry to construct a tower fabrication facility and a steel forging plant. The U.S.-based company will use the two facilities to service the growing domestic offshore wind market, filling a supply chain gap for offshore wind components and alleviating bottlenecks for a market with goals of deploying 30 GW by 2030 and 110 GW by 2050.

Through its strategic supply chain partnerships with Nucor, North America’s largest steel producer and recycler, providing sustainable steel for offshore



US Forged Rings is investing \$700 million in the U.S. offshore wind industry to construct a state-of-the-art tower fabrication facility and a steel forging plant. (Courtesy: US Forged Rings)

wind-tower construction, and Ellwood Quality Steels, North America’s leading ingot caster, USFR is committed to producing final products that are 100 percent made in the U.S.

The tower fabrication facility will produce 100 fully coated towers annually that include internally produced flanges, eliminating potential delays and logistics issues, lowering the overall cost.

The facility is designed from its inception to be expandable up to 200 towers annually, depending on demand. The new steel forging facility will produce large flanges up to 40 feet in diameter, making it the largest ring rolling facility in North America and Europe.

The facility will also produce forged components required in other heavy industries including nuclear energy, construction, shipping, and mining.

“This substantial investment serving U.S. offshore wind was spurred by our confidence in the medium and long-term prospects of the U.S. market, which is in its early phases of development and needs a local supply chain to rely on,” said Giacomo Sozzi, president of USFR. “These facilities will enable

U.S. developers and OEMs to have predictable costs and a reliable supply of vital components. Equally important, the investment will result in direct environmental benefits including the reduction of significant pollution emitted by otherwise shipping these huge components from overseas.”

Once all permits and regulatory approvals are secured, construction of the facilities is expected to take 16-20 months, with first towers beginning production in Q1 2026. The two facilities will create more than 500 U.S. full-time employment positions. The facilities will also limit carbon footprint by using 77 percent recycled content, making it a fraction of the global average.

“We are currently in the final stages of evaluating several potential locations on the East Coast,” said Slavko Zurovac, USFR’s managing director. “All potential sites are strategically positioned with access to required waterways, rail, and utilities, providing significant logistical benefits and making it competitive to supply large components.”

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