Dong Energy to Build Dutch Offshore Wind Farms

Dong Energy offshore wind turbines

Dong Energy will build the Netherlands' offshore wind farms Borssele 1 and 2, according to the Netherlands' Minister of Economic Affairs.

Dong Energy won the concessions with an average bid strike price, excluding transmission costs of 72.70 euros per MWh during the first 15 years of the contract. After that, the wind farms will receive the market price.

Four years ago, Dong Energy set a 2020 cost target of reaching 100 euros per MWh over the lifetime of a wind farm — the levelized cost of electricity — including transmission costs. This target, which was later adopted by the offshore wind industry, has been reached.

"Winning this tender in a highly competitive field of bidders is another proof of our market-leading position and our business model that builds on continued innovation, industrialization, and scale," said Samuel Leupold, executive vice president and head of Wind Power at Dong Energy. "With Borssele 1 and 2, we're crossing the levelized cost of electricity mark of 100 euros per MWh for the first time and are reaching a critical industry milestone more than three years ahead of time. This demonstrates the great potential of offshore wind."

Dong Energy will, in accordance with the Dutch tender regulation, build Borssele 1 and 2 within four years with a flexibility of one year. The wind farms' capacity of two times 350 MW will translate into a supply of carbon-dioxide-free electricity covering the annual power consumption of about 1 million Dutch households.

"The Dutch government has introduced an ambitious, long-term development plan for offshore wind," said Jasper Vis, country manager for Dong Energy Netherlands.

"The Borssele concessions mark a milestone in the Netherlands' shift toward green energy, and we look forward to bringing our more than 20 years' experience with offshore wind into these projects."

The reduction of cost of electricity is driven by cross-industry collaboration, ongoing innovation of wind turbines and blades, continuous improvements of foundation design and installation methods, higher cable capacity, a growing and competitive supply chain, and the synergies from building large-scale capacity sites such as Borssele 1 and 2. In addition, the Dutch sites offer good seabed conditions as well as good and stable wind speeds, which contribute to high output from each turbine.

Source Dong Energy

For more information
go to: www.dongenergy.com.

Siemens to Supply 141 Turbines in New Mexico and Texas

Siemens has contracted with Pattern Energy Group LP to deliver, install, and service 141 wind turbines for the Broadview Wind project. Broadview Wind combines two adjacent projects in New Mexico and Texas with a total installed capacity of 324 MW. Both onshore wind-power plants will provide clean energy to meet the energy needs of about 180,000 households.

Siemens' installation of its 2.3 MW onshore wind turbines was scheduled to begin in July, with the start of operations expected in the fourth quarter of 2016. A long-term service and maintenance agreement also was signed for the turbines and includes Siemens' remote monitoring and diagnostic services, which offer a proactive approach to service and maintenance to help bolster the performance of the turbines during their lifetime.

Siemens will deliver its SWT-2.3-108 wind turbine, with a rotor diameter of 108 meters and a hub height of 80 meters. An installed power boost option provides additional electrical output under high-wind conditions. The New Mexico section of the Broadview project — near Broadview, an unincorporated community in Curry County in east New Mexico and about 29 miles north of Clovis — will feature 105 turbines for a total of 241 MW. The Texas section — in Deaf Smith County, about 100 miles southwest of Amarillo — will have 36 turbines for a total of 83 MW. Both sites benefit from constant wind conditions related to the streams of the North American wind belt. The blades for this project will be manufactured at the Siemens blade facility in Fort Madison, Iowa. The nacelles and hubs will be assembled at the Siemens facility in Hutchinson, Kansas.

Siemens Financial Services (SFS) division is supporting the project with loans totaling nearly $100 million. The funds provided by SFS will be used to support the customer's equity stake in the transaction — both during and after construction.

"Siemens is proud to provide a sustainable solution to Pattern Development to help advance efforts in the U.S. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," said Thomas Richterich, CEO Onshore of the Siemens Wind Power and Renewables division. "With our broad portfolio and comprehensive expertise in wind-power generation, we will help to increase the share of wind power in the U.S. energy mix. With New Mexico's proximity to important wind-energy areas, the state is on the way to become an important driver for the wind industry in this region."

Source Siemens

For more information,
go to www.siemens.com/wind.

The Broadview project includes 141 units of type SWT-2.3-108 for New Mexico and Texas.

Wind Saves Ireland 70 Million Euros in 6 Months

A recent survey showed 70 percent of the people support wind energy in Ireland.

Wind energy has saved Ireland about 70 million euros in foreign-energy imports since the beginning of 2016, a six-month period that saw the indigenous renewable energy source meet more than a fifth (22 percent) of Ireland's entire electricity demand, according to provisional new figures compiled by the Irish Wind Energy Association.

This figure puts Ireland almost on par with other leading EU Member States such as Spain where wind energy produced 23.6 percent of Spain's power in the six-month period and puts Ireland ahead on a percentage basis of countries such as Germany where wind and solar contributed some 20 percent to their domestic power demand in the first half of 2016.

"While it's exciting to see wind energy delivering such high levels of electricity generation, it's critically important that we continue to focus on developing these clean and indigenous energy sources and focus on reducing our dangerously unsustainable 85-percent reliance on expensive fossil fuel imports," said Brian Dawson, head of communications for IWEA. "Apart from easing our dependency on fossil fuel imports, wind energy is delivering real tangible value to electricity consumers, is promoting significant investment and jobs in our communities, and is helping to protect our environment for future generations."

"Public interest in wind energy as a clean renewable energy for Ireland is also high," he said. "We always encourage people with questions about wind energy to visit wind farms for themselves, and this June saw 1,500 people young and old visiting local wind farms, seeing the turbines in action and learning about the benefits of this home-grown Irish energy."

The peak for the period in terms of wind-energy production was recorded on January 28 when wind-energy output hit 2,132 MW for Ireland, representing almost 60 percent of electricity demand at that time.

In addition, the overall level of wind-energy capacity in Ireland has just reached a new all-time record peak of 2,500 MW, which has the potential to create enough electricity to regularly power more than 1.6 million homes.

Ireland imports 85 percent of its energy, 35 percent above the European average, just behind Malta, Cyprus, and Luxembourg.

A recent national survey showed 70 percent of people support wind energy in Ireland, and this interest in Irish wind energy was further highlighted in June with more than 1,500 people visiting wind farms across Ireland and Northern Ireland in June.

2017 will mark 25 years since the first Irish wind farm started generating electricity. Today there are more than 200 wind farms in Ireland, with the wind-energy sector employing more than 3,400 people nationwide, a figure that is projected to grow to more than 8,000 by 2020.

The Irish Wind Energy Association was established in 1993 and is the national body representing the wind-energy sector in Ireland. IWEA is committed to promoting the use of wind energy in Ireland and beyond as an economically viable and environmentally sound alternative to conventional generation and promotes awareness and understanding of wind power as the primary renewable energy resource.

Source IWEA

For more information, go to www.iwea.com.