

Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE

04.09.2008

Weather conditions delay construction work at sea

The Deutsche Offshore Testfeld und Infrastruktur GmbH & Co KG (DOTI) company has postponed the laying of undersea cables for the alpha ventus offshore wind farm's internal cabling for the time being because the windpower plant's foundations (tripods) could not be erected. Constant bad weather in the construction site area 45 kilometres off Borkum has so far prevented the erection of the tripods. This postponement will probably mean that the first offshore wind turbine will now be completed in spring 2009, since the laying of the wind farm's internal cabling was originally planned to start in early September. Work to construct the foundations of the offshore transformer station is meanwhile proceeding as planned.

"The undersea cables were manufactured on schedule and are ready for collection. Suspending the cable laying is just a knock on effect to the unpredictable impact of the weather. As soon as the tripods are set up, the cable laying will restart", said Hendrik Bergmann, General Project Manager at alpha ventus.

Work on the foundations had been proceeding according to schedule until the beginning of August. The construction vessels gathered at the offshore site in mid-August and pre-construction preparations were started, before the deterioration in the weather prevented the erection of the first tripod. Work at sea had to be suspended and since then the construction crew has been waiting for weather conditions good enough to enable them to continue their work on the site.

Positioning and anchoring the 700-ton, 45 metre-high foundations on the sea floor requires a "weather window" of about four days of calm seas; these conditions which have not happened in the North Sea since mid-August.

However work on shore is continuing. The transformer station's foundation (jacket) is currently being manufactured in Wilhelmshaven and will be transported out to sea and anchored in the alpha ventus wind farm as planned from mid-September.

• www.alpha-ventus.de

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Once the foundations are in position, the park's internal cabling will be laid, the turbines placed on their foundations and connected to the transformer station.

alpha ventus

alpha ventus is the first German offshore wind farm. This pioneering project, situated approximately 45 kilometres to the north of Borkum in the German Bight, will provide essential experience in building and operating offshore wind farms. 12 wind turbines and an offshore transformer station are planned to be constructed. For the first time 5 MW turbines will be constructed and operated under offshore conditions at a water depth of 30 metres. The research and development results of this project will be integrated into the construction, building and operation of future offshore power plants.

EWE, E.ON and Vattenfall have founded the "Deutsche Offshore-Testfeld- und Infrastruktur-GmbH & Co. KG" (DOTI) company for the construction of the alpha ventus wind farm. DOTI has leased the licensing rights to the wind farm from the "Stiftung der Deutschen Wirtschaft für die Nutzung und Erforschung der Windenergie auf See" (Offshore Wind Energy Foundation) under the name "Borkum West".

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