

Press release

Global transfer of knowledge at the WINDFORCE Conference 2017 in Bremerhaven

Bremerhaven, 3 May 2017 — Wind energy agency WAB e.V. extends an invitation to the thirteenth WINDFORCE offshore wind energy conference in Bremerhaven. From 9 to 11 May around 400 representatives from politics and industry will come together at the ATLANTIC Hotel SAIL City Bremerhaven in order to discuss international developments and issues regarding offshore wind energy and identify concrete solutions. Discussion on the results of the first tendering round for offshore wind energy will take centre stage. Now that three projects will not require a subsidy in future under the Renewable Energies Act, expectations for cost reduction have clearly been exceeded. A total of twelve theme blocks will cover a range of themes that is both exciting and highly topical. The supporting programme comprises evening networking events and an excursion to the Dynamic Nacelle Testing Laboratory at Fraunhofer IWES. The informal get-together sessions enable new contacts to be made and existing ones to be developed further. Patron of this year's event is Brigitte Zypries, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy.

The centrepiece of this year's conference is once again the comprehensive conference programme with its high-calibre line-up aimed specifically at decision-makers and experts engaged in offshore wind energy. One topic is particularly relevant for the industry at the present time: the results of the first tendering round for offshore wind energy published just recently by the Federal Network Agency. Andreas Wellbrock, managing director of WAB e.V., makes the following point: "Offshore wind energy is the first renewable energy for which projects have been accepted that are to be implemented without a subsidy. That's why policymakers should take action now and press ahead quickly with the expansion of the grid infrastructure. At the WINDFORCE conference the results of the tendering round and the acceleration of grid modernisation and adaptation will be discussed with renowned experts as well as representatives from politics and the industry in specially designed sessions".

Sector coupling, the Super Grid or the future design of the electricity market are also treated in special theme blocks and innovative solutions identified. The global transfer of knowledge is of top priority: this year there are sessions that deal exclusively with the topics and burning issues of our international partners. As Irina Lucke, board chairperson of WAB e.V., makes clear: "The WINDFORCE conference is increasingly becoming the international meeting place for offshore wind energy. This provides the unique opportunity for German businesses to come together with international partners to converse and do business with each other."

Dr Joachim Lohse, Senator for Environment, Construction and Transport in Bremen, stresses the importance of offshore wind power for the energy turnaround in Germany: "Offshore wind power plants provide Germany as an industrial nation with a reliable supply of electricity around the clock. And in future, much more economically than many critics thought possible."

The offshore industry is the cornerstone of the energy turnaround and has become an established part of the German energy market. The WINDFORCE conference is the leading event for offshore wind energy in Germany and main gathering place for international businesses, those with specialist knowledge and experts. This year we expect around 400 representatives from renowned industry leaders such as 50Hertz, Adwen, BSH, CEZ, DOC, Deutsche WindGuard, Deutsche Windtechnik, DLR, DEWI-OCC, DNV GL, DONG, E.ON, ELA, EnBW, EUROGATE, EWE, Fassmer, Fraunhofer, Fred. Olsen Windcarrier, GE Grid, GeoSea, Global Tech, Hempel, Lufthansa, nkt cables, NSW, PwC, REETEC, Senvion, Siemens, Vattenfall, WindMW and wpd. Those still to decide on whether to attend have until 5 May to register at www.windforce.info.

WINDFORCE Conference 2017:

Website: <http://windforce.info/windforce2017/>

Programme: <http://windforce.info/windforce2017/conference-programme/>

About WAB

WAB e.V. is the leading business network for wind energy in the north-west region and nationwide contact partner for Germany's offshore wind industry. The association comprises more than 350 businesses and institutes from all sectors of the wind energy industry, the maritime industry as well as research.

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