

**p r e s s   r e l e a s e**

**Clustering the offshore wind energy sector – Approval of transnational project within INTERREG IV B North Sea Region Programme**

Awarding the expertise and benefits of Bremerhaven as one of the European hot spots in the wind energy sector the BIS-led project POWER CLUSTER has been approved on May 28<sup>th</sup> by the Steering Committee of the North Sea Region Programme.

The *Bremerhaven Economic Development Company* (BIS) ([www.bis-bremerhaven.de](http://www.bis-bremerhaven.de)) delegated by the *Federal State of Bremen, the Senator for Environment, Construction, Transport and European Affairs*, will implement this € 5 Million project from 2008-2011 in cooperation with 18 partners from Denmark, United Kingdom, Norway, The Netherlands and Sweden.

Based on the outcomes and experiences made in the former European Regional Development Fund's Interreg project called "POWER", the partnership will foster the well integrated network that has been established throughout the North Sea Region during the last years.

By connecting different sectors and different levels of public authorities POWER CLUSTER will concentrate its activities on the main challenges of the offshore wind energy deployment. Activities concerning Social Acceptance, Business Cooperation and Skills Development will move towards an offshore wind energy cluster.

The Floating Exhibition about offshore wind energy based on a ship heading for a dozen of North Sea port cities is one of the highlights of the project. The exhibition is led by the German project partner *Offshore Wind Energy Foundation* ([www.offshore-stiftung.de](http://www.offshore-stiftung.de)) and co-financed by the *Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety* and addressing the complexity of social acceptance of offshore wind energy in the North Sea Region. The participating partners are aiming to communicate comprehensively the benefits, opportunities and challenges of this young renewable energy technology to the public and relevant stakeholders.

Further information:

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