

## Continuing Studies Programme in Offshore Wind Energy

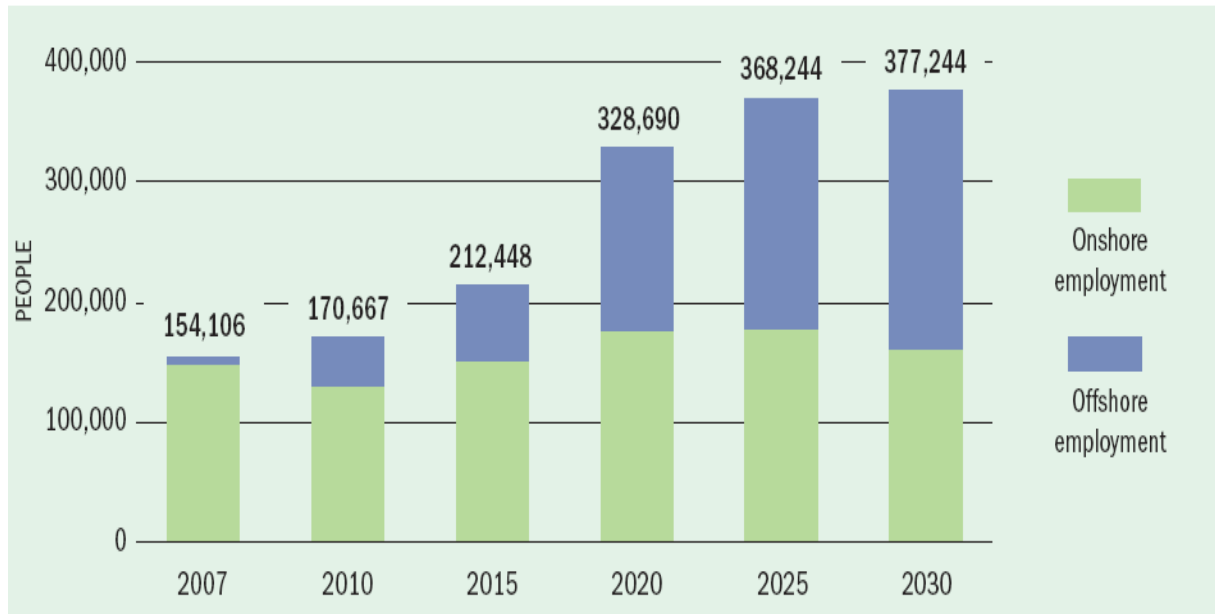
The successful development of the offshore wind energy sector will be closely tied to the availability of qualified personnel and to professional training and qualification opportunities. ForWind, the Center for Wind Energy Research, together with the Wind Energy Agency Bremerhaven/Bremen (WAB) and a number of other partners, including nkt cables GmbH, wpd offshore solutions GmbH, and Bremer Landesbank, is currently developing the **Continuing Studies Programme in Offshore Wind Energy**. It will be designed as a part-time study programme for professionals with academic background. It will be directed equally to recent graduates, specialists and executive staff in the offshore wind energy sector, as well as those who wish to enter this field from other branches and bring with them offshore relevant know-how.



*alpha ventus press photo, Matthias Ibeler. © DOTI 2009.*

## Growing Number of Offshore Wind Personnel

While onshore wind energy will continue to be the largest contributor to employment until around 2025, with the total number of employees still slightly growing, the demand will be exceeded by the rapid growth in the offshore sector, as the EWEA-study “Wind at Work” from January 2009 shows:



*Wind Energy Sector Employment in the EU 2007-2030, „Wind at Work“, EWEA 2009.*

It is clear that the onshore wind energy sector cannot be the sole provider of personnel moving into the offshore sector. People from many branches will have to be trained to get ready for the offshore commitment. Besides for the classical disciplines of engineers, like mechanical or electrical engineers, there will be new career opportunities for highly skilled personnel from maritime industries like oil & gas and shipping.

## Continuing Studies Programme in Offshore Wind Energy

The **Continuing Studies Programme in Offshore Wind Energy** will address the specific challenges that arise from various experts working together, and from the flexibility that will be demanded from employees in this highly innovative industry sector. The programme will foster the know-how transfer from internationally acknowledged experts in the field, thus providing current and expert knowledge. The development of the programme is done in close collaboration with companies, universities and associations.

## Multi-disciplinary Approach

The complexity and size of offshore wind parks along with the high risks in operation and maintenance are all factors that will put the jobs of technical experts and managers on a very high level of responsibility. The **Continuing Studies Programme in Offshore Wind Energy** will address these issues and will provide academic training with a close relation to business practice and the demands for innovation in offshore wind energy in fields such as

- offshore wind resources,
- offshore wind energy technology,

- grid integration,
- foundations and soil structures,
- operation and maintenance,
- international project management, etc.

### **Blended Learning**

The interdisciplinary approach will be the central theme of the nine month long programme, and this will be represented by a strong emphasis on group dynamics and project oriented learning. The programme will have the following key characteristics:

- part-time study programme in English,
- duration approx. 9 months,
- internationally known lecturers,
- reading material on paper,
- seminars and excursions,
- project work,
- online learning and communication,
- certificate issued by the University of Oldenburg.

### **Networking**

A lively network of experts from the offshore wind energy industry will be developed among students and teachers. As alumni the former students will benefit from the know-how gained from the network as they deal with the day-to-day challenges of their work, while keeping them in touch with the industry's newest knowledge.

All participants benefit from the professional networks of ForWind, the Center for Wind Energy Research, and the Wind Energy Agency Bremerhaven/Bremen (WAB).

### **Summary**

The **Continuing Studies Programme in Offshore Wind Energy** is designed to serve as professional development programme for high potentials, experts and managers in offshore wind energy. Besides learning up-to-date know-how participants get trained in international project management, and they become part of an expert network.

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### **Acknowledgement**

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