

Press release

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Page 1/2

Deutsche Windtechnik takes stock one year after deploying its new maintenance campaign at the Nordergründe offshore wind farm: downtimes significantly reduced by synergies

By realigning its maintenance campaign at the offshore wind farm Nordergründe, Deutsche Windtechnik, which is the only independent full-service provider in the offshore wind energy sector, was able to reduce maintenance-related downtimes by 28.5 percent in 2021 compared to the previous year. Following the insolvency of the system manufacturer, maintenance work for the 18 Senvion 6.2M 126 turbines was still carried out separately from other maintenance work in 2020. In 2021, however, it was possible to combine all of the specialised tasks at the wind farm into one maintenance campaign. In addition, the multi-competent team for troubleshooting tasks was able to significantly increase efficiency.

The central element of the new maintenance strategy was the simultaneous deployment of two specialised service teams for the first time as part of the regular annual maintenance campaign: While one team with expertise in turbine maintenance was doing its job, the second team with specialists for the Balance of Plants was working on the transition piece and the foundation at the same time. This simultaneous work has not only reduced the downtime of the turbines but has also reduced activities such as the number of transfers from the CTV to the boat landing, which have been halved from 288 to 144 for the entire wind farm.

Teams with a blend of expertise in different areas for flexible troubleshooting

In addition, another service team dedicated to troubleshooting tasks was deployed at the wind farm the whole time. This blended team consisted of three technicians, each with different competence profiles, so that errors in various components of the wind turbine, the transition piece or the substation could be corrected quickly and flexibly, and this opened up further synergies. The costs for the troubleshooting deployments were allocated proportionally to the Balance of Plants or the service contract, depending on the reason for the work.

Benefits from synergies are also leveraged at other offshore wind farms

"The Nordergründe offshore wind farm clearly demonstrates the advantages for the operator by planning maintenance campaigns from a single source," said Matthias Brandt, Director of Deutsche Windtechnik. "Today, there is an increasing trend towards maintenance and service operations that are organised in a task-specific manner that optimises logistics and personnel to take advantage of time and cost synergies." Another example of this development are the DanTysk and Sandbank wind farms. Deutsche Windtechnik

Bremen (GER)
16.05.2022

Page 2/2

is responsible for a large portion of the necessary work at these wind farms, including maintenance and repair work for 152 turbines, maintenance for the transition pieces, the lifts and the cranes, and inspections.



Fig. 1

Deutsche Windtechnik was able to reduce downtimes at the Nordergründe offshore wind farm by 28.5 percent in 2021 by using maintenance campaigns focused on synergies.

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About Deutsche Windtechnik AG

Bremen-based Deutsche Windtechnik AG offers a single-source full technical maintenance package for wind turbines in Europe, the USA and Taiwan. The company operates both onshore and offshore. More than 2,000 employees provide service for over 7,500 wind turbines worldwide under permanent maintenance contracts (basic and full maintenance). The company's system engineering focuses on Vestas, Siemens, Nordex, Senvion, Fuhrländer, Gamesa, Enercon and GE turbines.

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