



Shaping the next phase of wind energy

WindEnergy Hamburg returns from 22nd to 25th September 2026 as the wind sector faces a broader set of challenges around grid integration, energy storage, digitalisation and workforce capacity. The event will bring these issues together alongside the latest onshore and offshore wind technologies.



Organisers expect more than 43,000 attendees from around 100 countries and over 1,600 exhibiting companies from approximately 40 countries. Across 83,000 m² of exhibition space in 11 halls, the event will cover the full wind energy value chain, from turbine manufacturing and components to project development, operations and maintenance, digital systems and supporting energy infrastructure.

Reflecting industry developments

The wind industry is entering a period in which turbine technology is only one part of the delivery challenge. Grid capacity, permitting, financing, supply-chain resilience and the integration of variable renewable generation are increasingly influencing how projects are developed and operated.

WindEnergy Hamburg 2026 reflects that wider picture by combining equipment and engineering with discussions on policy, markets and the systems needed to support further wind deployment.

That broader scope is also visible in the event's international profile. The 2026 edition is expected to include 30 national pavilions, bringing together established wind markets and countries developing new project pipelines. For exhibitors and visitors, this provides a useful way to compare how different markets are addressing common issues such as grid constraints, permitting, financing and supply-chain capability.

The interaction between onshore and offshore wind is another part of that picture. The two

markets share technology, suppliers and policy objectives, but they also face different logistics, financing and infrastructure requirements.

Offshore projects depend heavily on ports, vessels and maritime expertise, while onshore development is often shaped more directly by planning, land use and local grid conditions. Bringing both segments into the same event makes it easier to examine where their supply chains overlap and where distinct solutions are still required.

Grid integration cuts across both markets. New generation can only contribute fully if network capacity, system flexibility and connection processes develop alongside it.

That is one reason storage, digital control and energy infrastructure are receiving greater



attention within the 2026 programme. They are not peripheral subjects: they increasingly influence whether new wind capacity can be connected efficiently and how existing assets participate in a more flexible electricity system.

New in 2026: energy storage

One of the most significant additions for 2026 is a dedicated Energy Storage area in Hall A2. The 3,600 m² exhibition area places storage alongside wind as a core part of the wider energy system rather than as a separate technology. The accompanying Energy Storage Stage will cover battery storage, emerging storage technologies, system integration and the role of storage in supporting a flexible and stable electricity supply.

For wind developers and operators, the connection is increasingly practical. Higher shares of variable renewable generation place greater emphasis on when electricity is delivered as well as how much is generated.

Storage can help manage short-term variability, support grid services and create more options for integrating renewable generation in areas where network conditions are constrained. The inclusion of a dedicated storage area therefore reflects the growing overlap between generation, flexibility and grid operation.

Digital technologies across the wind sector

Digitalisation remains another important theme. WindEnergy Hamburg will feature applications ranging from virtual asset management and remote monitoring to AI-supported forecasting and data-led maintenance. The practical value of these technologies lies in their ability to support decisions across the project lifecycle, from development and resource assessment to operations, inspection and maintenance.

The event is also giving greater visibility to international start-ups and AI-focused companies. That is relevant at a time when operators are looking for better ways to interpret large volumes of asset data, identify emerging faults and improve the timing of maintenance interventions. The challenge is increasingly not simply collecting data, but

turning it into information that can support engineering and commercial decisions.

Recruiting the next generation of talent

Technology alone will not determine how quickly the wind sector develops. The availability of qualified specialists remains a significant constraint, particularly as installed capacity grows and demand increases for engineers, technicians, project specialists and other skilled roles.

WindEnergy Hamburg will hold its Recruiting Days on 24th and 25th September in Hall B3. The format is intended to bring companies together with students, graduates, apprentices, experienced professionals and career changers. The Recruiting Area will include the Recruiting Forum and a dedicated job route. In 2024, the Recruiting Area involved almost 60 exhibitors, underlining the level of industry interest in recruitment and skills.

A conference programme alongside the exhibition

The exhibition will be accompanied by a free conference programme with more than 300 speakers across six open stages. Partners include the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), WindEurope, VDMA and the German Wind Energy Association (BWE). Sessions will address technology, policy, financing, international market development, offshore wind, energy storage and workforce issues.

Keeping the conference programme within the exhibition is intended to connect market and policy discussion with the companies developing and supplying the technology. That matters as many of the industry's most difficult questions now cross organisational boundaries. Grid expansion, supply-chain investment, permitting reform and new financing models cannot be addressed by developers or manufacturers in isolation.

International reach

WindEnergy Hamburg's international focus also extends beyond the Hamburg event. In May 2026, the RECHARGE Wind Power Summit Asia-Pacific powered by WindEnergy Hamburg held its first Singapore edition,

attracting more than 1,500 participants from 35 countries. The format will develop further with WindEnergy Asia-Pacific powered by RECHARGE, scheduled for 25th to 27th May 2027 in Singapore.

The link is significant because many of the questions facing European wind markets are increasingly global. Turbine technology, component supply, financing, ports, vessels and specialist skills all operate across borders. At the same time, market design, permitting and grid development remain highly local. International events can therefore provide a useful point of comparison between markets moving at different speeds and under different regulatory conditions.

The event's structure also gives smaller technology providers and specialist suppliers a route into the wider discussion. For developers and asset owners, that can be useful when established approaches are being challenged by new operating requirements, from longer asset lifetimes and tighter grid conditions to the need for more efficient inspection and maintenance.

For suppliers, the test is whether new products and services can demonstrate a clear operational or commercial benefit rather than simply add complexity.

What the 2026 event says about wind

The breadth of the 2026 programme reflects how the wind sector itself is changing. The industry is no longer focused only on installing more generating capacity. It also has to consider how projects connect, how power is managed within the wider electricity system, how assets are operated over longer lifetimes and where the next generation of skilled people will come from.

For WindEnergy Hamburg, that means placing turbines and components alongside storage, digital systems, finance, policy and recruitment. The value of the event will lie in how effectively those subjects are connected and whether the discussions help companies understand the technical and commercial conditions shaping the next phase of wind development.

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