Robust corrosion protection for offshore wind turbines

- Germany’s Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) adopts joint standard from VGB PowerTech and the Federal Waterways Engineering and Research Institute (BAW) as a mandatory part of planning permission procedures
- Offshore wind turbines are optimally protected, avoiding repairs and ensuring long life

(Essen) Offshore wind turbines have great potential for power generation in these times of energy transition, but also confront manufacturers and operators with new and special challenges. The rough conditions on the open sea with strong winds, high waves and salt water are an ideal environment for corrosion damage on the massive steel structures of wind turbines and other wind farm components. The application of suitable corrosion protection systems aims at making the structures and equipment fit and safe for a service life of usually at least 25 years.

VGB PowerTech (VGB) and the Federal Waterways Engineering and Research Institute (BAW) have now developed a joint standard with which the systems can meet these challenges. The Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) has also adopted the VGB Standard as a mandatory regulation in planning permission procedures for the offshore wind power industry. The standard has been published under the title of “Korrosionsschutz von Offshore-Windenergieanlagen und Windparkkomponenten” (Corrosion Protection for Offshore Wind Turbines and Wind Farm Components).

Dr. Hans Bünting, Chairman of VGB PowerTech e.V. and Chief Operating Officer Renewables, innogy SE, Essen, commented as follows: “With this work, VGB and BAW have increased planning security for the offshore wind industry and in doing so created further impetus for the energy transition. For generally valid standards assist all those involved in the planning and operation of plants.” As Bünting also added, “This firms up the minimum technical requirements for the impending tendering procedures under the terms of the Wind Energy at Sea Act (WindSeeG). VGB as a technical industry association and BAW illustrate with the standard how offshore wind power can be made safer and more efficient in technical and economic terms with efficient work and cooperation. In addition, the VGB/BAW standard sets out clear requirements for all those involved, both on the manufacturers’ side and on that of the operators.”

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The Federal Waterways Engineering and Research Institute (BAW) is the technical and scientific federal authority of the German Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI). Its core task is to provide consultancy to the Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration (WSV) on all issues relating to waterways engineering, especially giving expert opinions regarding structures and equipment of the waterways infrastructure and ensuring they meet safety requirements.

VGB PowerTech e.V. is the international technical association for generation and storage of power and heat, based in Essen. The 478 members in 34 countries represent a generation capacity of 466,000 MW, including 100,000 MW from renewables. VGB groups together professional expertise and services in the fields of engineering, operation, environmental and climate protection, and operation and maintenance management for all methods of power generation and storage.

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