



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **2006 EWEC: "TIME HAS COME FOR GREECE TO REALISE ITS FULL POTENTIAL AND BECOME THE NEW DEVELOPING EUROPEAN WIND ENERGY MARKET"**

#### **- CALL FOR ABSTRACTS OPEN -**

**Brussels, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2005** — The Call for Abstracts (1) is now open for the next EWEC - European Wind Energy Conference event, which will be held in Athens, Greece, from 27<sup>th</sup> February - 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2006 (2).

*"As one of Europe's growing markets, Greece is an ideal venue for the 2006 EWEC. The conference will showcase the latest technological advances and international best practice in implementing cost effective wind power to meet the global demand", said Anders D. Christensen, Conference Chair / CEO, LM Glasfiber, Denmark.*

With more and more countries around the world integrating wind energy into their energy portfolio, the wind industry is rapidly moving towards globalization. The European market for wind energy has experienced average annual growth rates of 22% over the past six years; however, the further rapid progress that the industry is capable of delivering is constrained by barriers such as grid access and administrative hurdles. Whilst the market for wind energy in most European countries is still largely undeveloped, important new European markets are emerging.

Industry statistics released recently by EWEA for the EU wind energy market show that cumulative wind power capacity increased by 20% to 34,205MW at the end of 2004, up from 28,568 MW at the end of 2003. 5,703 MW of wind power capacity were installed last year, representing a wind turbine manufacturing turnover of some €5.7 billion.

*"The new policy for the promotion of Renewable Energy Sources, adopted by the Hellenic Ministry for Development, recognises the importance to the national economy of promoting RES applications, as a means to secure energy supply, exploit an environmentally friendly local energy source, and at the same time achieve the Kyoto GHG reduction targets and fight global warming. We, at the Ministry, strongly believe that the time has come for Greece to realise its full potential and become the new developing European wind energy market. Hence, we support wholeheartedly the European and Hellenic Wind Energy Associations in hosting the next European Wind Energy Conference & Exhibition in Greece. The Conference will be set under our auspices and we invite you all to come and see the god of wind Aiolos in his birthplace", said George Salagoudis, Deputy Minister, Hellenic Republic Ministry of Development, Greece*

The 2006 EWEC conference will present and discuss a wide range of issues, from resource assessment and innovative turbine design to market and policy developments, drawing on experience from all over world. Senior politicians and representatives from international institutions and national governments will be invited to speak at this leading international wind event. Abstract submission provides an opportunity to those working in the wind sector to share their experiences and present the latest products and services to the international wind community.

*"The European Academy of Wind Energy is proud to be responsible for the scientific content of this prestigious conference. The quality and range of content, combined with the professional peer review process, make this the most important wind energy event for the scientific community",* said Jos Beurskens, Chairman, European Academy of Wind Energy, The Netherlands.

*"The European Wind Energy Conferences are widely recognised as Europe's premier wind energy events, attracting a high number of professionals, leading experts and exhibiting companies from across the globe. It is the ideal forum for up to date and relevant information on business, policy, science and technology",* said Arthouros Zervos, President, EWEA.

**Notes to Editors:**

(1) The Call for Abstracts is now open for the next EWEC event, which will be held in Athens, Greece, from 27<sup>th</sup> February - 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2006. The deadline for submissions is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2005.

(2) The conference programme will again include over 200 speakers in 40 separate business, technical, scientific and workshop sessions, to further secure the EWEA's position as the voice of the industry for both the business and research sectors.

The 2004 EWEC event, held in London, attracted over 4200 participants from 44 countries, 255 exhibiting companies, 220 speakers in 40 scientific, technical, business and policy sessions alongside over 300 poster presentations, making it the largest EWEC ever held. The proceedings CD-Rom containing all the information from the four days of the conference (photos, presentations and papers) is now available and can be ordered from [www.ewea.org](http://www.ewea.org) for €100.