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New Danish-German offshore co-operation offers great potential

Synergy across borders and sectors: Offshoreenergy.dk enters into an important co-operation agreement with German energy cluster.

Over 1,000 companies in the German state of Schleswig-Holstein work in the wind energy sector, and with wind farms like DanTysk and Butendiek in the nearby Helgoland cluster the state stands to supply almost half of the total German offshore wind production.

It is therefore a very pertinent co-operation that Offshoreenergy.dk has just entered into with EE.SH (Schleswig-Holstein Renewable Energy Network Agency), a 120-member North German cluster organisation for renewables.

“It is an agreement that offers interesting perspectives and exciting co-operation opportunities for our 240+ member companies”, says Glenda Napier, CEO of Offshoreenergy.dk:

“The German offshore industry is a direct neighbour with considerable potential. We know that a further 1,000 MW will be installed in the Helgoland cluster alone by 2025, and there are also plans to continue expansion elsewhere. The Danish offshore cluster has great expertise in such aspects as installation, commissioning and logistics, which also are directly applicable on the German side of the border”, she adds.

Offshoreenergy.dk is unique in embracing the whole offshore industry – both the golden oil and gas industries and the green wind and wave energy. The synergy offered by the cross-sector transfer of knowledge makes the Danish cluster an interesting partner for EE.SH, says Sascha Wiesner, project manager at EE.SH:

“There are a lot of skills learned from offshore oil and gas, which can be of use to offshore wind. We have members who are active in both areas, but not to the same degree as the Danish offshore cluster. Entering into a co-operation with Offshoreenergy.dk is a great match for us”, says Sascha Wiesner.

Over half of the members in Offshoreenergy.dk are active in both sectors, and the innovations

offered by cross-sector knowledge synergies are obvious:

“We see new innovation in applying existing skills into new areas. Statoil, for example, is building the world’s first offshore wind farm on floating foundations – and 30 per cent of the work is being carried out by subcontractors who only know about oil and gas. This shows the value of considering offshore as a whole”, says Glenda Napier.

“We must become even better at learning from one another and taking advantage of the opportunities for synergies across the whole offshore industry”, says Anders Eldrup, Chairman, Offshoreenergy.dk

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