

EWEA OFFSHORE FRANKFURT 2013

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‘EU needs 2030 target’

Europe must create a new renewable-energy goal if it hopes to be carbon-free by 2050, says EWEA boss



PLEA TO
POLITICIANS:
Thomas Becker

CHRISTOPHER HOPSON
LONDON

Europe’s politicians must adopt a strong 2030 renewable-energy target to give the EU a chance of achieving its aim of creating a carbon-free society by 2050.

“I think there is a strong need to repeat the success of the 2020 renewables target for 2030 if you want wind energy to carry on growing,” European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) chief executive Thomas Becker tells *Recharge*. “Otherwise the curve will be very steep to get to where we need to be in 2050.”

Becker calls on Europe to adopt a 2030 triple target: “One

I think nuclear is outdated and belongs in the old world... it doesn’t conform with today’s energy market

for renewable energy, one for carbon dioxide emissions, and the other for energy efficiency, which all supplement each other very well. You cannot have one without the other two.”

Countering the critics, Becker claims wind power can compete without any subsidies “if we have a level playing field”. He points out that nuclear and fossil fuels “are extremely subsidised industries, both directly and indirectly”.

“Nuclear power has existed for over 60 years, but we still haven’t solved the waste problem, so I question whether that is good technology. Secondly, can we afford these enormous nuclear subsidies, paid for by taxpayers?”

Becker claims nobody wants to build a nuclear plant today without having secured a long-term fixed-rate electricity contract. “For these reasons I think nuclear is outdated

and belongs in the old world, because it doesn’t conform with today’s energy market.”

Most notably, the UK and Poland have so far been unwilling to sign up to 2030 targets.

“I keep being surprised by the UK, which has this enormous wind potential, particularly offshore. You could create a small industrial revolution in the UK, yet the government is not supporting it by positioning itself in the right way in Brussels.”

He says the UK will find it difficult to attract new wind supply-chain investors if the

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Offshore wind is powering ahead, all it needs is certainty

The industry is delivering tangible results, writes **Philippa Jones**, but it desperately wants governments across the EU to provide a stable regulatory framework

Offshore wind installation rates were significantly higher in the EU in the first six months of this year compared to 2012. However, the lack of a medium- to long-term regulatory framework is causing problems.

Delegates at the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) 2013 offshore event are calling for politicians to wake up and offer the sector the stability it desperately needs.

In the first half of this year, 277 new offshore turbines, totalling 1.045GW, were fully grid-connected — double the amount installed in the same period last year. In addition, 268 foundations were installed and 254 turbines erected. This is all good news.

But the financing of projects has slowed. This, “together with a lack of orders being placed for offshore wind turbines, substructures and components, reflects the regulatory uncertainty in key offshore markets”, says EWEA director of policy Justin Wilkes.

“Installation rates show what the European offshore wind industry is now capable of, but to attract investment, governments need to provide a stable regulatory framework.”

Speakers at EWEA OFFSHORE 2013 will make it

clear that this framework has to include a 2030 binding target for renewables.

The wind industry will also call for an accompanying binding target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This, it believes, would give an extra boost to renewables, while ensuring that gas and coal do not experience parallel



growth. EWEA and national wind-energy associations from across the continent believe such targets would give investors the confidence to finance offshore developments.

Funding is such an important issue for the sector that EWEA has chosen to hold this year's event in Frankfurt, Germany, the financial capital of mainland Europe and home of the European Central Bank.

The first day of the conference

will focus on political debate under the leadership of Henrik Poulsen, chief executive of Dong Energy, as conference chair. He will be accompanied by Norbert Giese, vice-president of offshore development at REpower, who will manage the Markets, Strategies and Planning track.

Giese will chair a provocative high-level panel entitled “Is offshore wind worth the money?” He will also lead discussions on incentives in an EU 2030 policy framework and ways to make offshore wind power less expensive.

Jesper Møller, head of offshore technologies at Siemens Wind Power in Denmark, will oversee debate by a technology panel as part of his role as chair of the Future Technologies track.

He will also try to tease out of delegates exactly how deep bottom-fixed foundations can go. A recent report by EWEA shows that deep-water turbines are key to unlocking the massive energy potential in the European Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the deepest parts of the North Sea.

This theme will continue on the second day of the conference, when Møller oversees debates on taking foundations into the deep, and the challenges associated with new installation vessels.

He will also manage a session entitled: “Offshore access: hobby horses or industry standard?”

Low-carbon finance investment expert Dima Rifai, chief executive of UK-based Paradigm Change Capital



Partners, pictured, will try to advance debate on the financing of offshore turbines in her role as chair of the Finance track.

“Understanding, quantifying and pricing offshore wind generation risk” and “Financing offshore wind projects: whose risk is it in the capital structure?” are just two of the sessions in her track that are certain to be packed.

Andrew Jamieson, chief



STABILITY:
Turbine
installation at the
Riffgat wind farm
in the German
North Sea;
left: track chair
Dima Rifai

Pressure on ministers to adopt 2030 target

From Page 1

industry cannot be sure the political commitment is in place after 2020. “It is not the wind industry that is the problem in European energy policy. It will adapt to whichever framework the politicians create.

“The industry needs guidance, and of course they will want to have secure locations to make their investment. That is why I am always saying it is up to politicians to create that secure environment for investors.”

The European Commission is due to present concrete proposals on 2030 energy and climate targets by the end of this year, allowing the European Council to return to the issue in March 2014.

The heads of 12 national wind-energy associations from across Europe, meeting in Spain on 16 September, made a strong united call on the commission to adopt a binding 2030 renewables target.

“By giving investors certainty, a compulsory 2030 renewables target will allow the wind sector to continue to grow and provide green jobs and revenue at the lowest cost for Europe,” said Becker after the meeting.

Those attending the meeting agreed to an ambitious co-ordinated effort across European capitals to try to influence national governments ahead of the March European Council meeting.

Becker cites five reasons to rapidly deploy renewables: “For energy security; to maintain our European independence; for the economic and job benefits; for CO₂ savings; and to create and develop an industry by which we can export to other markets.”

“Done in the right way, we can still be a world leader in developing these renewables technologies. Do we have so many other big industrial

adventures in Europe with ideas that can make us rich? I don’t see them.”

He expresses grave concern over European countries cutting back on renewables support.

“I understand the dynamics of those who are having to act, as some of these countries are in a difficult financial position. However, this should never be retroactive, as otherwise it will only create bigger problems later on.”

He says that the Czech Republic — which is ending financial support for new renewables projects from the start of next year — is having to import coal to meet its energy requirements. “This is a country with a lot of hydro possibilities as well as relatively good wind and solar resources. All the money they are now

It is up to politicians to create that secure environment for investors

going to spend importing coal would be much better spent finding a new sustainable internal energy supply.

“Our wish is to have wind farms across Europe, and offshore farms particularly in Northwest Europe, able to transport energy throughout Europe, via a supergrid. So on days when the wind doesn’t blow quite so hard in one region, in another it might be stronger, thus balancing out the system.

“We need to carry on making Europe a showcase for renewables — a place with the most wind turbines working effectively with supergrids to transport electricity at the cheapest prices to where it is needed.” □

executive of the UK’s Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult, the government-backed marine-energy innovation centre, will oversee discussions about the supply chain. While governments and regulatory bodies have a major role in ensuring a future for offshore wind, the sector must play its part by putting the supply chain on an industrial footing.

Delegates will be keen to debate the best ways to scale

up the development of technology to make the production of turbines, and the turbines themselves, more efficient, and bring down costs for everyone.

Sessions in Jamieson’s track include “Survival of the fittest — the supply chain and its contribution to cost reduction”, “Synergies with other maritime technologies” and “Efficient processes and lessons learned”. □

Conference programme

Combining technical and political knowledge, the conference programme features leading experts in a mix of plenary and parallel sessions, which cover the major issues affecting the offshore wind industry across Europe.

Plenary & special sessions	Markets, strategies & planning	Financing	Industrialising the supply chain	Future technologies
 <p>Conference Chair Henrik Poulsen CEO, Dong Energy DENMARK</p>	 <p>Track Chair: Norbert Giese Vice President of offshore development, Repower GERMANY</p>	 <p>Track Chair: Dima Rifai CEO, Paradigm Change Capital Partners UK</p>	 <p>Track Chair: Andrew Jamieson CEO, Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult UK</p>	 <p>Track Chair: Jesper Møller Head of Offshore Technologies, Siemens Wind Power DENMARK</p>

Time	TUESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2013	
08:00	Registration + Welcome coffee	
10:00	Event launch & political keynotes	
11:00	High-level plenary: 2030 targets – the magic number?	
12:30	Lunch	
14:00	High-level panel: is offshore wind worth the money?	High-level technology panel
15:30	Coffee break	
16:00	Is there life after 2020? Incentive policies in the EU 2030 framework	How deep can bottom-fixed foundations go?
19:00	Opening reception	

Time	WEDNESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2013		
08:00	Registration + Welcome coffee		
09:00	The next boom: new market opportunities in Europe	Taking turbine foundations into the deep	Delivering grid connections on time: dealing with transmission risk
10:30	Coffee break		
11:00	Making offshore wind less expensive	New installation vessels: what is needed to have them built?	Understanding, quantifying & pricing offshore wind generation risk
12:30	Lunch		
14:00	Survival of the fittest - the supply chain & its contribution to cost reduction	Offshore access: hobby horses or industry standard?	Financing offshore wind projects: whose risk is it in the capital structure?
15:30	Coffee break		
16:00	Developing the right grid infrastructure	Synergies with other maritime technologies	Session tbc
17:30	Poster reception		
19:30	Conference dinner		

Time	THURSDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2013			
08:00	Registration + Welcome coffee			
09:00	Synergies & combined use of space	Offshore energy yield assessments: challenges and lessons learned	Efficient processes and lessons learned	Employment & skills seminar
10:30	Coffee break			
11:00	Risky business? Managing the environmental impact of offshore wind	Offshore resource assessment: using lidar and modelling wakes	Grid integration issues for offshore wind power	Offshore careers & matchmaking event
12:30	Lunch			

NB: Session titles and timings are subject to change. Please refer to the online programme for the most up-to-date version:
www.ewea.org/offshore2013/conference/programme

More than an event

EWEA OFFSHORE was launched to fulfil the need for a pan-European forum for professionals in the offshore wind energy industry.

The event grew quickly to become the undisputed meeting place for the whole of the supply chain — a focus not only for doing business but also for networking, knowledge exchange, technological innovation and political debate.

Bigger and better than ever

Even larger than the previous event, the exhibition halls will feature the big players in offshore wind, as well as the myriad of component suppliers, logistics companies and equipment providers that make up the supply chain.

With over 95% of the exhibition space selling out six months in advance, the popularity of this event continues to grow.

“The demand for exhibition space that we have received has been quite overwhelming. Strong interest from international as well as German companies has shown that EWEA OFFSHORE 2013 remains the main event for the offshore wind-energy industry in Europe and beyond,” says Anja Wimmer, head of events at EWEA. “It is for this reason that we have rearranged the existing floor space to give other companies the opportunity to exhibit.”

An international showcase

EWEA OFFSHORE has always



NEW PRODUCTS: Gamesa's G128-5.0MW offshore turbine and, below, ABB's 7MW permanent-magnet generator will both be launched at EWEA OFFSHORE 2013

attracted many international exhibitors and attendees. The 2013 edition is no exception. Taking place in Frankfurt — mainland Europe's biggest financial capital — this international business location is easily accessible from cities all around the world. The exhibition halls will house the industry's best-known international players and an array of national pavilions: the

Netherlands, France, Scotland, Norway, Denmark, the Basque Country, Germany and the UK.

Networking events

Both the conference and exhibition provide numerous opportunities for attendees to meet with their peers and make new contacts. Attendees will be able to choose from a host of networking events onsite, including numerous

stand parties, a lively opening reception, a glamorous conference dinner, a poster reception and career day with matchmaking meetings.

Ahead of the event, an online system will be available to schedule meetings between visiting professionals and exhibiting companies. Attendees can use it to facilitate the creation of international partnerships or for the acquisition of new customers, suppliers or trading partners.

For more information, visit: www.ewea.org/offshore2013/whats-on

A glimpse of the new

Among the headline exhibitors launching new products at the event are ABB (Stand 31E90) and Gamesa (Stand 31D90). To view the full list of exhibitors and find the products of interest to you, visit www.ewea.org/offshore2013



Fears over UK's plans for offshore wind

Major inquiries raise alarm bells about commitment to sector and impact on supply chain and investor confidence

CHRISTOPHER HOPSON
LONDON

UK energy secretary Ed Davey is facing tough questions over the government's long-term commitment to offshore wind, amid fears there is not enough investor confidence to sustain the current momentum beyond 2020.

Two major inquiries have urged the government to do more to give clarity on energy policy after 2020.

The government published its draft Electricity Market Reform delivery plan in July, setting out the policy mechanisms it hopes will prompt huge investment in low-carbon energy projects — mainly offshore wind and nuclear.

But the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), which advises UK legislators on low-carbon policy, has told Davey that some offshore wind farms may not be viable unless subsidies are increased.

Davey insists that, despite public disagreements inside the coalition over onshore wind, the government is

/// We need a mix [of energy]... but I have never believed in renewables alone

committed to offshore wind. "We are seeing an end to the investment hiatus in renewable energy. We are going to see better years ahead and we want to maximise the economic benefits to the country," he tells *Recharge*.

Davey emphasises his commitment to what he describes as a "permanent low-carbon future", adding: "We are at the beginning of a journey that we will be on for the next few decades." But he also underlines his support for an increase in the use of shale gas and nuclear.

"We need a mix. Renewables need an increasingly large share of that mix, but I have never believed in renewables alone. I don't believe we can generate that much low-carbon [energy] through renewables, so we need to keep nuclear on the table."

The CCC wants more clarity over the UK's ambitions post-2020, plus the policy reassurance of a 2030 decarbonisation target — a divisive issue inside the coalition government.

It warns that the proposed reductions in subsidies for offshore wind farms this decade are too severe, even when taking into account the cost reductions the industry is likely to be able to achieve.

A second report, from a cross-party parliamentary inquiry, warns that critical supply-chain investments in



ON THE DEFENSIVE:
Energy secretary Ed Davey

the renewables industry are at risk because of hit-and-miss government policies.

The *Power from Renewables* report, sponsored by Siemens and Dong Energy, is the second from the Future Electricity series, a three-part inquiry into the future of the UK's electricity provision, compiled by the independent think-tank Carbon Connect.

The inquiry, chaired by former energy minister Charles Hendry and shadow energy minister Bryony Worthington, argues that the

government should work with industry and academia to establish "low regrets" levels of technology deployment.

It says the government should ensure that policies are in place to incentivise new energy investments. This would help provide the longer-term clarity that could secure supply-chain investments, it argues. However, the report warns that these investments could be missed, delayed or become more expensive if there is insufficient confidence about long-term demand. □



LIGHT AND SHADE: The port of Bremerhaven, and, below: REpower's Norbert Giese, track chair for markets, strategies and planning at EWEA OFFSHORE 2013

Nervous times for German offshore sector

Orders will not return until the country's politicians agree a stable industry framework, writes **Bernd Radowitz**

For decades, Bremerhaven was known as "Germany's stinking fishery harbour." The smell lessened with the demise of the fishing fleet. So did the jobs. Then, in the late 1990s, after a profound shipyard crisis, unemployment in the northern coastal city shot up to a record 22%.

Thanks in great part to the offshore wind industry, joblessness went down to about 10% last year in Bremerhaven and surrounding areas.

But relief could be temporary. Although 3GW of offshore wind is now installed or under construction off Germany's coasts, the industry seems to be running out of steam. Offshore

wind firms may have to close shop in Bremerhaven due to the dramatic lull in orders. The situation is similar along Germany's North Sea and Baltic ports.

"This year, we've seen exactly one new order in the market," says Norbert Giese, vice-president for offshore development at turbine manufacturer REpower, who also will be track chair for markets, strategies and planning at EWEA OFFSHORE 2013.

REpower, a unit of Indian turbine maker Suzlon, has already reacted to the lull in orders and earlier this year said it will cut up to 750 jobs worldwide. That is on top

of already having cut the workforce at its Bremerhaven blade manufacturing plant from almost 700 to 300 after a large contract from utility EnBW was put on hold due to regulatory uncertainty in Germany's offshore sector.

"There's a danger not just for REpower, but for the entire offshore market," Giese fears. "What we've built up here on production capacities could gradually shift to those markets where there actually are orders. I'm thinking in particular of Great Britain."

Follow-up offshore orders of 3-4GW are on the horizon. At least six or seven projects are nearing financial close, Giese reckons, which could give the industry enough orders to keep it busy until the end of the decade.

The big problem, however, has been politics.

Environment minister Peter Altmaier and economics minister Philipp Rösler deeply unsettled the industry this year with proposals for harsh cuts to renewables support systems, including retroactive measures and a five-month moratorium before any feed-in tariffs (FITs) for new installations would be paid.

Although the measures have been blocked, for now, by Germany's powerful states, just proposing them had

a devastating effect on the offshore wind industry.

For most of this year, investors have shied away from final investment decisions for offshore projects — which can cost more than €1.5bn (\$2bn) — as they waited to see the outcome of the 22 September federal election.

"We're hoping to get the right signals after the elections, and also the corresponding orders that are already on



the horizon," Giese said last month. "We got into this situation through politics, and we also need to get out of it by the means of politics again."

If the incoming government succeeds in creating a stable regulatory framework, including an extension of the current FIT system for offshore beyond 2017, enough trust could be re-established to keep the industry going, he says. □



OFFSHORE 2013

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EWEA Offshore 2013 will be held in Frankfurt, 19 – 21st November 2013. The biennial EWEA OFFSHORE event is the world's largest offshore wind energy conference and exhibition, presenting an international platform for the offshore wind energy industry to showcase and demonstrate their latest products and services as well as providing a meeting place for the entire offshore wind energy supply chain.

Recharge is proud of its continuing strong partnership with EWEA in providing official news dailies at EWEA annual events since 2012. We are delighted to announce that we have also been chosen by EWEA to produce the official news dailies for EWEA OFFSHORE 2013 in Frankfurt.

Recharge has become renowned for producing high quality and informative official event dailies at leading international industry events such as All-Energy, EWEA 2012 Copenhagen, EWEA 2013 Vienna, Brazil Windpower 2013 Rio and now EWEA OFFSHORE 2013 in Frankfurt. Our recipe for success has been to mix local editorial coverage of the event in question with high quality breaking industry news from around the world. Whether you want to alert participants to your booth number, build brand awareness, strengthen your company profile, buy or sell goods and services or recruit professionals – the Official EWEA OFFSHORE 2013 event dailies produced by *Recharge* will get your message across to all visitors, conference delegates and exhibitors alike!

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