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Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE

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Foundations for the first six alpha ventus wind turbines laid

The alpha ventus project has achieved a further milestone: on June 1 the last of six foundations for the AREVA Multibrid M5000 wind turbines was anchored successfully in the seabed at the construction site of Germany's first offshore wind farm 45 kilometres off the coast of the island of Borkum. DOTI (Deutsche Offshore-Testfeld und Infrastruktur Gesellschaft mbH & Co. KG) has thus completed a major construction stage in this pioneering project. Bremerhaven-based Multibrid GmbH, a subsidiary of the French AREVA Group, is responsible for the construction and installation of the six M5000 wind turbines. The next step in their construction is the continued building of the individual sections of the towers. Preparations are also beginning at the alpha ventus construction site for laying the foundations for six further wind turbines. The REpower 5M turbines will be supplied by REpower Systems AG, Hamburg.

"The purpose of alpha ventus, a joint undertaking by the companies EWE, E.ON and Vattenfall, is to decisively promote the development of offshore wind energy in Germany," explains Wilfried Hube, overall project leader of alpha ventus. "The construction of the wind farm is currently making good progress and is making a valuable contribution to our learning curve. This is the first time six tripods have been used as foundations for offshore wind turbines. It is an international premiere," Hube continues.

"This successful milestone results from AREVA's efforts to propose innovative, reliable and cost-effective solutions for the wind offshore market. Lessons learnt from this first alpha-ventus erection phase already benefit all players involved and will help the wind offshore development in Germany," declares Felix Debiere, Managing Director of AREVA Multibrid.

www.alpha-ventus.de

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Six giant “tripods”, the foundations for the 5 MW Multibrid M5000 wind turbines, now rise out of the sea some 45 kilometers off the coast of Borkum. The AREVA Multibrid team has been hard at work since mid-April. The team of approximately 70 persons installed the six gigantic structures, each weighing over 700t, from on board the Odin, a jack-up barge necessary for driving the piles and assembling the wind turbines. The platform’s four supporting columns stand firmly on the seabed and it ranges some meters above the surface of the sea to accommodate the equipment for construction work such as vibrators, under-water hammers, diving station, workshop and office container etc. Odin will be replaced by the larger jack-up barge JB-114 for the subsequent installation of the wind turbines.

Ongoing activities at sea can be followed in the Internet. A webcam positioned on the research platform FINO1 and directed at the construction site provides up-to-the-minute pictures. They can be viewed at www.alpha-ventus.de.

The construction of a total of twelve wind turbines is planned for 2009. By the end of the year, six Areva Multibrid M5000 and six REpower 5M turbines are planned to be in operation supplying environment-friendly power. The expected volume of power generated will be equivalent to the consumption of 50,000 households.

Print-ready pictures are available for free download at:

<http://bildarchiv.alpha-ventus.de>

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alpha ventus

alpha ventus is Germany's first offshore wind farm to be built at sea. This pilot project some 45 kilometres off the coast of Borkum will provide an opportunity to gather fundamental experience in the construction and operation of an offshore wind farm. The alpha ventus test field will comprise a total of twelve wind turbines of the 5 megawatt class: six turbines of the Areva Multibrid M5000 type and six of the REpower 5M type. Additionally, two types of steel foundation will be used for the wind turbines. The Areva Multibrid turbines will stand on tripods, while jacket foundations have been chosen for the REpower systems.

This is the first time turbines of this kind will have been built and operated away from the coast in waters 30 m deep. The research and development results will contribute to the construction and operation of future offshore wind farms. EWE, E.ON and Vattenfall founded Deutsche Offshore-Testfeld und Infrastruktur GmbH & Co. KG" (DOTI) for the implementation of the alpha ventus wind farm. Under the name "Borkum West", DOTI has leased the licensing rights to the test field from the "Stiftung der Deutschen Wirtschaft für die Nutzung und Erforschung der Windenergie auf See" (Offshore Wind Energy Foundation).

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AREVA MULTIBRID is a manufacturer of wind energy converters, which is specialized in the production of powerful offshore wind turbines.

www.multibrid.com