



PRESS RELEASE

C-Power completes first wind farm in the Belgian North Sea

Ostend – 3rd of July 2013

Construction of the C-Power 325-MW offshore wind farm on the Thornton Bank (30 km off the Belgian coast) began in 2008 with the installation of six 5 MW turbines. This first phase was a pilot project, which was completed and commenced generating power in 2009. Construction work for phases 2 and 3 began in 2010.

2012 was the most important construction year for C-Power with the installation of a second submarine cable, an offshore transformer station and thirty 6.15 MW turbines, the highest capacity turbines installed offshore in the world.

Last Sunday 30th June 2013, the components of the last turbine to be installed were transported from the port of Ostend to the Thornton Bank. Today the installation of the 54th and final turbine was completed.

This achievement marks the conclusion of construction works on the 325-MW offshore wind farm!

In September 2013, when all turbines are forecasted to be running at full capacity, C-Power will achieve peak supply capacity which will provide energy to over 600,000 inhabitants each year, avoiding 450,000 tonnes of carbon from being emitted into the atmosphere. As such, C-Power will supply 10% of the total amount of renewable energy that Belgium has committed itself to by 2020.

This huge construction project, with a total investment cost of 1.3 billion euro, was brought to a successful close by C-Power in association with its main partners: the consortium THV Seawind (joint venture between Dredging International & Fabricom), REpower Systems SE, ABB and the Port of Ostend.

Commenting on the project CEO Jaak Rutten said "It is a project to be really proud of, carried out with tremendous enthusiasm and skill, at times achieving innovative solutions, accomplished by breaking new ground and staying the course. It is a feather in the cap of our workers and partners, who pulled off a difficult feat without incident to speak of, on time and within budget".

Turbines

All components of the turbines (REpower) were stored at the REBO site (Renewable Energy Base Ostend) in the port of Ostend. The two tower sections, the hub and the nacelle were delivered on pontoons. The 61.5-metre long rotor blades produced in Denmark were brought into the storage site at night via exceptional road transportation means. The full set of components for each turbine were shipped to the Thornton Bank, one turbine at a time, by a DEME transportation vessel, where they were then installed by the DEME and REpower installation teams. A complete offshore transportation and installation cycle for a single turbine could be achieved in just under three days provided weather conditions were favourable.



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Transformer Station at Sea

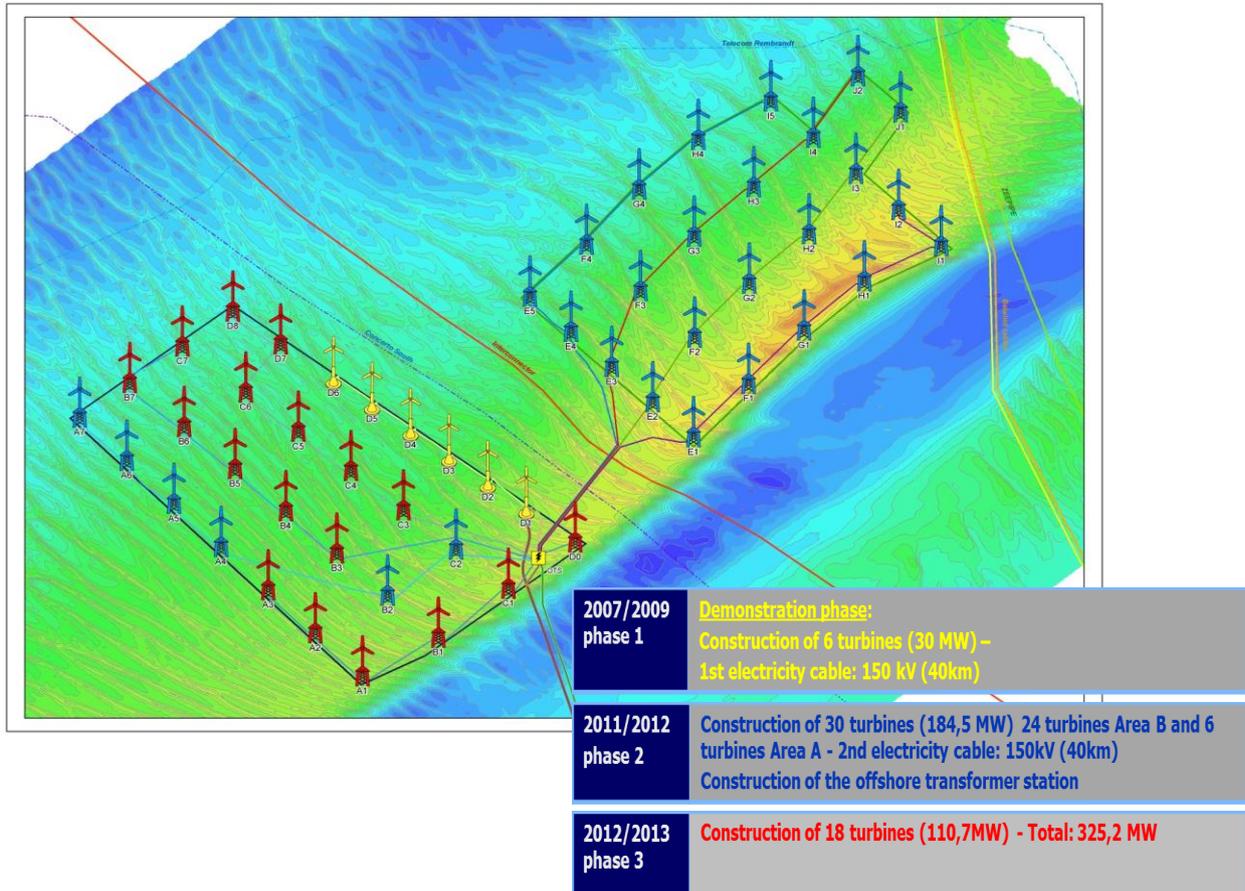
The 2,000-tonne transformer platform, constructed and commissioned by ABB, measures 40 x 27 metres and has four levels. It was constructed in Schiedam and installed on the Thornton Bank in 2012. Two submarine cables connect to the platform and inject the generated power at 150,000 volts into Elia's onshore power grid.



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The Wind Farm

C-Power's wind farm is located 30 km off the Belgian coast near Zeebrugge. The 54 turbines have been constructed on a section of the Thornton sandbank, with a total surface area of 20 km² and water depths between 10 and 25 metres. The distance between the turbines ranges from 500 to 700 metres.



Operations and Maintenance

Starting from today, C-Power is no longer a construction orientated company, but will now focus on optimally operating and maintaining its complete wind farm from the C-Power offices in the port of Ostend. To that end, C-Power has concluded long-term contracts with OWA (Offshore Wind Assistance, a company of the DEME group), REpower, and ABB.

The operations and maintenance activities will create employment for about 100 people over the next 20 years.



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The shareholders of C-Power are:

1. **DEME**, a worldwide operating maritime engineering specialist. Dredging International and GeoSea, subsidiaries of DEME, are the only Belgian companies with experience in building foundations for offshore wind turbines and installing offshore wind turbines. Globally they are involved in the construction of various multi-megawatt offshore wind farms.
2. **Z-Kracht** is an investment vehicle comprising of 99 Belgian local authorities with **Nuhma NV** as the reference shareholder. Nuhma has been involved since the start of C-Power and comprises of 44 local authorities in the province of Limburg with the goal to invest in electricity and public utility companies.
3. **Socofe**, an investment company representing the public administrations of the Walloon Region in Belgium, specialised in financing and developing public utility projects.
4. **SRIW Environnement**, the environmental holding of the Walloon Investment Company S.R.I.W, is a company specialised in financing and developing environmental and public utility projects.
5. **RWE Innogy GmbH**, a subsidiary of RWE AG, combines the expertise in the field of renewable energy and power plants from the RWE Group. The company plans, builds and operates plants generating electricity from renewable energy sources. The aim of RWE Innogy is to actively take part in and stimulate strong growth in the renewable energy industry in Europe.
6. **EDF Energies Nouvelles**, a branch of Electricité de France (EdF), is a pioneer in the production of green energy. The company develops, builds and operates renewable energy installations all over the world. Their participation in the C-Power project allows them to assume a major position in the European offshore energy sector.
7. **The 2020 European Fund for Energy, Climate Change and Infrastructure** ("Marguerite Fund") was established with the support of six leading European financial organisations (Caisse des Dépôts et consignations, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, European Investment Bank, Instituto de Crédito Oficial, KfW, PKO Bank Polski) to realise capital intensive investments in infrastructure.

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Pictures can be sent upon request.

