

luftpost

Newsletter Deutsche Windtechnik

Full service offshore

Servicion insolvency

Wind turbine safety

Excessive polemics



DEUTSCHE WINDTECHNIK WORKING ON OFFSHORE TURBINE MAINTENANCE, shown here at the alpha ventus offshore wind farm.

THINK BIG!

THE BORKUM CLUSTER LEVERAGES SYNERGIES AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

Deutsche Windtechnik has won the EU tender to provide maintenance for 30 Siemens SWT-3.6-120 wind turbines at the Riffgat offshore wind farm. This is the first time an independent company has taken over the maintenance of a large Siemens offshore wind farm. The factors that made this possible include the cost-sensitive cluster management concept and as well as the long-term project planning. The step can serve as a reference for future offshore projects.

Every specialist discipline is called upon to continue to reduce the costs of offshore wind energy, including maintenance. The contract for the Riffgat offshore wind farm is a milestone for Deutsche Windtechnik, but it came as no surprise. The company was initially active in the onshore sector, but it has been expanding its offshore range of services step by step for more than a decade. It now offers full service offshore.

"EWE Offshore Service and Solutions GmbH (EWE OSS) has commissioned us to provide turbine maintenance, troubleshooting, remote fault elimination, spare parts man-

agement and much more. We are highly committed in all areas of expertise, from the controller to large component replacement," said Jens Landwehr, Managing Director of Deutsche Windtechnik Offshore und Consulting. "The number of offshore wind farms

“Clustering reduces costs significantly.”

in the European seas that we are active in is increasing, and this allows us to leverage synergies in logistics, infrastructure, planning and the handling of deployments. This clustering contributes significantly to reduced cost structures."

VIEWING INDIVIDUAL DISCIPLINES AS A WHOLE

In this specific case, deployments that target the Borkum Cluster, which consists of several offshore wind farms in the North Sea, mainly start in Borkum/Emden. "By clustering the maintenance activities, technicians can carry out their work in a timely manner and focus their efforts on specific areas of expertise," said Irina Lucke, Managing Director of EWE

LATEST NEWS

USA: FIRST SERVICE CONTRACT FOR SIEMENS TURBINES

Deutsche Windtechnik Inc. has signed a contract for its first long-term maintenance project in the USA. The contract with Leeward Renewable Energy LLC includes two Siemens wind farms with a total capacity of 186 MW. The service teams, which started work in April, cooperate closely with the Siemens engineering department of Deutsche Windtechnik in Europe. Jason Allen, COO of Leeward Renewable Energy LLC, said: "Leeward has chosen Deutsche Windtechnik as our partner to further improve the yield of our turbines while reducing operating costs."

SPAIN: INDEPENDENT SERVICE FOR GAMESA IS GAINING TRACTION

In Spain, Deutsche Windtechnik has signed new comprehensive maintenance contracts for several wind farms in various regions of the country; this has boosted the country unit's growth by 40 per cent. The newly acquired service portfolio consists of 40 NEG Micon NM52, 43 Vestas V90 and 130 Gamesa G80 and G5. Deutsche Windtechnik has matured into a major player on the Spanish Gamesa market.

EDITORIAL



Dear readers,

The winds of change have been blowing through the offshore industry during the past few weeks! Independent service providers have been a fixture in the international onshore service market for years, and now offshore is following suit: Deutsche Windtechnik is the first independent service provider (ISP) to take over offshore maintenance for Siemens SWT 3.6 turbines. We are confident that further offshore projects with a focus on turbine maintenance will follow.

In view of falling remuneration and expiring warranties at some offshore wind farms, all market participants have to give some serious thought to new service concepts. Cluster management spanning multiple wind farms, which is covered in detail in this issue, is a tried and tested approach.

In addition, let yourself be inspired by a colourful bouquet of current wind energy topics.

Jens Landwehr and Carl Rasmus Richardsen
Managing Directors Deutsche Windtechnik Offshore
and Consulting

INTERVIEW

OPERATORS ARE EVALUATING INDIVIDUAL ALTERNATIVES

THE SENVION INSOLVENCY RAISES NUMEROUS QUESTIONS

The turbine manufacturer Senvion filed for what is called 'self-managed insolvency' in April. Since then, company management has been trying to develop measures that can help to restructure the company. We asked the Board Director of Deutsche Windtechnik, Matthias Brandt, what this means for the industry in general and operators in particular.



MATTHIAS BRANDT
sees complex reactions to
the Senvion insolvency.

What is the mood like in the service market in view of Senvion's insolvency?

Very complex. It ranges from large issues and effects, including construction, commissioning, warranty issues and mutual contract termination rights, to service contracts, which to a large extent are continuing unaffected. When a company is having difficulties, it is never good news. Nevertheless, we are confident that the industry will compensate for any interruptions in maintenance with a correspondingly rapid technological response.

Can operators protect themselves when it comes to service? Are there any technical restrictions?

Customers need to carefully evaluate their contractual relationships and how the contractually agreed services can be rendered carefully. At this point, there are many ways things could go for Senvion, including the continuation of business, being broken up into smaller companies or liquidation. It is very clear that all customers are evaluating their individual alternatives. We will see

whether there are any technical obstacles to providing service for the latest system technologies, what these obstacles are and how quickly they can be overcome. The necessary expertise will be developed by the market or

“Technical hurdles can be overcome.”

it will be made available at some point in the future. Of course we are only talking about some of the latest developments here. We can already manage most of the installed turbine types.

How is Deutsche Windtechnik positioned for Senvion turbine services?

We have been active in the market as an independent service provider for Senvion turbines for a long time. We offer full service for all turbines up to the 3.XM series. This includes all necessary work, such as major component replacement, uptower repairs, retrofits, etc. At the moment, we have more than 300 Senvion turbines under contract. One measure is to expand the already well-established Senvion engineering department even further.

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OSS, describing the objectives of the service concept at the Borkum cluster. "The resulting combination of experience and expertise generates the greatest added value for customers because costs can be reduced."

OPTIMISING LOGISTICS AND DEPLOYMENT PLANNING

The benefits of clustering were demonstrated, for example, during the deployment of Crew Transfer Vessels and Service Operation Vessels. "But this approach is also beneficial when deploying technicians, because their work can be planned for the entire cluster

and they do not have to travel to each wind farm individually. In addition, the weather at different offshore wind farms can be very different, even though they are in close proximity to each other, and clustering allows offshore work days to be optimised," Irina Lucke explained.

ALL PLAYERS BENEFIT FROM MORE COMPETITION

EWE OSS and Deutsche Windtechnik have been working together for two years at the offshore wind farm alpha ventus, which also belongs to the Borkum cluster. Both com-

panies are confident that the new contract for the Riffgat offshore wind farm will give the clustering concept further impetus: "Not only do we share a common vision for service and synergies in our competencies, but our friendly, professional way of working together is also a deciding factor," said Irina Lucke. Jens Landwehr added, "The project shows clearly that the offshore industry is becoming more professional and developing a competition situation that has already existed in other industries for a long time. All market participants benefit from this development!"

EXPERT REPORTS

SAFE INDUSTRIAL PLANTS

The TÜV Association (Verband der TÜV e.V. (VdTÜV)), attracted media attention last year when it called wind turbines "ticking time bombs" (Die Welt, German daily newspaper, published 27.05.2018). An increasing number of accident reports led VdTÜV to state that test regulations were inadequate or simply non-existent. This was accompanied by a demand to make inspections of wind turbines exclusively the responsibility of the TÜV.

Holger Pasch, head of the Survey and Inspection Body at Deutsche Windtechnik, does not agree with the reasoning behind this: "The specific test standards and content are laid

out in the manufacturer's certified declarations of conformity. They are clearly defined and accessible to any expert appraiser." These facts seem to have escaped the attention of the lawyers and the managing director of VdTÜV, Dr. Joachim Bühler. The German Federal Ministry of Economics also realised this and rejected the VdTÜV's demand as unfounded. Wind turbines are at least as safe as other industrial plants, especially in view of the fact that no one has ever suffered an injury from a falling rotor blade or any similar accident.

More on this issue can be found at: deutsche-windtechnik.com/fokus

PERSONNEL NEWS

INTERFACE FOR YUNLIN OFFSHORE WIND FARM / TAIWAN

Even though Birger Menke, Project & Contract Manager Deutsche Windtechnik Offshore und Consulting, was born in Northern Germany,



BIRGER MENKE
is preparing the first service deployments in Taiwan.

international work has been part of his career since the beginning: after having worked all over Europe, he is now taking on a new position as project manager for the coordination of operational service at the Yunlin offshore wind farm in Taiwan. His responsibilities include contract management as well as preparatory country-specific project planning, on the basis of which teams, infrastructure, workflows and much more are developed. The first service deployments will take place in 2020.

PARTNER

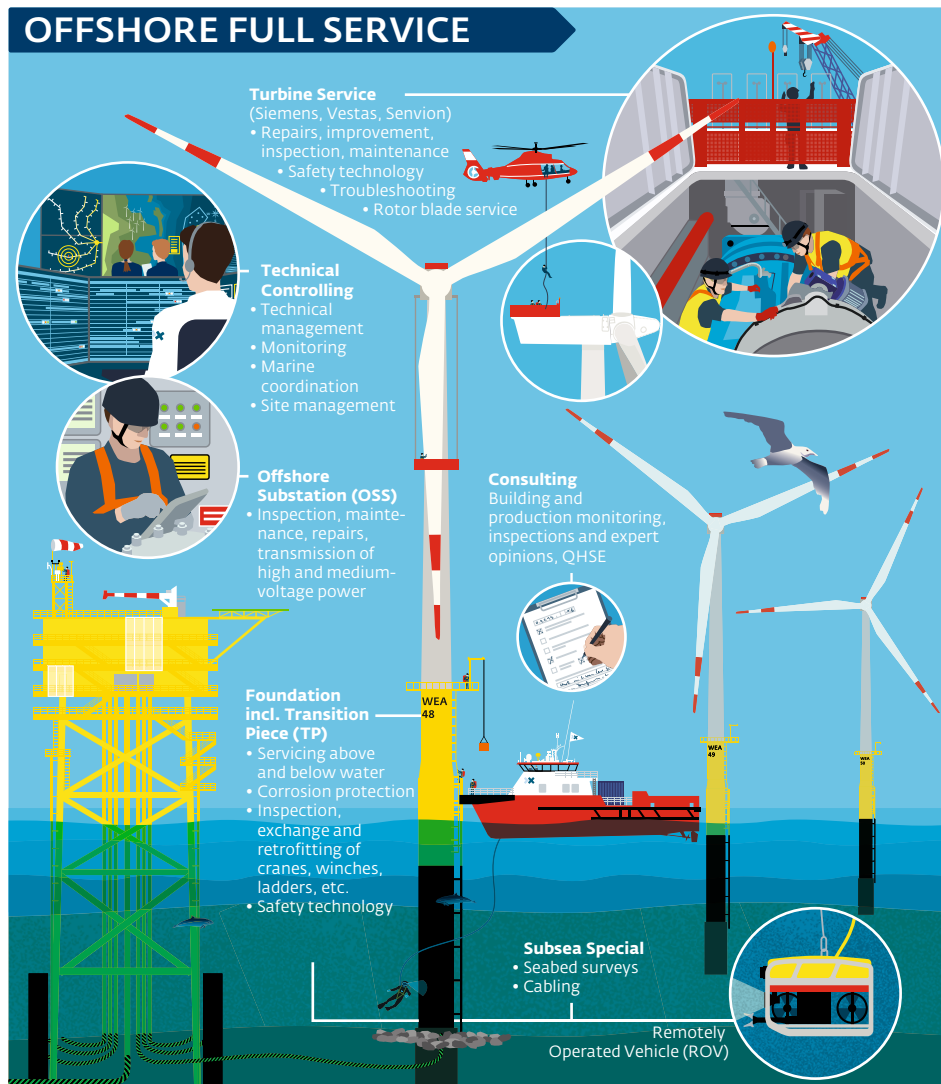
DISMANTLING TRANSPORT LOGISTICS WITH BAYWA R.E. ROTOR SERVICE

Deutsche Windtechnik has successfully collaborated for years with BayWa r.e. Rotor Service GmbH on the implementation of repowering projects: the company has been responsible for the logistics behind the transport of large components in countless wind turbine dismantling projects.

Tower components and other large parts cannot be moved from one place to another on the spur of the moment. It requires detailed planning. This includes route planning, coordinating with authorities and obtaining the necessary transport permits.

Lutz Schiermeyer, Head of Project Management at Deutsche Windtechnik Repowering, is happy to collaborate with such a professional partner: "BayWa r.e. Rotor Service is always a reliable partner when it comes to detailed route planning and obtaining all of the necessary approvals." Volker Lührs, Head of Logistics Control at BayWa r.e. Rotor Service is convinced: "The past has shown that we can rely on each other without reservations. We look forward to many more joint projects!"

OFFSHORE FULL SERVICE



FULL SERVICE INCLUDING TURBINE MAINTENANCE Deutsche Windtechnik provides services for all the components of an offshore wind farm. These include the wind turbine, all structures above and below water and the substation. Not only that – operational management and technical controlling are also part of the service portfolio.

GETTING ACQUAINTED

THREE PROFESSIONS IN ONE GO

In 2012, Mohammed Haj Ali was close to completing his degree in economics in Damascus, Syria, when the war forced him to flee his country. His journey brought him to Germany via Jordan in 2016. Since 2018, he has been enrolled in a training programme as a mechatronics engineer for wind turbines at Deutsche Windtechnik.

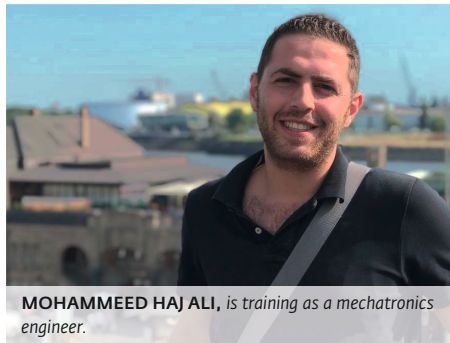
Mohammed, what do you like best about Germany and what do you not like so much?

I especially appreciate the freedom of expression, but I also like the cultural diversity. People from all over the world come to Germany and work together here. Being diligent is rewarded. I am also very grateful for the support that I have received here. It allowed me to improve my German language skills to C1 level quickly. Sometimes dealing with the prejudice and bureaucracy is not so easy (laughs).

What made you decide to begin an apprenticeship at Deutsche Windtechnik?

Initially I wanted to continue my business studies in Germany, but then I learned about the wide variety of training opportunities here. During an internship, I became acquainted with the profession of mechatronics and

realised that it was exactly what I was looking for. I applied to Deutsche Windtechnik and was very happy that the company placed its trust in me and approved my application.



MOHAMMEED HAJ ALI, is training as a mechatronics engineer.

What do you like about your apprenticeship in particular?

The profession of mechatronics is demanding. You basically learn three professions at the same time: electrician, computer scientist and mechanic. Theory and practice are closely related. In addition, you get to travel a lot and your work helps to make the world a better place by promoting green energy. The special thing about Deutsche Windtechnik is the working atmosphere: the colleagues are very nice and happy to help if we trainees have any questions!

TRAINING CENTER

TWO BECOME ONE

Deutsche Windtechnik's Training Center for systems engineering in Viöl has added new training courses to its programme: just like the Training Center in Bremen, it will now offer courses in occupational safety and rescue from heights in accordance with the GWO standard. In the near future, the Training Center in Bremen will be placed under the same management as the Training Center in Viöl. The advantages of this consolidation are obvious: thanks to the centralised communication, customers will only have one contact person for systems engineering and occupa-

tional safety. Customers can decide flexibly whether training should take place in Bremen or Viöl. In addition, the training modules for systems engineering and occupational safety can be better coordinated with each other. The Training Center in Viöl has another innovation to offer: in addition to the standard technical training courses for the various types of turbines, the Training Center will start offering Advanced Training, for example rescuing technicians from the hub.

deutsche-windtechnik.com/trainingcenter

ON THE RADAR

WINDDAYS

11.-13.06.2019 | ROTTERDAM
winddays.nl/nl/home

GLOBAL OFFSHORE WIND

25.-26.06.2019 | LONDON
events.renewableuk.com/gow19

WFO HELGOLAND

29.-30.08.2019 | HELIGOLAND
wfo-helgoland.eu

HUSUM WIND

10.-13.09.2019 | HUSUM
husumwind.com

VIND SVENSK VINDENERGI

23.-24.10.2019 | STOCKHOLM
windsweden.com

SPOTLIGHT

COMMITMENT YES, POLEMICS NO

It seems like it's now wind energy's turn to play the scapegoat. An increasing number of media outlets are focusing on alleged or potential problems without providing any context: insects being killed by wind turbines, sustainability calculations for wind energy, sound and infrasound, TÜV or ZÜS (approved monitoring agencies) tests, accidents and much more.

In most cases, people familiar with the subject matter will immediately recognise which factors are being misrepresented or insufficiently explained. Today's communication media allow stories to spread at an incredible pace. It should therefore come as no surprise that well-founded research is getting drowned out. For this reason, the entire wind industry needs to make an effort to counter false claims in a transparent and easily comprehensible manner.

OPEN TO COMMUNICATION AND CHANGE

Some aspects of the argument are simply a matter of personal opinion, so convincing people will not always be easy. The current youth movement, which is already in the process of shaping the future, is a wonderful source of inspiration. It demonstrates a tremendous level of commitment and an informal approach that is open to communication and change. We urgently need to protect and strengthen it as much as we can. Open, objective discussion is an important part of our society.

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