All the fun of the fairs

Once again PES has all the inside information from the upcoming wind fairs. This time it’s HUSUM Wind and the Offshore WIND Conference, Amsterdam. This is a great opportunity to meet the new comers to our industry, see all the latest developments, catch up with regular contacts and make new ones. So reserve the dates and book your tickets – maybe we’ll see you at one of them.

A fresh breeze in the German market

HUSUM Wind Trade Fair and Congress 2017 takes place from September 12th to 15th 2017, in the heart of Schleswig-Holstein, the wind state. This is where the who’s who of the wind industry comes together to compare notes about important industry issues and the latest developments and product innovations in the German and world markets. It has been the industry’s most important trade fair for the German market for over 25 years. This year it will be particularly interesting.

Around 18,000 trade visitors and 650 exhibitors are expected from Germany and the neighbouring countries. They will be showing their products and services along the entire value chain. This established meeting place attracts trade visitors and experts from all sectors of the industry.

Part of the discussions this year will certainly centre on the changes brought by the amendments to the law. ‘The current reform of the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG) involves some fundamental changes. The changes included in the amendment are ringing in a paradigm shift’, says Peter Becker, managing director of Messe Husum & Congress. ‘After years of state support the wind industry has now moved on to the next level of the energy transition,’ adds Becker.

The free market and the accompanying strong competition will give the German wind industry a completely new look while at the same time returning to its original idea: the use of wind power as the energy of the future.
Focus on sector coupling and offshore

With a separate hall for each and some focus forums, HUSUM Wind, in addition to its usual programme, is focusing on offshore wind and sector coupling and system integration. Due to their large energy yield, offshore wind farms are making an ever-increasing contribution to Germany’s energy supply, and in 2017 the course will be set for their future.

The results of the first round of tenders for offshore wind production were astounding: they show that technical progress and intensive competition will make power from offshore wind farms cheaper in future. Four North Sea wind farms were awarded tenders involving an overall capacity of 1,490 megawatts. Three of the four projects plan to finance themselves through market prices and will do without state subsidies.

While offshore wind farms play a key role in generating energy, sector coupling guarantees better use of the energy produced. Increased dovetailing of the power, heating and transport sectors means that energy can be sent directly where it is needed at any particular time. Sector coupling represents a paradigm shift in the wind industry, putting the emphasis on security of supply and the efficient use of the resources generated.

Extensive congress programme

In addition to the numerous exhibitors there are to discover, the congress programme has been attracting many new visitors every exhibition year. There are several focus forums, for example on the special topics sector coupling and grid integration and offshore.

Two forums deal with the latter, where it is all about the status quo, opportunities and challenges in the market. Suppliers are also getting their money’s worth with two forums – one of which focuses on the offshore sector.

The trade fair’s partner state this year is North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), which has its own forum Wind-Updates NRW 2017. Why NRW was chosen as partner state is obvious: in 2016 NRW gained third place in the national wind expansion rankings, just behind Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein. NRW already boasts more than 15,000 jobs in the wind industry.

Expert lectures give an insight into current developments

‘We want our visitors to network with one another, and that they return to their businesses with fresh ideas and new impulses that they can then implement, and in best case also develop even further. In that respect HUSUM Wind is also a driving force in the industry’, says Peter Becker.

The various expert lectures and rounds of discussions provide an ideal opportunity to do this with top-ranking industry and government representatives. Among the subjects they will be paying special
attention to are sector coupling in northern Germany, current developments in the German wind industry and the significance of the federal election for the wind industry.

The two biggest industry associations are each hosting their own event: a workshop organised by the German Mechanical and Plant Engineering Association (VDMA) will be focussing on Wind Industry Safety Culture, while the German Wind Energy Association (BWE) will be dealing with recycling, repowering and continued operation.

In addition there are three excursions on offer: to an offshore heliport, a variety of firms and a tour of the Windtestfeld Nord test field.

Windcareer job fair: the day for young talent

When the wind family gets together, the younger members have to be there as well. On the last day of the fair, the Windcareer job fair is the meeting place for skilled workers from the industry as well as students and those wanting to make a start in the industry. With over 35 exhibitors and a varied range of lectures, Windcareer is one of the biggest job fairs for the industry.

The job fair also offers a full day of lectures. Topics include career opportunities and paths in the wind industry, company presentations, college courses and occupations requiring training. On guided tours through the exhibition, applicants can also find out about industry trends, career profiles and fields of occupation, while also establishing contacts with possible employers.

‘We cannot achieve energy transition without wind power. If we are to constantly develop pioneering technologies then we need clever and inquisitive minds who like the idea of helping to shape the future of energy – and Husum is where they all come together’, says Peter Becker.

For more info:
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