

PRESS RELEASE

The politics of energy transition – how the new state governments in North Rhine-Westphalia and Schleswig-Holstein influence the wind industry

HUSUM | 1 August 2017 – The timing of HUSUM Wind, in mid-September, could not be better: the dynamics of the wind energy market become apparent immediately prior to the federal election and shortly after the state elections in Schleswig-Holstein and North Rhine-Westphalia. This year HUSUM Wind will therefore be a platform for very interesting political discourse, especially since North Rhine-Westphalia is sending out a clear message as the wind trade fair's partner state.

The elections have revealed the different political positions and issues in the energy policies of both states. Schleswig-Holstein has long been a wind energy pioneer. The newly elected state government coalition of conservatives, liberals and greens will be vigorously encouraging the wind industry. It will secure and expand wind energy as an economic factor in order to further make the most of the industry's potential. Here the coalition will be relying on increased sector coupling and the promotion of communal wind energy projects, as well as continuing to support offshore wind projects with dedicated focus.

In contrast, the conservative-liberal coalition in North Rhine-Westphalia will rely more on fossil fuels. The planned minimum distance of 1,500 metres to residential buildings will reduce the space available for wind turbines by 80 per cent. This restricts the targeted expansion of the local wind energy market. The overall development of the local industry is considered positive. "In recent years, North Rhine-Westphalia has become the industrial heart of the wind industry. Over 90 businesses and a large communal stand from this year's partner state are impressive proof of how tightly knit businesses in North Rhine-Westphalia are with wind energy", says Peter Becker, managing director of Messe Husum & Congress. In addition the coalition's plan to expand digital interconnectivity is to be welcomed. This is an aspect that will be of crucial importance to wind energy and sector coupling in the future.

The various emphases set as a result of the elections demonstrate the pivotal importance that changes in state and federal government have for the wind industry. Especially the upcoming federal election will be dominating many discussions at the fair. Political agenda settings, such as those resulting from the climate protection agreement, will be the starting point for discussions at HUSUM Wind 2017. Peter Becker wishes above all an intensive dialogue: "HUSUM Wind is an ideal platform for enabling such exchanges. This is where positions can be discussed, prejudices overcome and innovations spurred."

Press image:

Conversations at HUSUM Wind

(Credits: HUSUM WindMesse Husum & CongressRiediger)

HUSUM Wind and WindEnergy Hamburg

HUSUM Wind takes place from 12 to 15 September 2017 and focuses on the industry's most important core market: the cutting edge German wind energy market. Over 650 exhibitors from the onshore and offshore wind industries will be showcasing their most important products and innovations. Every two years this traditional wind industry meeting place in the heart of wind pioneer country on the North Sea coast provides a forum for comparing notes and creates practically oriented added value. WindEnergy Hamburg will be held at Hamburg Messe from 25 to 28 September 2018. The industry's leading trade fair is the global summit for the onshore and offshore wind industries.

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