



Monthly TPWind Newsletter
August 2012

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If you have any **feedback or questions** about the newsletter, or to **unsubscribe**, please contact Manuela Conconi (manuela.conconi@ewea.org, +32 2 2131856).

Past TPWind newsletters are available here: <http://windplatform.eu/?id=138>.

Section 1 – Funding opportunities

7th Framework Programme

The 2012 FP7 Energy call was published on 10 July 2012. It provides funding for R&D projects in several areas. Those relevant to wind energy players are outlined below:

Call: FP7-ENERGY-2013-1

Deadline: 28 November 2011

Topic ENERGY.2013.2.3.1: Advanced aerodynamic modelling design and testing for large rotor blades.

The main goal is to develop advanced rotor design models, using integral design tools in order to enable new and optimised designs for the next generation of large-scale wind turbines (up to 20MW). This includes research in aerodynamics, structural response and aerolasticity for full as well as segmented blade concepts.

Topic ENERGY.2013.2.3.2: Small to medium size wind turbines.

The projects are expected to deliver low cost, high performance, reliable, durable and safe systems. The research may involve but is not limited to the following areas of work:

- Innovative design, materials and aesthetic solutions;
- New control systems and methods for optimization of operation and maintenance;
- Innovative solutions for transport, assembly and installation thereby minimizing impact in the construction phase.

Call: FP7-ENERGY-2013-2

Deadline: 24 January 2013

Topic ENERGY.2013.7.2.3: Large-scale demonstration of innovative transmission system integration and operation solutions for interconnecting renewable electricity production.

This topic will primarily address the important technological challenges stemming from the large-scale penetration of renewable electricity production in the European transmission network, in particular the integration and transport of foreseen substantial renewable electricity production (including cross-national generation projects) far from consumption centres (e.g. off-shore wind), possibly in combination with the interconnection of EU member states' transmission networks to enable increased balancing and trade of electricity. In addition, the operationalization and integration of storage systems in high voltage networks, as part of the technological solutions to the mentioned challenges as well as in response to the needs of managing the time shift between production and consumption and stabilising the grid, can be addressed.

Call: FP7-ERANET-2013-RTD

Deadline: 28 February 2013

Topic ENERGY.2013.10.1.2: ERA-NET Plus – European wind resource assessment.

The aim of this ERA-NET Plus is to provide the wind energy sector with more detailed resource mapping, through the creation and publication of a new EU wind atlas based on the development of improved models for wind energy physics. It will also include a wind climate database.

Call: FP7-OCEAN-2013

Deadline: 7 February 2013

Topic OCEAN.2013.4: Innovative transport and deployment systems for the offshore wind energy sector.

Research activities under this topic shall address the following aspects:

- Development of innovative and cost-effective deployment strategies for large-scale turbines, including building and testing onshore;
- Elaboration of optimal logistical processes and on-land transport links for large offshore structures;
- Design of novel vessel types and equipment for installation, maintenance and decommissioning and validation at reduced scale;
- Development of safety procedures for installation, operation and maintenance activities, regarding both offshore wind structures and the vessels;
- Improved operations and maintenance including the enhanced role of remote condition monitoring and systems with reduced human intervention;
- Development of new business models at European level for large offshore systems based on integrated life-cycle approaches;

- Development of methods and tools to assess the field performance of offshore wind farms servicing vessels and for optimized service activities in terms of lead time and energy usage.

Call: FP7-ENERGY-2013-IRP

Deadline: 8 January 2013

Topic ENERGY.2013.10.1.4: Support to integrated research Programmes between research performers on innovative research in support of the SET-Plan research and innovation agenda.

The objective of this topic is to support the operation and delivery of integrated research Programmes that bring together and integrate on a European Scale, Programmes of a critical mass of research performers from different Member States, Associated Countries, and, if appropriate other third countries, to advance the longer term research agenda of the SET Plan roadmaps in the fields of solar photovoltaic, wind energy, smart grids, electrochemical storage, bio-energy and Concentrated Solar Power (CSP). This topic represents a pilot exercise for a new way of working at EU level on longer-term research that could be further developed in the next European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS)

Call deadline: 18 September 2012

The Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS) finances research projects in the areas of coal and steel. Its annual budget is about €60 million, of which 72,8% is earmarked for steel-related and 27,2% for coal-related projects.

The RFCS has its origin in the former European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). The ECSC is seen as the foundation of today's European Union. Established by the Treaty of Paris, it expired after 50 years in 2002.

The European Commission manages its residual assets and uses the interests generated yearly to finance research projects in the areas of coal and steel.

These projects cover several areas including steel applications within the renewable energy sector.

The main features of the RFCS scheme are the following:

- No budget limit for projects - Typically in the range of €1-2 million.
- Organisations worldwide can participate - Only consortium partners from the EU receive funding.
- Any consortium size is welcome
- No set project duration - Typical research projects last 3-4 years.
- Use the experience of previous projects - Programme synopsis are available on http://cordis.europa.eu/coal-steel-rtd/synopsis_en.html
- Get full information on the programme - Please refer to the Information Packages (Infopacks) available on http://cordis.europa.eu/coal-steel-rtd/infopack_en.html

Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) - Eco-Innovation

Deadline: 6 September 2012

The CIP Eco-Innovation First Application and Market Replication Projects Programme aims to bridge the gap between research, technological demonstration, prototyping and commercialisation. Pure research, which receives support at EU level through the 7th Framework Programme, is therefore not covered.

CIP Eco-Innovation supports projects dealing with the first application or market replication of eco-innovative products, processes or practices which have already been technically demonstrated but due to remaining risks need incentives to penetrate the market. Projects should be innovative and bring both economic and environmental benefits.

Objectives of this call:

- Promote the adoption of new and integrated approaches to eco-innovation in fields such as environmental management and more environmentally friendly products, processes and services;
- Encourage the uptake of environmental solutions by increasing the market and by removing barriers to market penetration. Solutions are understood to include high added value products, processes, technologies or services;
- Increase innovation capacities of SMEs.

Five strands are included in this call:

- Materials recycling;
- Sustainable buildings products;

- Food and drink sector;
- Water;
- Greening business.

The indicative total budget of this call is €34.830.000 and the EU co-funding share is 50% of eligible project costs.

More information is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eco-innovation/getting-funds/call-for-proposals/index_en.htm

Section2 – Secretariat's news

European Wind Initiative (EWI) and current FP7 Energy call for proposals

The last FP7 Energy call for proposals was published on 10 July 2012.

The vast majority of its wind energy topics are taken from the EWI 2012 Work Programme, developed and approved by the Wind European Industrial Initiative Team (Wind EII Team¹) on the basis of inputs provided by TPWind.

This demonstrates the ability of the Platform of effectively implementing the EWI and influencing the allocation of EU funds for wind energy projects.

In greater details, the following topics are based on the EWI 2012 Work Programme:

- Topic ENERGY.2013.2.3.1: Advanced aerodynamic modelling design and testing for large rotor blades;
- Topic ENERGY.2013.7.2.3: Large-scale demonstration of innovative transmission system integration and operation solutions for interconnecting renewable electricity production. This topic is the combination of three grid integration topics suggested by TPWind;
- Topic ENERGY.2013.10.1.2: ERA-NET Plus – European wind resource assessment.

Five out of nine FP7 topics recommended in the EWI 2012 Work Programme were therefore taken onboard by the FP7 Programme Committee. This is an excellent result for TPWind and a considerable improvement over 2011 (when only two out of seven FP7 topics suggested by the Platform were published).

The last FP7 Energy call also includes the following topics focusing on wind energy:

- Topic ENERGY.2013.2.3.2: Small to medium size wind turbines. Small wind is not a top priority for TPWind or the EWI. However, the FP7 Programme Committee (composed of EU and national representatives only – TPWind is not involved in it) asked for dedicated EU support in this area. This is the only case where an obvious lack of alignment between the Platform recommendations and the contents of the call can be recorded;
- Topic ENERGY.2013.10.1.4: Support to integrated research Programmes between research performers on innovative research in support of the SET-Plan research and innovation agenda. This topic will mainly contribute to the implementation of EERA's Joint Programme on wind energy. It should therefore reinforce EERA's links with the EWI and TPWind;
- Topic OCEAN.2013.4: Innovative transport and deployment systems for the offshore wind energy sector. This topic was not included in our EWI 2012 Work Programme. However, it was drafted by taking the overall EWI priorities into account. For this reason, it is clearly based on the work done by TPWind.

¹ The Wind EII Team is the EWI implementing mechanism and is composed of EU, national, TPWind and EERA representatives. EERA is the European Energy Research Alliance.

Section 3 – Members' news

EU wind power industry calls for a solution to rescue the ETS

EWEA calls for removal of 2.6 billion emissions allowances

The now massive oversupply of CO₂ emission allowances on the market must be addressed to avoid a collapse of the Emission Trading System (ETS) that was put in place to reduce CO₂ emissions. The European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) proposes the following two-step approach:

- Firstly: delay 2.6 billion emission allowances due to be auctioned from 2013.
- Secondly: remove these allowances from the market completely as soon as possible, to avoid speculation and provide price visibility for investors.

Intervention in the market for CO₂ emission allowances is needed because the economic crisis led to a massive price downturn for emission allowances that removed any incentive to reduce CO₂ emissions. The European Commission is by law entitled to propose such a delay. It has already taken action to avoid high prices in the past. It must now take action to avoid a price collapse.

Stopping the collapse

The EU's steel and cement sectors, and the EU's power sector, are among those that have profited from the oversupply of emission allowances. The power sector bought cheap allowances from the EU's heavy industries that received them for free; and did not need them due to the crisis. The power sector then passed the costs for buying these allowances to electricity consumers. The ETS, supposed to be a flexible carbon pricing system, has become a carbon subsidy for heavy industry players.

Rémi Gruet, EWEA's Senior Regulatory Affairs Advisor for Environment and Climate Policy comments: "Today the oversupply of emission allowances is proven, the solution exists and the European Commission can legally postpone the quantity of new allowances released on the market. There is no time to wait to take action to incentivise the move away from fossil fuels to renewables. This will benefit Member States by increasing auctioning revenues, as well as the EU industry, which is today increasingly relying on sectors which benefit from carbon pricing."

See http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/ets/auctioning/third/faq_en.htm for more information.

You may also read EWEA's position paper, "[Solutions to a low CO₂ price - Delaying allowances auctions and ensuring removal of surplus](#)".

Managing Climate Risks of Wind Investment: State-of-the-Art Forecasting of Energy Yields 1-30 Years in the Future

Natural hazards such as the impact of climate variability, defined as the "behaviour" of short-term weather over relatively long time periods², pose a new type of risk to the power sector that is hardly understood by renewable energy stakeholders. Energy yields from wind projects are directly linked to a large array of climate parameters (e.g. wind speed, wind direction). Consequently, strategic decisions related to wind project investments and the integration of wind energy into the grid system becomes increasingly complex given the variability of climate.

A recent report³ from The Economist, sponsored by Swiss RE, states that if weather-related risks materialise, they can have two types of effect for developers of wind farms. One is that energy yields fall short of estimated levels, so that revenue consistently comes in below projections over the life of the project. "In some cases, such shortfalls are attributable to inadequate weather (and climate) data used in the planning phase." The other possible impact is the volatility of earnings from year to year. Some projects are financed with up to 80% debt and interest on the debt remains payable every year—whether there is wind or not. The most significant overall risk is therefore that not enough megawatt hours can be generated from the project to capture energy sales to pay down debt in any given quarter or year. The report concludes that weather-related risks can "threaten the economic viability of wind projects" and that "in the future, climate change may increasingly lead to even greater risks (for the wind energy sector)".

²http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/noaa-n/climate/climate_weather.html

³The Economist (2011): Managing the risk in renewable energy, Economist Intelligence Unit on behalf of SwissRe, October 2011

Recent advances in science and technology has significantly contributed to the skill of seasonal to decadal⁴ climate forecasting - an estimate of future climate variations at different time-intervals from 1 month to 30 years. Climate forecasting produces future climate data, using the predicted evolution of the climate from an initial condition, and where the predicted values come from numerical models based on the physics of how the climate system “behaves”. In addition to the natural variability of the atmosphere, it is also likely to be altered and/or heightened due to rising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere from human-induced activities.

Climate information over the coming seasons, years or decades can now be modelled to evaluate climate vulnerability and facilitate the management of climate risks and opportunities. Research in advanced climate forecasting at these timescales are only now starting to be available for the renewable energy sector, driven by European funded climate service research projects. Lead contributors to this research includes IC3, a public, non-profit institution based in Barcelona that undertakes top-level global research in the field of climate sciences. IC3's Climate Forecasting Unit (CFU), led by Professor Francisco J. Doblas-Reyes, use state-of-the-art dynamical, global forecast systems alongside statistical, local forecast systems to seamlessly predict climate variations in a probabilistic way. The quality of the information is objectively assessed and compared to other forecast systems available worldwide, while the physical processes at the origin of the prediction skill are studied using sensitivity and idealised experiments carried out by CFU climate scientists.

The CFU has a particular interest at advancing the frontier of climate prediction by exploring the impact of substantial increases in model resolution, from global to local scales. This has facilitated the application of seasonal to decadal forecasts to specific wind energy project investment sites, within the CFU lead research project ARECS: Advancing Renewable Energy with Climate Services. ARECS aims to evaluate the local climate vulnerability of wind energy projects, and facilitate the management of their climate risks and opportunities, such as unexpectedly low or high wind energy yields due to unforeseen climate variability. With successful climate risk management, the wind energy sector can adapt to the impacts of seasonal, inter-annual or decadal climate variability so that it is best positioned for a strong and stable future growth.

For more information on seasonal to decadal climate forecasting, or to join the ARECS project initiative, please contact melanie.davis@ic3.cat or visit: www.ic3.cat

In this section of the newsletter articles produced directly by TPWind members are published, providing members with the opportunity to inform the Platform of their most recent achievements, plans, products, studies or R&D efforts.

Every month, two to four short articles (maximum 250 words) will be selected by the Executive Committee or the Secretariat and will be included in this section of the newsletter, along with the contact details of the person or company publishing the article.

The Secretariat invites all TPWind members who would like to publish an article in the next issue of this newsletter to contact Manuela Conconi and send her their contribution by 17 August at the latest (manuela.conconi@ewea.org; +32 2 2131856).

The Secretariat would like to remind all readers that this newsletter is sent to all TPWind members, to those included in the reserve lists of the Platform as well as to selected EC and EWEA representatives (approximately 500 people in total).

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⁴The seasonal to decadal timescale (2012-2042) is distinctly different to the more commonly reviewed climate change timescales, such as those of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that start from 40years onwards e.g. 2050+

Section 4 – Events

TPWind 2nd Energy Event

2 October 2012 - Brussels, Belgium

The **2nd TPCWind Energy R&D Event** will take place on **Tuesday, 2 October** at *Square* (rue Mont des Arts, 1000, Brussels) from 16.00 to 20.00.

The event will focus on cross-sectoral offshore renewables activities and will be organised together with the TPCWind Advisory Board. The aim of the event is to provide an opportunity to discuss R&D issues shared by wind energy and other sectors (in particular oil, gas and ocean energy).

The event will be **open to the public and free of charge** and will include a networking cocktail.

As always TPCWind members will have the opportunity to hold Working Group meetings in the morning and in the first half of the afternoon. Specifically, TPCWind members will focus on the update of the Strategic Research Agenda / Market Deployment Strategy (SRA/MDS).

For more information on the event please contact Manuela Conconi (manuela.conconi@ewea.org; +32 2 2131856).

Technology Workshops in 2012:

Save the date!

Wind Turbine Noise: From Source to Receiver

11-12 December 2012 - Oxford, UK

EWEA's third technology workshop will provide a unique, industry-only forum within which to discuss the key acoustic issues currently facing the industry. Participants will leave the workshop with:

- a thorough understanding of the key issues involved in designing wind farms that will be 'good neighbours' to their local residents;
- insight into the challenges that the industry will face and the way forward;
- a network of acoustic contacts that will help them in their own activities as we move forward to 2020.

The workshop will take place over one and a half days with five sessions focusing on:

- Wind Turbine Noise at Source – The Impact of the Design
- Wind Farm Design – Being a Good Neighbour
- Real-World Noise Measurements – Emission and Immission
- National Guidelines and Human Perception of Noise
- Wind Turbine Noise – Tones, Amplitude Modulation (AM), Low Frequency Noise (LFN) & Infrasound

[Programme and registration](#)

EWEA Emerging Market Workshops 2012:

See www.ewea.org/events for full information

In 2012, EWEA continues its series of free-to-attend policy workshops in emerging wind markets organised in co-operation with the national associations.

2nd Annual Romanian Wind Energy Forum

Constanta, Romania

5-7 September 2012

www.windenergyforum.ro

Organised by: Romanian Wind Energy Association (RWEA)

In association with: EWEA

4th Annual Wind Energy in Bulgaria Workshop

Sofia, Bulgaria

20 November 2012

www.ewea.org/events

Organised by: EWEA

In association with: Bulgarian Wind Energy Association (BGWEA), Bulgarian Association of Producers of Ecological Energy (APEE)

For full information on these and other EWEA events see: www.ewea.org/events

Interested in extra visibility for your organisation at these workshops?

Contact Tim Robinson - tim.robinson@ewea.org or tel: +32 2 213 1844 for the contact details of the relevant national association.

EWEA 2013 Annual Event, 4 – 7 February 2013 in Vienna, Austria

Exhibition sales: In 2013, [EWEA 2013 Annual Event](#) - Europe's premier wind energy event - will take place in Vienna, Austria; a central European location, ideally situated near Europe's emerging wind energy markets. Showcase your products and services to over 10,000 participants. Over 60% of exhibition space has already been booked. Don't miss your chance to get a prime location in the exhibition halls.

To enquire about exhibiting contact the Sales Team: [sales\(at\)ewea.org](mailto:sales(at)ewea.org)

Call for abstracts: The EWEA annual conference programme features hundreds of high-quality presentations covering the length and breadth of the wind energy sector. Submitting an abstract gives you the opportunity to showcase your research project, case study, policy/market update, best practices etc., in front of thousands of wind energy professionals. View the [preliminary conference programme overview](#)

If you or any of your colleagues are interested in speaking at the event, you can submit an abstract until 16 September.

[Read more about submitting an abstract.](#)

EWEA OFFSHORE 2013, 19 – 21 November 2013 in Frankfurt, Germany

The [EWEA OFFSHORE 2013](#) conference and exhibition will build on the success of the 2011 edition, which attracted more than 480 exhibitors and over 8,200 participants. The 2013 edition of EWEA OFFSHORE will take place in Frankfurt - Europe's financial capital and truly international business location. This unique international platform provides the ideal location to do business with key offshore wind industry players from over 40 different countries.

Exhibition sales are now open and sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, email the Sales Team: sales@ewea.org

EWEA 2014 Annual Event, 10 – 13 March 2014 in Barcelona, Spain

The [EWEA 2014 Annual Event](#) will take place in the modern venue of Fira de Barcelona Gran Via, offering 14,000m² of exhibition space in a location which is easy to get to and only a short distance from both Barcelona's El Prat international airport (7 km) and the city centre itself.

Exhibition sales are now open. To enquire about exhibiting contact the Sales Team: [sales\(at\)ewea.org](mailto:sales(at)ewea.org)

Industry for Industry

Support EWEA because we support you

Revenues from EWEA events and membership go right back into the industry, making EWEA's policy and lobbying activities possible. By attending this event you are directly strengthening the voice of the industry. Your money goes further than you think!

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