

Press release, June 8, 2009

Foundation work for alpha ventus REpower wind turbines begins

●●● Kick-off for a further major building phase for the first German offshore wind park alpha ventus: as of today, 24 piles will be driven into the seabed for the foundations of six REpower wind turbines, situated 45 km off the coast of Borkum. The cylindrical piles are between 31 and 44 meters long and with a diameter of 1.80 meters. They will be driven into the seabed up to a depth of 42 meters using a hydraulic hammer and a template. Belgian specialist company, Geosea, are carrying out the pile driving and are using the "Buzzard", a jack-up barge, for the work.

"The Buzzard has been proved in several offshore construction projects as in during the erecting of the Belgian wind park Thornton Bank" explained Hergen Stolle, responsible for the alpha ventus offshore logistics and Vattenfall Europe's project leader for the foundation and erecting work. "In Geosea, we have an experienced partner on board as specialists in offshore construction projects. I am confident that we can bring the work forward in good time" Stolle added.

The steel foundations, on which the REpower 5M wind turbines will stand, are called "Jacket" foundations. These lattice-tower constructions are presently being produced in Scotland and will be delivered to the alpha ventus site from mid August. Once there, they will be mounted over the positioned piles. Each group of 4 piles serves as the anchor for one Jacket foundation. The Norwegian offshore company Norwind, headquartered in Bergen, will act as the general contractor for the construction, production and erecting of the foundations.

The alpha ventus project has already marked a milestone in construction work. At the beginning of June, the six tripods for the wind turbines, type Areva Multibrid M5000, were successfully anchored in the North Sea.

In addition, the pontoon vessel, Stemat 82, laid the first cables between the tripods and the already erected offshore transformer station. These "Innerpark" cables will later connect the wind turbines with the offshore transformer station which then transmits the windpower to the onshore networks.

Ongoing activities at sea can be followed on the Internet. A webcam positioned on the research platform FINO1 and directed at the construction site provides up-to-the-minute [pictures](#).

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 to be in operation, supplying environmentally 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>

Your contact

Lutz Wiese
alpha ventus Press Officer
Tel: +49 40 63 96 22 63
kontakt@alpha-ventus.de
www.alpha-ventus.de