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GE RENEWABLE ENERGY UNVEILS NEW 3-MW WIND TURBINE PLATFORM



GE Renewable Energy recently unveiled its new family of 3-MW wind turbines at the European Wind Energy Association's (EWEA) 2015 Annual Event in Paris. Joining GE's recently launched 3.2-130, the announcement introduced two new models in the 3.4-130 and 3.4-137, making the platform GE's most powerful family of onshore wind turbines offered to date.

"Our new 3-MW machines are built to address the complexities of European wind conditions," said

Anne McEntee, president and CEO of GE's onshore wind business. "Working closely with our customers, this new family of smart, modular turbines will allow us to configure the right technology for a wide variety of site-specific wind conditions."

The new platform is built on the proven performance of GE's 2.5- and 2.75-MW machines. In addition to larger rotor diameters, the new models offer improved load management systems, enhanced

control features, and more efficient drive-train technology. They also represent GE's most powerful onshore machines offered to date with the 3.4-137 model capable of providing up to 24 percent higher output than existing technology (compared to GE's 2.75-120 model).

In addition, the new 3-MW platform features the modular hardware and software analytics capabilities of GE's Digital Wind Farm. The hardware platform uses the same machine head throughout all configurations, but offers flexible rotor diameters of 130 or 137 meters, multiple generator ratings of 3.2-3.4 MW and five possible tower height combinations ranging from 85 to 155 meters. The Digital Wind Farm also uses a virtual modeling system that aims to optimize individual turbine configuration and site layout to get the maximum energy production from each site's unique wind conditions. It is powered by Predix (trademark of General Electric Company) — the secure software platform for the Industrial Internet.

GE's modular 3-MW turbine platform is configurable to meet IEC class 3A, 2B, and 3B wind conditions.

GE also recently introduced its new renewable energy business at the European Wind Energy Association's (EWEA) 2015 Annual Event in Paris. The new unit significantly expands GE's wind portfolio in the wake of its recent acquisition of Alstom's power and grid businesses.

"Today is an exciting day for the future of the wind industry," said Jérôme Péresse, president and CEO of GE Renewable Energy. "With the creation of our new business, GE now has one of the world's largest renewable energy footprints, and our goal is to help drive the wind industry forward by drawing on the shared expertise of two innovative companies."

The new business expands GE's global wind footprint to more than 30,000 turbines worldwide and significantly increases its presence in regions such as Europe and Latin America. In Europe alone, GE's installed base is expected to grow by approximately 50 percent as a result of the deal.

"Over the past few years, we have focused on making our wind business more global," said Anne McEntee, president and CEO of GE's onshore wind unit. "The Alstom deal helps us gain local experience in key growth regions, and we will be extending our services capabilities to a broader group of customers across the newly combined fleet."

In addition, GE Renewable Energy is welcoming a new offshore wind unit into the portfolio. Featuring new Haliade turbine technology, the offshore business has built a significant backlog of orders with EDF in France and has been selected for the Merkur offshore project in Germany. The Haliade technology will also be featured in the historic Block Island project, which is set to become the first offshore wind farm in the United States. Construction is underway, and the project is expected to begin operations next year.

"Offshore wind is a challenging industry, but we believe the market has real potential," said Anders Soe-Jensen, president and CEO of GE's offshore wind unit. "Our goal is to work closely with customers to continue validating our technology as we begin to scale and grow the business."

Customers can also expect to see service-related benefits resulting from the acquisition. GE Renewable Energy plans to extend its services capabilities across both existing fleets, with an emphasis on using cutting-edge digital and analytics capabilities to help customers improve productivity and increase power output. Earlier this year, GE launched its Digital Wind Farm, which aims to create a digital infrastructure for the wind industry. The Digital Wind Farm harnesses the analytics power of the GE Store and is powered by Predix, the secure software platform for the Industrial Internet.

For more information on this expansion, go to www.ge.com. ↵

— Source: GE

NORDEX AIMS FOR PROFITABLE GROWTH WITH ACCIONA WINDPOWER

At its Capital Markets Day in Frankfurt, Germany, Nordex SE presented its medium-term strategic targets for the period through 2018. These plans are based on

the assumption that it will be able to merge its operating business with that of Acciona Windpower (AWP) at the beginning of 2016. Nordex has already applied for an-

titrust clearance of the acquisition of AWP.

By pooling their activities, Nordex and AWP aim to establish a global player that is well positioned to face

future market challenges. Both companies are an ideal fit for each other in terms of markets, products, and sites, meaning that they will be able to offset the effects of possible fluctuation in regional demand even more effectively. With their combined product ranges, they will be able to address the typical requirements of customers in established wind power markets and in emerging markets.

The overarching goal being pursued by the new and larger Nordex SE will be to achieve a substantial reduction in the cost of energy from wind power. The cost of energy is to be lowered by 15 to 18 percent by 2018 through more efficient turbines and reduced product costs. This will be one of the key levers for increasing sales to the target mark of EUR 4.2 to 4.5 billion over the next three years. The two companies, which are currently still operating separately, are targeting sales of EUR 2.4 billion (Nordex) and EUR 1.0 billion (AWP) in 2015.

The management board expects that, as a joint entity, the group will be able to achieve an EBITDA margin of over 10 percent by 2018, including around 60 percent of the synergy benefits of EUR 95 million per year expected from 2019 onwards. The management board particularly expects to be able to derive synergy benefits from successful joint marketing activities. In contrast, cost synergies are not the core aim of the acquisition.

“Nordex and AWP are an ideal fit for each other,” said Nordex CEO Lars Bondo Krogsgaard. “We complement each other in key areas and there is only little overlap. This will make the transformation of the two companies into a single group easier and allow it to bear fruit quickly.”

Both companies are already working on preparations for the merger, which is expected to be completed 18 months after clearance is received by competition authorities.

For more information, go to www.nordex-online.com. ↗

— Source: Nordex

