

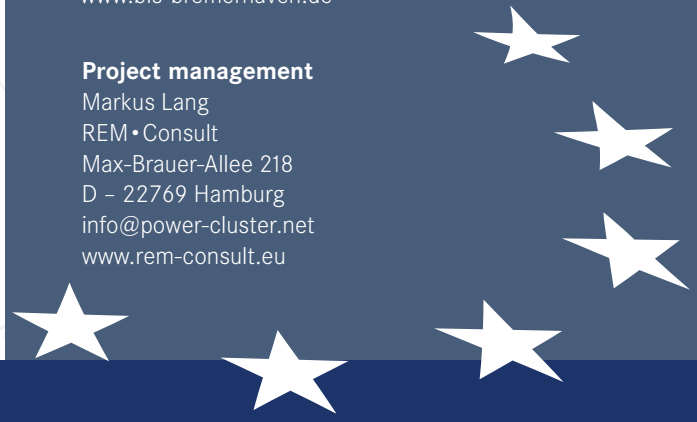


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The Northern European
 competence network
 for offshore wind energy

- BIS – Bremerhaven Economic Development Company GmbH (DE)
- The Senator for Environment, Construction, Transport and European Affairs, Free State of Bremen (DE)
- University of Applied Sciences Bremerhaven (DE)
- Technical College Bremerhaven (DE)
- University of Oldenburg (DE)
- German Offshore Wind Energy Foundation (DE)
- Ministry for Science, Economic Affairs and Transport, State of Schleswig-Holstein (DE)
- Academy of Economics of Schleswig-Holstein (DE)
- Suffolk County Council (UK)
- East of England Energy Group (UK)
- Northumberland College (UK)
- South Denmark European Office (DK)
- Offshore Center Danmark (DK)
- Aalborg University (DK)
- Delft University of Technology (NL)
- Greater Stavanger (NO)
- Chalmers University (SE)
- Municipality of Öckerö (SE)

Duration: 01.07.2008 – 30.06.2011

Budget: 4.998.942 EURO (2.499.471 EURO ERDF)

The transnational POWER cluster partnership is led by BIS in Germany together with 17 other partners from Germany, The United Kingdom, Denmark, The Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

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European Union  The European Regional Development Fund

**The Interreg IVB
 North Sea Region
 Programme**



*Investing in the future by working together
 for a sustainable and competitive region*





1. Social acceptance: Communicating the benefits of offshore wind energy to the public

The partnership will promote the benefits, opportunities and challenges of offshore wind energy to the public and relevant stakeholders with the goal of increasing public acceptance throughout the NSR. This will be achieved through jointly developed and implemented communication strategies. The creation of transnational networks of local authorities, test facilities, science centres and tourism stakeholders is specially focused on:

- Bringing offshore wind energy communities together
- Enhancing cooperative structures between test fields/centres for offshore wind energy
- A joint online information site
- An offshore wind energy information campaign including a touring exhibition on a ship.

For further details please contact acceptance@power-cluster.net

3. Skills: Adapting and preparing the NSR workforce to the needs of offshore wind energy

Overcoming the shortages of a suitably skilled workforce is a particular challenge. The POWER cluster will investigate available training and courses regarding offshore wind energy, and will develop new ones where the need is identified. This will promote career paths and opportunities to young employees on different levels. Areas covered will include:

- Strategies to tackle workforce shortages due to demographic change transformation and migration
- Further and higher education opportunities, including modules for BSc and/or MSc programmes
- Raising the awareness of offshore wind energy careers among teachers and students
- Addressing the shortage of technicians and common training standards
- Promoting qualification pathways.

For further details please contact skills@power-cluster.net

Aim of the project

The POWER cluster partnership builds on an already well developed transnational cooperation network, which is a result of the previous POWER (Pushing Offshore Wind Energy Regions) project. The partnership is therefore able to draw on a huge range of expertise – not only in offshore wind energy, but also in oil and gas and other related marine sectors. This will allow POWER cluster to develop comprehensive approaches to meet the strategic challenges of the offshore wind energy industry in the North Sea Region (NSR) and make the region a better place in which to live, work and invest.



Objectives and work streams

2. Business: Creating a business platform to foster offshore wind energy development in the NSR

This is the heart of the POWER cluster project because industry involvement is essential to achieve the overall project objectives. Experience from the oil and gas industry will provide key information which will influence project activities and also future developments, including:

- Turning contacts to contracts
- Support for offshore wind technology development
- A transnational study: “Offshore wind challenges and learning from the oil and gas industry”
- Identification and evaluation of grid reinforcement/ investment.

For further details please contact business@power-cluster.net

4. Cluster Development: Developing an offshore wind power cluster in the NSR

POWER cluster will also concentrate its activities on further strengthening and facilitation of the partnership, moving from a network to a sustainable offshore wind cluster. This will enhance innovation and learning throughout the complete supply chain and will allow wider economic development to take place across the NSR.

- Updates on the developments of the industry in the NSR
- Two public conferences (middle and end of the project)
- Various dissemination activities such as websites, newsletters, and conferences.

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