

ZEELAND PortNews

Covering Zeeland's North Sea Ports
of Vlissingen and Terneuzen



UNDENIABLE CHAMPIONS OF OFFSHORE WIND

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“ Zeeland’s offshore industry gets behind Borssele wind farm

The Borssele offshore wind farm is coming. Survey ships are already scanning and probing the seabed to determine soil conditions off the coast of Zeeland. The 1,400 MW wind farm will not only be the largest Dutch offshore wind zone so far, but also the first developed under the Dutch government’s brand new approach to awarding permits. When the tender opens later this year, one of the parties competing for the first Borssele project will be a unique consortium representing some of the most experienced offshore wind players in Zeeland.



Borssele - facts and figures

- 1,400 MW subdivided over four sites
- 344 square kilometres
- 22 kilometres from Zeeland’s coast
- 500 metres from the border of the Belgium Exclusive Economic Zone
- 10 to 40 metres water depths, with dispersed sand banks of up to 20 metres high.
- 2 offshore substations (TenneT) with export cable landing at TenneT’s substation at Borssele

Borssele Consortium Zeeland Wind Project: Who’s involved

- DELTA – Zeeland-based multi-utility company
- Heerema – leading fabricator with a large yard in Vlissingen
- Verbrugge Terminals – logistics service provider
- Zeeland Seaports – port company for ports of Vlissingen and Terneuzen
- Zeeuwind – a cooperative association for wind energy
- ZMf – Zeeland-based environmental association
- To be confirmed – an EPC contractor and financial services provider

Despite its highly developed offshore wind construction industry, the Netherlands is a latecomer in developing its own offshore wind energy market compared to the United Kingdom and Denmark. However, after a long moratorium on development (from April 2008 until the end of 2015), the Dutch government recently designated three areas for wind farm developments in a race to boost the current capacity from 1,000 MW (including Eneco Luchterduinen and Gemini) to 4,500 MW by 2023.

Dutch 'new style' offshore wind development

In developing its new approach, the Dutch government consulted with market parties and also learned from the experience of Energinet.DK, which is responsible for organising Danish offshore wind tenders. The new approach is presented in the Offshore Wind Energy Law (*Wet Windenergie op Zee*), which is expected to enter into force on 1 July 2015. On behalf of the government, the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland) collects all relevant site information that potential bidders require. The bidder with the best and cheapest plan obtains the permit and grant to develop the park. This approach contributes to efficient use of space, cost reduction and an acceleration of the deployment of offshore wind energy.

The law is good news for the Dutch offshore wind industry, says Tjeu van Mierlo, Director of Zmf, a Zeeland-based environmental association. The uniform development across all Dutch sites ensures better control of quality, costs and environmental impact. Plus, for developers, the time-consuming and expensive site investigations have already been completed.

Zeeland's unique offshore wind consortium

However, the government's policy has also 'reset' the field for existing developers. In 2009 Mierlo was behind a consortium of Zeeland companies that planned to develop the Borssele site under the name Zeeuws Offshore Wind Project (ZOWP). The idea was to use the quiet period of the moratorium to pre-develop the Borssele site, to be one of the first to be ready for a new round 3 offshore permitting scheme, when the government would announce it. But when the government did announce the new permit/subsidy scheme, it became apparent that the new system would entail a price/subsidy system in which all interested parties must compete with each other. "To be successful we really have to focus on our bid quality."



Van Mierlo highlights how the consortium also has a 'multipurpose' benefit. "We're not only focussed on construction of a wind farm, but we're also looking at the effects: what it means to the citizen, what impact it will have on port development, employment and quality of living."

TJEU VAN MIERLO, DIRECTOR ZMF
 i: www.zmf.nl

Grontmij and Pondera map out Borssele's environmental impact

Marc Kreft, Senior Project Manager at consulting and engineering company Grontmij: "For more than ten previous offshore wind farm initiatives in the Netherlands – including the operating offshore wind farm OWEZ and the windfarm currently under construction Eneco Luchterduinen – Grontmij and Pondera Consult have mapped out the environmental impact." They're currently deploying their acquired knowledge and experience for the first offshore wind project in Borssele.

New wind farm to create Operations & Maintenance opportunities

More than 25 of Europe's offshore wind farms have utilised Zeeland Seaports for assembly, construction and logistics. However, to date, the number of local offshore operations and maintenance suppliers has remained limited. The proximity of the Borssele wind farm zone changes everything.



Zeeland Seaports has already reserved 50 hectares and quayside space for new investors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
 PETER GEERTSE, COMMERCIAL MANAGER
 +31 115 647 556
peter.geertse@zeelandseaports.com
 i: www.zeelandseaports.com