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The German wind market bounces back again

In 1989 Husum Wind was the world's first trade fair devoted exclusively to wind energy, taking place within a livestock auction venue. Twenty companies presented their products to more than 10,000 visitors. A lot has happened since.



The gross addition in the first half of 2023 is thus already 65% of that in the whole of 2022. Nevertheless, the expansion targets of the federal government are at risk due to lengthy approval processes. The average procedure time is at a new high of 24.5 months and there are a lack of suitable and designated areas. The current expansion is largely based on repowering, which means that existing wind turbines are being dismantled and replaced by new, more powerful ones.

In this sense, the project pipeline is particularly interesting. According to this, 585 new wind turbines with a total capacity of 3,175 MW were approved in the first half of 2023. This represents a significant increase compared to the previous year. By mid of 2023, the volume of approvals already amounts to three quarters of the total new approvals granted in 2022. Of the turbines approved in the first half of the year, 34% have already been awarded a contract in a tender round.

Political tailwind

Against this background, it is not surprising that German federal and state politicians are also paying respect to the renewed importance of wind energy. The Minister of Economics, Robert Habeck, acts as patron and opens the fair. Together with his colleagues from state politics, Olaf Lies, Lower Saxony's Minister for Economic Affairs, Transport, Building and Digitalisation and Tobias Goldschmidt, Schleswig-Holstein's Minister for Energy Turnaround, Climate Protection, Environment and Nature, he will discuss the situation of wind energy in Germany in a moderated dialogue with industry representatives.

Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony are the federal states that have traditionally installed the most wind energy capacity. In 2022, the concentration of wind power on the four federal states with the most installed nominal capacity, Lower Saxony, Brandenburg, Schleswig-Holstein, and North Rhine-Westphalia, intensified further. Thus, the percentage of newly installed generation capacity in these four federal states in the year even increased slightly again compared to the previous year and amounted to around 77% of the total newly installed wind power in 2022.

Diversity of topics and networking

Today, more than 600 exhibitors from 15 countries present themselves to a trade audience. With the growth of the fair, the topics have also become more diverse. Whereas in 1989 the fair was all about onshore wind energy, from 12th to 15th September 2023 the focal points of the fair will be onshore wind, offshore wind, digitalisation, and green hydrogen.

The range of topics also includes sector coupling, storage technologies, recycling and repowering as well as market-specific

In the late 1980s/early 1990s the German market developed dynamically due to the Electricity Feed Act. With the introduction of the EEG in 2002, the annual installed wind energy capacity increased to about 3,100 MW per year. After that, the construction of new plants in Germany declined significantly due to adjustments in the EEG. It was not until 2013 that the wind energy sector was able to return to the new construction figures of the early 2000s in a second growth phase.

The first peak was the record year 2017, when around 6,500 MW of capacity was added annually. This was followed by another wind energy market slump in the German market. In 2019, only 1,650 MW of capacity was added. In 2021, the country's wind energy market initially stabilised at a low level.

Trend reversal since 2022

However, since the end of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2022, there has been a real trend reversal in the German wind market. Husum Wind 2023 is also feeling this and the trade fair is almost fully booked. Exhibitors are clearly more optimistic again and are noticeably looking forward to the event and the personal exchange within the industry.

The first half of 2023 confirms this trend. In the initial six months of the year, 331 wind turbines with a cumulative capacity of 1,565 megawatts (MW) were installed on the German mainland. This is shown by the evaluation of Deutsche WindGuard on behalf of the German Wind Energy Association (BWE) and the German Engineering Federation.



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financing and promotion solutions and a career day. National and international experts along the entire value chain will meet at Husum Wind 2023. From project planning, financing and insurance to production, transport, and erection of the turbines with special ships, as well as grid connection to the operation and maintenance of onshore and offshore wind farms. With all this, the fair is known

above all for its special 'Husum Wind Spirit', a very personal atmosphere and numerous excellent networking opportunities.

'After the Covid-19 mandatory break in 2021 and the political course set in recent years, we are seeing great anticipation and optimism among the exhibitors. Especially since everyone is aware that Germany cannot stand still in order to achieve its

decarbonisation goals and drive forward the energy transition as planned. Rather, we must use the momentum. And the trade fair is the right place for this: after all, it is not just the exhibition itself. Husum Wind has always been a place for exchange within the industry and with politicians,' says Project Director Arne Petersen.

'The trade fair is meeting the increased desire for dialogue and exchange by attaching the 'Industry meets Renewables' conference directly to Husum Wind. In this way, we offer the players from the wind sector, industry and business an ideal platform for further development and networking,' Arne Petersen continues.

Special focus on green hydrogen

For the decarbonisation of energy systems, Europe is relying on green hydrogen. Northern Germany is exemplary for the green hydrogen economy, where wind energy is the most important renewable source of electricity and numerous pilot projects are being realised with surplus wind power. One example is the joint project North German Reallabor, which is testing new ways to achieve climate neutrality and operates eight electrolyzers with a hydrogen production capacity of 42 MW. Hydrogen can significantly increase the growth potential of the wind market and extend the reach of renewable solutions in industry. Due to its central importance for Germany as an



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industrial location, the topic of green hydrogen will again be a special focus at Husum Wind 2023 with its own hydrogen area in Hall 5.

German offshore auction shows dynamics and potential

The potential and dynamism in the offshore sector are also illustrated by the world's largest tender for land for offshore wind farms, which was only concluded at the beginning of July. Three areas for wind farms with a capacity of 2,000 MW each in the North Sea and one area for a wind farm with a capacity of 1,000 MW in the Baltic Sea were auctioned off by the Federal Network Agency. With proceeds of 12.6 billion euros, the auction produced a surprising result in terms of amount alone. This was possible because several zero-cent bids were received for all four areas. This means that the bidding companies waived the state subsidy for the construction of the wind farms from the outset. The wind farms are scheduled to be commissioned in 2030.

The completed auction is already remarkable because of the size of the planned wind farms. The Federal Network Agency invited tenders for 7 GW of capacity. This would almost double the current offshore capacities in Germany of 8.1 GW at the end of 2022.

Digital technologies of the future

The energy transition can only succeed if the existing capacities are used as efficiently as possible. Digital technologies have developed rapidly in recent years. Husum Wind will do justice to this with

the trade fair focus on digitalisation. How the current technology trends such as artificial intelligence, IT security and blockchain can be used in wind energy or hydrogen production will be shown in Hall 1.

They are the key to an intelligent, renewable energy system and enable the development of promising products, services, and

business models. Together with Blockchance, organiser of the largest blockchain conference in Germany, Husum Wind has developed its own platform for pioneering digital technologies and their applications in the field of renewable energies. With the Digital+ Area, the fair offers the wind industry and companies from the digital technology sector a suitable setting to meet with experts, pioneers, and decision-makers in this field.

Shortage of skilled workers for wind energy as a job engine

The shortage of skilled workers is also an extremely pressing issue for wind energy and the success of the energy transition as a whole, today more than ever. The sectors lost over 40,000 jobs in Germany between 2017 and 2019, but an upswing has been evident again since 2020. Nevertheless, the employment level is still far from what it was pre-crisis. With the current upswing, skilled workers are urgently needed.

Interested parties can find out what training, career, and qualification opportunities the industry offers at the WINDCareer job fair as part of Husum Wind. In addition to qualified young talents, career changers are also welcome to further promote the expansion of wind energy and renewable energies in general. Experts from numerous companies and specialist areas will provide information on job profiles, tasks and opportunities that are available in renewable energies.

www.husumwind.com/en



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