Press release, January 27, 2020

New market analysis:
Decommissioning of offshore wind is an overall opportunity

"Europe will set the agenda worldwide for decommissioning". A new market analysis from the Interreg North Sea project DecomTools highlights the potential of the afterlife of offshore wind farms.

Most offshore wind farms are designed for an effective lifespan of 20 to 25 years. After that each park is either replaced by modern components or decommissioned with a sensible dispose of individual components.

The DecomTools project gather partners from Germany, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, the UK and Norway in a four-year project that develops eco-innovative concepts for decommissioning. As part of the project, a brand-new market analysis of offshore wind and decommissioning has been published. The author, Mirko Kruse from Hamburg Institute of International Economics, explains:

"First and foremost, I was surprised by the number of wind turbines that needs to be decommissioned. It was simply higher than expected," says Mr. Kruse.

According to the market analysis, the number of turbines coming into question for decommissioning will steadily increase from 2020 onwards. It is estimated that 22 turbines in 2020, 80 turbines in 2022 and 123 turbines in 2023 will become obsolete which raises the question of how decommissioning must be organised.

Europe as world leader

According to the market analysis, Europe will have a unique potential within the field of decommissioning. Wind Europe expects the installed capacity until 2030 to rise by 253GW whereof 70 GW are installed offshore.

Lead partner in the DecomTools project, University of Applied Sciences Emden/Leer, describes decommissioning as an emerging market with a huge potential for European companies.

"Decommissioning of offshore wind is an overall opportunity for European companies. The issue can expand the existing competencies within the European wind industry – a global stronghold that can be developed further on. By reducing industry cost and CO2 when dismantled parts from wind turbines, decommissioning can be a new green market for growth and job creation in Europe, says Dr. Stephan Kotzur from the University of Applied Sciences Emden/Leer.

Contact:

Dr. Stephan Kotzur
Director of the Institute for Logistics – HILOG, University of Applied Sciences Emden/Leer
Mobile: +49 (0)151 1527 0903 / E-Mail: stephan.kotzur@hs-emden-leer.de

About DecomTools

The project consortium consists of thirteen partners from six countries from the North Sea region, namely Denmark, Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, United Kingdom and Norway. The four-year project will carry out research, demonstration pilots and working tools in different areas such as logistics, infrastructure, ship design, safety or up-/re-cycling. DecomTools is a the Interreg North Sea Region Programme with a 4.7-million-euro budget.
More information at www.northsearegion.eu/decomtools/