

Company announcement
No. 16/2017**DONG Energy awarded three German offshore wind projects**

In the first of two German auction rounds, the Bundesnetzagentur has today awarded DONG Energy the right to build three offshore wind projects in the German North Sea. DONG Energy submitted six projects in the bid and won with the following three projects which have a total capacity of 590MW:

- OWP West (240MW)
- Borkum Riffgrund West 2 (240MW)
- Gode Wind 3 (110MW)

The three projects are planned to be commissioned in 2024, subject to Final Investment Decision by DONG Energy in 2021.

Samuel Leupold, Executive Vice President and CEO of Wind Power at DONG Energy, says: "We're pleased with being awarded three projects in the first of two German auction rounds, and we have good opportunities to add further capacity to our winning projects in next year's German auction. Today's results contribute to our ambition of driving profitable growth by adding approximately 5GW of additional capacity by 2025."

Breakthrough 'zero bid'

For two of the projects – OWP West and Borkum Riffgrund West 2 – DONG Energy made bids at zero EUR per MWh, i.e. these projects will not receive a subsidy on top of the wholesale electricity price. The Gode Wind 3 project was awarded based on a bid price of EUR 60 per MWh.

Samuel Leupold says: "The zero subsidy bid is a breakthrough for the cost competitiveness of offshore wind, and it demonstrates the technology's massive global growth potential as a cornerstone in the economically viable shift to green energy systems. Cheaper clean energy will benefit governments and consumers – and not least help meet the Paris COP21 targets to fight climate change. Still it's important to note that the zero bid is enabled by a number of circumstances in this auction. Most notably, the realization window is extended to 2024. This allows developers to apply the next generation turbine technology, which will support a major step down in costs. Also, the bid reflects the fact that grid connection is not included."

Samuel Leupold continues: "Financial discipline is key to us. We are of course reflecting the project's exposure to market risk in the cost of capital applied. We see a solid value creation potential in this German project portfolio and will now

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DONG Energy (NASDAQ OMX: DENERG) is one of Northern Europe's leading energy groups and is headquartered in Denmark. Around 6,200 ambitious employees develop, construct and operate offshore wind farms, generate heat and power from our power stations as well as supply and trade in energy to wholesale, business and residential customers. In addition, we produce oil and gas, and a process has been initiated to divest this business unit. The continuing part of the Group has approx 5,800 employees and generated a revenue in 2016 of DKK 61 billion (EUR 8.2 billion). Read more on www.dongenergy.com.

begin to further mature the projects towards a Final Investment Decision (FID) in 2021.”

Volker Malmen, country manager in DONG Energy Germany, says: “Making green energy cheaper than black has for years been part of DONG Energy's strategic ambition. Offshore wind is fully capable of replacing retiring power plants and to become the backbone of Germany's energy transition, and I hope that today's encouraging results will inspire an accelerated and higher volume build-out of offshore wind in Germany and motivate the electrification of transportation and heating.”

DONG Energy will be responsible for the turbines, array cables and offshore substation, while grid operator TenneT will be responsible for construction, operation and ownership of the onshore substation and the export cable.

DONG Energy currently has 902MW of offshore wind in operation in German waters with Gode Wind 1&2 and Borkum Riffgrund 1 and another 450MW under construction at Borkum Riffgrund 2, which is expected to be commissioned in 2019. In total, DONG Energy operates 3,600MW offshore wind capacity across Germany, UK and Denmark and has a further 3,800GW under construction.

Cost-drivers enabling the zero subsidy bid

- Platform change: Significantly bigger turbines – probably 13-15MW – will be on the market by 2024. With bigger turbines, the developer can increase electricity production while at the same time reduce the number of turbine positions. This contributes significantly to cost reductions during construction (fewer towers and array cables, and lower costs for installation vessels and manpower) as well as during a lifetime of operations and maintenance.
- Scale: OWP West and Borkum Riffgrund West 2 will be combined into one large-scale project with the option of adding additional volume in next year's auction to further increase the total size of the project.
- Location: The projects benefit from average wind speeds of more than 10 m/s, which is among the highest wind speeds measured across DONG Energy's portfolio of wind farms. Also, the projects are located next to DONG Energy's Borkum Riffgrund 1&2 which means that operations and maintenance can be done from DONG Energy's existing O&M hub in Norddeich.
- Extended lifetime: The German authorities have approved the possibility to extend the operational lifetime of the asset from 25 to 30 years.

- Not full scope: Developers were not bidding for the grid connection in the German auction, which means that grid connection is not included in the bid price.

The above drivers deliver a cost-of-electricity below our forecasted wholesale power price and will allow us to create value and meet our return requirements at the expected market prices without subsidies. Compared to German power price forecasts available from leading research firms, we consider our price forecast to be relatively conservative. We have applied a higher cost-of-capital than in previous projects to reflect the potential increase in market price exposure.

The cost reductions required for a German project without subsidies are fully feasible, both technically and commercially. Towards a final investment decision in 2021, DONG Energy will monitor the key factors which will determine long-term power prices in Germany. These factors include the impact of EU actions to reinvigorate the European carbon trading scheme; the phase-out of conventional and nuclear capacity; the future role of coal in Europe; and the build-out of onshore transmission grids.

The information provided in this announcement does not change DONG Energy's previous financial guidance for the financial year of 2017 or the announced expected investment level for 2017.

Further information

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