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WINDSEC

Wind Energy Technology Platform Secretariat

Instrument: Specific Support Action

Thematic Priority: Sustainable Energy Systems

## Publishable Executive Summary

Period covered: from 21/03/2007 to 21/09/2008      Date of preparation: sept. 2008

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Duration: 36 months

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Project coordinator organisation name: EWEA

Revision 1

## Project objectives

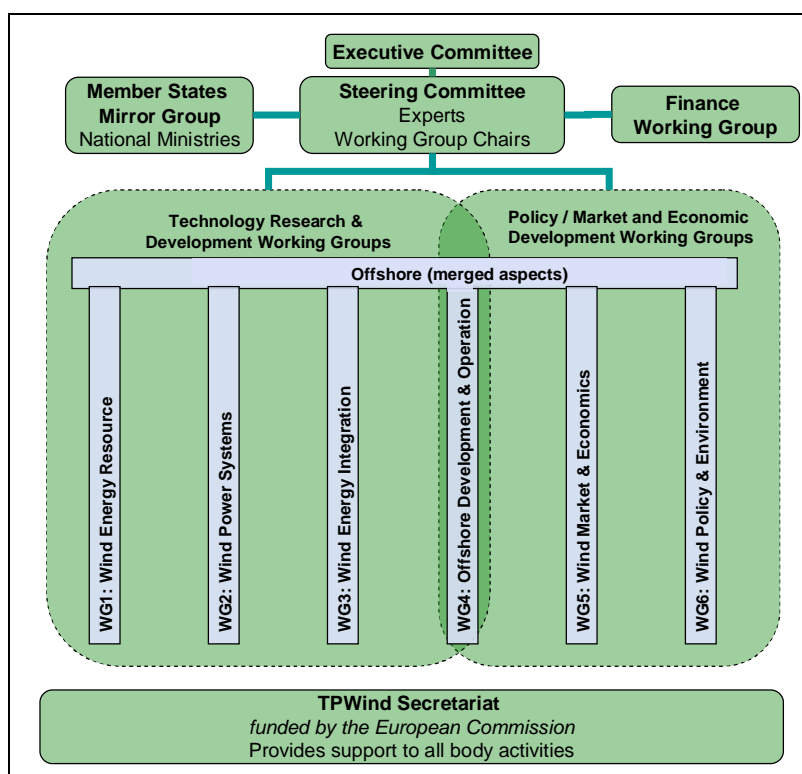
The Secretariat of the Wind Energy Technology Platform (WindSec) optimises the activities of the Technology Platform for Wind Energy, as called for by the July 2004 Informal Competitiveness Council and participants of the Copenhagen Offshore Policy Seminar for Offshore Wind Energy Deployment, in October 2005. The Technology Platform was formally launched in October 2006.

WindSec provides logistical, functional and organisational support to the Technology Platform Steering Committee, its high-level Member States Mirror Group, Working Groups and Financing Group, and, where appropriate, provides intellectual input to their discussions, particularly with regard to the fine-tuning of its Action Plans: the Market Development Strategy and the Strategic Research Agenda.

## The Technology Platform for Wind Energy

The Technology Platform provides a forum for stakeholders from industry, Member States, EU institutions, R&D Institutions, finance organisations, and from throughout the energy sector to achieve the critical mass necessary to agree and map out the priorities for policy and technology research of the sector; and to develop strategic roadmaps towards wind energy development. The figure below provides an overview of the key organs of the platform. The final structure was acknowledged by the TPWind Steering Committee in May 2007.

Figure 1: Structure of the Technology Platform for Wind Energy



The aim of the Technology Platform is to identify new and existing research and development tasks, and to prioritise them. Their primary objective is overall cost reductions through economies of scale achieved through market development and new technology. The platform develops coherent recommendations detailing specific tasks,

approaches, actors and necessary infrastructure, in the context of EU and Member States Programmes, such as FP7 and the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme. Finally it assesses the overall funding available to carry out this work, from public and private sources.

WindSec provides the infrastructure to optimise the work of the platform and ensures the uptake of its findings. It assists the platform to be a flexible entity, able to respond to the changing needs of the sector.

## **WindSec main objectives**

1. **Platform optimisation and infrastructure.** WindSec provides functional, organisational and logistical support to all activities of the Technology Platform (TP), including the optimisation of Working Groups; and organises all TP related events.
2. **Scoping and visualisation of sector R&D needs.** WindSec assists the Technology Platform to ascertain wind energy R&D needs to be met through the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), other EU programmes and National Programmes, and with the strong collaboration of private sector.
3. **A single, powerful voice for R&D Needs.** WindSec assists the Technology Platform to reach out to all key stakeholders throughout the wind energy sector, including EU Institutions, Member States / energy authorities, the wind energy industry, other energy sector stakeholders, R&D institutions and financiers. WindSec communicates the findings of the platform to research actors across the EU and internationally, to ensure maximum positive collaboration, with the objective of raising wind energy R&D to high priority status in national and EU research programmes.
4. **Maximal Sector Sensitivity.** WindSec drives better communication within the wind sector, building interaction between public and private organisations, encouraging the rapid uptake of research findings, and innovation; and externally, with other industry sectors and their technology platforms; exploring areas of technology transfer and resulting new markets. WindSec assesses and monitors ongoing and new research projects in wind energy to provide input to the discussions of the Steering Committee and Working Groups. Thus, it serves as a "Docking Station" for ongoing European Commission funded and other EU and national initiatives and assists in the uptake of their findings, with a view to strengthening the European Research Area.
5. **Effective Action Plans.** The Technology Platform identifies realistic pathways to the resolution of technology and policy hurdles to wind energy penetration into European electricity systems. WindSec is responsible for the analysis and crystallisation of these findings; and develops and produces realistic, concise Action Plans: a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) to cover technology issues; and a socio-economic Market Development Strategy (MDS), covering policy R&D and market development, including short term operational measures.

## ***Work performed***

The Technology Platform was launched on October 2006, in presence of Commissioner Andris Pieļbags.

On period March 2007 - September 2008, WindSec partners organised four Steering Committee meetings. The Steering Committee was particularly active in the election of TPWind Executive Committee, the acknowledgement of TPWind structure and the election

of chairpersons, such as the recruitment of TPWind members and the preparation of the first and second TPWind General Assembly.

On period June to September 2007, WindSec launched a public call for expression of interest to join the Technology Platform. The secretariat received 300 applications. On the basis of objective selection criteria, the Steering Committee selected the 130 TPWind group members.

Members of the Mirror Group were invited by the European Commission. The first Mirror Group meeting took place in Brussels in June 2008.

WindSec organised two TPWind General Assemblies “*..Setting pathways together*” (November 2007) and “*Shaping the vision..*” (February 2008). These events were focused on the development of the TPWind vision, and the elaboration of TPWind Strategic Research Agenda and Market Deployment Strategy documents. **The documents were published and disseminated in July 2008.**

In parallel, WindSec organised two public workshops in the framework of the European Wind Energy Conference (EWEC) (May 2007 in Milan and March 2008 in Brussels).

The third TPWind General Assembly will take place in October 2008, and will focus on the SRA implementation. Indeed, objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the WindSec project are ongoing. The next steps for TPWind are to focus on WindSec objectives 4 and 5:

- **Maximal Sector Sensitivity:** based on strong interactions with Member States and the European Commission, TPWind shall act as a docking station for ongoing European Commission funded and other EU and national initiatives, assisting in the uptake of their findings, with a view to strengthening the European Research Area.
- **Effective Action Plans** by further elaborating on the available Strategic Research Agenda and Market Deployment Strategy, and fostering synergies on specific projects.

### ***Main results: the Strategic Research Agenda and Market Deployment Strategy of the wind energy sector***

All information is available at <http://www.windplatform.eu/92.0.html>. The core document, together with its three annexes, constitutes the first ever strategic analysis of wind energy research carried out on such a scale.

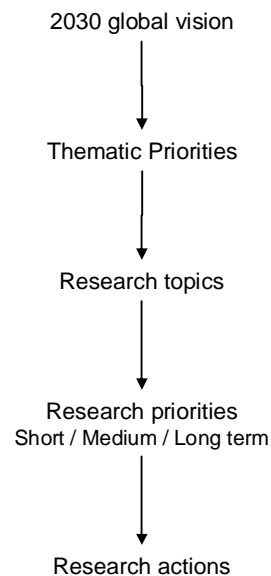
TPWind provides a 2030 vision where the European wind industry continues to lead the global market. Depending on future electricity demand, 21 to 25% of EU electricity consumption, or a total of 300 GW, will be provided by wind, corresponding to nearly 600 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> savings annually. Offshore wind will represent about 10% of the EU's electricity consumption and wind energy will be highly reliable and cost competitive.

By 2030:





- European power markets will be highly efficient and much better integrated, with full separation in ownership of transmission and production activities
- Wind power will no longer be a subsidised energy source. On the contrary, as a result of its volume and market value, it will reduce the variability of both the price and the cost of electricity
- The European wind sector will be a global centre of excellence, driving innovation and creating large numbers of attractive jobs

- The public will strongly support wind energy developments
- Administrative procedures will no longer present obstacles to wind energy development, as they will be more coordinated and efficient
- Wind power will be optimally integrated into the environment, and informed decisions and planning will ensure that the impact on the local environment is minimised

TPWind provides the necessary research, market and policy priorities to implement this vision. For each thematic priority, a 2030 objective is given. The aim is to meet each objective by carrying out relevant research and each thematic priority is therefore allocated various research topics. For each topic, short-, medium- and long-term research priorities are defined, and research actions are then established to meet these priorities. This approach is illustrated in the diagram opposite.



## Consortium

 <a href="http://www.windplatform.eu">http://www.windplatform.eu</a>		
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