

## **WINDFORCE 2012 – More than 250 exhibitors and 50 speakers in 4 days**

**From 26 to 29 June 2012, the future of offshore wind energy in Germany will take centre stage at Germany’s first trade fair for the offshore industry and at WAB’s eighth annual offshore conference.**

**Bremen, 31 May 2012.** Exhibition Hall 5 at the Bremen Fair is almost fully booked. WINDFORCE 2012, Germany’s first trade fair for the offshore wind energy industry, will present more than 250 international exhibitors, including global businesses and young start-ups representing the entire value-added chain. “To exceed the number of exhibitors we expected in our first year is of course a great success. It shows how much a platform like this was needed for the industry. We are looking forward to four informative days at the trade fair”, says Jens Eckhoff, managing director of the Offshore Wind Messe- und Veranstaltungen GmbH.

### **Eighth WAB offshore conference from 26 to 28 June 2012**

The eighth WAB offshore conference will take place at the same time as the trade fair. During the three days of the conference, some 50 speakers will talk about topics such as grid connection, logistics, and pile-driving noise protection. Nine theme sessions will focus on current issues in the industry.

“The conference has developed into *the* meeting place for the offshore industry since 2005 and is a fixture on the calendars of many participants. We are very pleased about this and it spurs us on of course to put together an interesting programme each time”, says Ronny Meyer, managing director of the Wind Energy Agency WAB, the German network for the wind energy sector, now boasting 350 member businesses.

The conference’s official **inauguration event** will take place this year at a Senate Reception in Bremen Town Hall (Rathaus). Jens Böhrnsen, mayor of the City of Bremen, will welcome conference participants and trade fair exhibitors on 26 June, starting at 7 p.m., in the Rathaus’ historic upper festive hall. Mayor Böhrnsen will greet special guest Fergus Ewing, Scotland’s minister for energy, enterprise and tourism, who will sign the city’s Golden Book. Mr Ewing will be in Bremen with a delegation representing the Scottish offshore industry at the WINDFORCE trade fair.

The **first day of the conference**, 27 June, will begin with a panel discussion on “Grid connection for offshore wind energy: Where are we now, what is the right way ahead, what action should we take?” One member of the panel will be Dr Stefan Birkner, Lower Saxony’s minister for environment, energy and climate protection.

This will be followed by the first three theme sessions, covering offshore grid connections, insurance, and pile-driving noise protection. In the evening, the organisers will offer the highlight of the conference, the Maritime Wind Dinner, a popular event traditionally taking place at a special location – and this year is no different. Guests will enjoy a fine meal on 27 June at the ABC-Halbinsel terminal in Bremerhaven, surrounded by the enormous tripods stored here. Manufactured by WeserWind Offshore Construction Georgsmarienhütte at its plant in Bremerhaven, these three-legged giants are used as foundations for wind turbines at sea. The ABC-Halbinsel, an offshore terminal run by BLG Logistics Group, is also a production site for many businesses in the industry.

On 28 June, the **second day of the conference**, participants will be able in the morning to attend one of three theme sessions on offshore financing, offshore grid connections (second part), and offshore logistics, and in the afternoon, one of three theme sessions on offshore special ships, occupational health and safety, and offshore job qualification.

#### **Trade fair open to the public on 29 June 2012**

On Friday, 29 June, the WINDFORCE trade fair will open its doors to the interested public. Those who wish to find out more about the prospects of offshore wind energy can meet with players in the industry between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased directly at the conference on 29 June and cost EUR 15 per person (reduced tickets are EUR 10 per person).

**The registration deadline for the WINDFORCE 2012 conference is 15 June 2012; please register at [www.windforce.com](http://www.windforce.com).**

#### **WINDFORCE 2012**

WINDFORCE 2012 will be held for the first time in Bremen from 26 to 29 June 2012. The event is a continuation of Germany's most important industry conference, WINDFORCE – DIRECTION OFFSHORE. It puts together Germany's first offshore wind energy trade fair (26 to 29 June 2012) and Germany's most important offshore conference (26 to 28 June 2012).

In future, WINDFORCE will alternate each year between Bremen and Bremerhaven. In the 'Bremen years', the trade fair will be added to the event.

The dates for WINDFORCE until 2016:

4 – 6 June 2013	Offshore conference in Bremerhaven
17 – 20 June 2014	Trade fair and offshore conference in Bremen
9 – 11 June 2015	Offshore conference in Bremerhaven
7 – 10 June 2016	Trade fair and offshore conference in Bremen

WINDFORCE is being organised jointly by the Wind Energy Agency WAB and the Offshore Wind Messe- und Veranstaltungen GmbH.

For more information about exhibit space, the programme and prices, please go to: [www.windforce2012.com](http://www.windforce2012.com).

The major sponsors of WINDFORCE 2012 are Alstom Grid and General Cable.

Other sponsors of WINDFORCE 2012 include Ambau, Eurocopter, HGO Intrasea Solutions, Mainstream Renewables, PriceWaterhouseCoopers and WeserWind Offshore Construction Georgsmarienhütte.

**The Wind Energy Agency WAB** is the network of the wind energy industry in Germany's northwest region and the national contact for Germany's offshore wind industry. More than 350 businesses and institutes have become WAB members since 2002. They represent the entire value-added chain of the wind energy sector, from research and production to installation and maintenance. WAB receives core funding from the State of Bremen; all other costs are covered by membership fees. [www.wab.net](http://www.wab.net)

**For more information, please contact:**

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