

The EU-FP7 HiPRWind project starts floating structure manufacturing

Aviles, Spain June 05, 2012

The HiPRWind Consortium announces that the project has reached the manufacturing phase, which will proceed simultaneously in three different cities in the north of Spain: Avilés (Floating platform), Pamplona (Wind turbine generator, WTG) and Bilbao (Mooring system).

The manufacturing phase is led by the partner IDESA, which coordinates the efforts of the eight partners involved in this work package (no. 2). IDESA has also participated actively in previous phases of the project dedicated to the design of the structure, giving support to the designers from the point of view of a skilled and well-know fabricator of big welded steel constructions.

The approximately 1000 t floating steel structure will be in-shop manufactured over the next several months in the company's workshops in Avilés (Asturias, Northern Spain). The structure will hold a marinised 1.5 MW wind turbine generator modified by Acciona Windpower to operate at off-shore conditions, and will be moored to the sea bed through chains manufactured by Vicinay Cadenas SA in Bilbao.

According to the project's manufacturing schedule, the 55 m wide, 36.5m tall triangular semi-submersible structure will be assembled and equipped with advanced sensors in Avilés port during the spring of 2013. The loading out of the floater, the assembly of the WTG and the towing to the test site area where the wind turbine will be installed, will be the following steps. Commissioning is expected for autumn 2013. It will become the first offshore wind turbine generator operating in Spain, and one of the first floating WTG's in the world.

The HiPRWind test platform is planned to be operated until 2015 under the present contract. The sensors installed in the structure and the wind turbine will give the consortium valuable information for the development of future 10+ MW commercial floating wind turbine generators and their associated floating support structures.

The HiPRwind project receives financial support from the European Community under the 7th Framework Programme for RTD, Grant Agreement no. 256812. The budget of HiPRwind is the EU's largest single offshore wind RTD project. Including a "package" of additional supporting activities co-funded by participating Spanish companies and public funding bodies in Spain, the R&D&innovation centered on HiPRwind also represents the largest publicly funded effort for offshore wind within Europe.

More information about the HiPRwind EU project is available on www.hiprwind.eu or from the Coordinator, Mr. J. Bard of Fraunhofer in Germany, E-mail jochen.bard@fraunhofer.de.