WEATHER CAUSES COMMISSIONING SETBACK

Harsh weather has delayed commissioning of the floating Hibiki offshore wind turbine. Located off the coast of Kitakyushu in water depths of 55m, the project features IDEOL’s “Damping Pool” foundation and a 3MW turbine. According to the project developer, the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organisation (NEDO), commissioning was expected before the end of 2018 but tough sea conditions during the winter months has prevented ‘effective work’ and there is still potential for further delays. Providing the weather remains stable, NEDO aims to finish commissioning by the end of February and the final Safety Management Examinations, performed by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), are scheduled for March. Once commissioned the project will be used to validate IDEOL’s floating technology with a view to equipping future commercial floating wind farms in Japan over the next

CROWN ESTATE READIES NEW LEASING ROUND

Following a second round of engagement on its proposals for new offshore wind leasing, The Crown Estate is now reviewing the feedback it has received from the market and stakeholders to finalise plans for Round 4. The formal launch of Round 4 is anticipated in late Spring 2019. A PQQ (Pre-qualification) stage will commence in May to assess financial ability and technical capability followed by the TT (Invitation to Tender) stage in September. Bids will be assessed on capacity limits (300-1500MW and at least 3MW/km²) and project-specific financial and technical assessment. At least 7GW of capacity is expected to be awarded. The Crown Estate Scotland are also prepping for the launch of the next offshore wind leasing round, Scotwind, in July 2019.

WORK AT HOHE SEE RESUMES

Foundation installation has resumed at EnBW’s Hohe See and Albatros offshore wind farms. Innovation set sail from Eemshaven, Holland, earlier this week carrying the next three monopiles. Construction has been on hold since August following a crane incident. Whilst undergoing maintenance at the quayside in Eemshaven, the box section of the crane boom on Pacific Osprey collapsed onto the deck. Four crew members were injured and significant damage was incurred to the vessel and port infrastructure. Prior to the incident 63 of the 71 foundations had been installed. According to EnBW, despite the setback, Hohe See and Albatros remain on track for commissioning by late 2019. SEA INSTALLER is due on site in the coming weeks to commence installation of the transition pieces. Seafox 5 and Brave Tern will then work in tandem to install the SWT-7.0-154 turbines. As part of 4C Offshore’s latest Construction Vessels Report, an analysis of installation rates was conducted. The findings showed that prior to delays Pacific Osprey achieved a rate of 2.1 days per foundation, comparable with market average. For more information about the report, please contact us.

CHINA BREAKS CAPACITY RECORD

Mingyang Smart Energy has installed the first MySE7.25MW semi-direct-drive offshore wind turbine near Jieyang City, Guangdong Province. With a capacity of 7.25MW the turbine is the most powerful model to be installed in China. The demonstration turbine has been installed onshore as part of the ‘Jieyang Mingyang New Energy Comprehensive Base’ which aims to speed up the research and development of large-scale offshore wind turbines. Investment in the project is in excess 1 billion yuan. The 360 acre site will support large-scale offshore wind turbine testing, intelligent spare parts storage management, offshore wind turbine operation and maintenance and marine rescue comprehensive training centre.

DUNKIRK TENDER HEATS UP

Total, Orsted and Elicio have teamed up to submit a joint bid for the Dunkirk offshore wind farm project. Ten bidders, either as individual companies or consortia, were pre-selected in 2017 to compete in the 600MW Dunkirk tender. Other recently announced competing consortia include Moulin de Flandre (DEME, Quadrant Energies Marines and Shell) and Vents de Dunkerque (Eneco, Borealis, Van Oord and Diamond Generating Europe Limited). Unlike Rounds 1&2, the tender follows a “competitive dialogue” procedure similar to the Danish model, in which technical and environmental studies and surveys are undertaken by the government and thus available to developers before submission of final tenders. The process aims to reduce bid prices by reducing project uncertainties and risk, which caused higher bids in earlier rounds. Furthermore, the winning bidder will obtain the domain concession, thereby reducing the legislative hurdles which have slowed development of the Round 1&2 projects. The final phase of the tender was launched on in November 2018 giving developers four months to submit their bids. The results are expected to be announced in Q2 2019. The French Government is expecting bids of €70/MWh or less.

MAJOR CHINESE CONTRACT WIN

Xiangdan Wind Energy Co., Ltd. successfully won the bid for the first batch of wind turbines for the Zhejiang Jiaxing 1 Offshore Wind Farm Project. The company will supply 38 4.0MW turbines and provide auxiliary equipment, special tools, technical materials and related technical services. Construction of the project started on 8th December 2018 and is expected to continue for another 34 months. The 300MW wind farm is located 20km offshore in the Pinghu Lake area of Hangzhou Bay, where average wind speeds are 7.32m/s and average wind power density is 411W/m². The project is expected to generate 74.495 million kWh of renewable energy per year.

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