



Monthly TPWind Newsletter
December 2011

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If you have any **feedback or questions** about the newsletter, or to **unsubscribe**, please contact Filippo Gagliardi (filippo.gagliardi@ewea.org, +32 2 2131813).

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

Section 1 – Funding opportunities

7th Framework Programme for Research and Development

The new FP7 Energy calls for proposals (belonging to the 2012 Work Programme) were published on 20 July, 2011. The topics outlined below are relevant to wind energy operators.

For a full description of these topics and more information on the application procedure, please visit the following web-page: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/fp7_calls.

Call deadline: 24 January 2012

NMP.2012.4.1-4 Substitution of critical raw materials: networking, specifying R&D needs and priorities

Content/scope: Raw materials are an essential part of both high tech products and every-day consumer products. The European Commission has adopted a new integrated strategy which sets out targeted measures to secure and improve access to raw materials for the EU (Communication on raw materials COM(2008)699 and accompanying Commission Staff Working Paper SEC(2008)2741 of 4 November 2008). The ad-hoc group of the Raw Materials Supply Group has issued a report containing policy-oriented recommendations to secure access to critical raw materials and to enhance its efficient use (Critical raw materials for the EU – Report of the Ad-hoc Working Group on defining critical raw materials).

Amongst other actions, the report recommends: (i) to improve the availability of reliable, consistent information in relation to raw materials; encouraged more research into life-cycle assessments for raw materials and their products on a 'cradle-to-grave' basis; (ii) to create a working group(s) to further analyse the impact of emerging technologies on demand of raw materials; and (iii) to engage in policy actions to make recycling of raw materials or raw material-containing products more efficient, including the promotion of research on system optimisation and recycling of technically-challenging products and substances, according to an appropriate LCA approach. The report also recommends that substitution should be encouraged, notably by promoting research on substitutes for critical raw materials in different applications and to increase opportunities under EU RTD Framework Programmes.

The proposed support action should network interested stakeholders, in order to create a pole of competence on the emerging field of the substitution of critical raw materials. It should identify and propose initiatives to help to address relevant EU policies effectively, and also address the specificities of this area such as its industrial, environmental, economic and geopolitical aspects. During its life, the action should collect and elaborate data and make available to the EU Institutions and Member States accurate pictures, analysis of needs, threats and opportunities and proposals for further action. A roadmap of actions, actors and timing, including mapping and networking of existing national activities and/or centres should be developed. During negotiations, complementarity will be ensured with work performed in response to topic GC.SST.2012.1-3, 'European strategy for rare materials and their possible substitution'.

Call deadline: 8 March 2012

Topic ENERGY.2012.2.3.2: Demonstration of innovative designs to reduce fatigue loads and improve reliability of multi-MW turbines

Contents/scope: A strategic objective of the industrial initiative of the SET Plan on wind energy is to reduce cost of energy by improving reliability and availability of wind turbines and their components. Optimizing operation and maintenance is an additional strategy for achieving this objective. Both increasing reliability and optimizing operation and maintenance have a direct impact on the availability of wind turbines and thus reduce costs and increases energy output.

This strategy contributes considerably to making wind energy fully competitive. This topic focuses on the first strategy: improving reliability by incorporating this concept in the design process of the entire wind turbine system. The main goal of the project will be to upgrade existing reliability engineering methodologies to large wind turbine systems and demonstrate their effects during operation. The projects could address different types of climatic conditions and geographical locations in order to demonstrate improved reliability and availability under such operating conditions.

The application of reliability engineering methods and their validation may be applied to new rotor concepts and other turbine components, such as drive train components, designed for very large wind turbines (in the 2 to 6 MW range), in particular for offshore applications.

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Section 2 – Secretariat news

New TPWind Steering Committee members to be announced on 12 December

The selection procedure of new TPWind Steering Committee members is almost complete: new ones will be officially announced on 12 December.

The Steering Committee is the Platform main decision making body composed of 25 senior wind energy experts. Its new members were selected through an ad-hoc call for expression of interest, launched by TPWind on 18 July and closed on 30 September.

New TPWind Steering Committee members will serve a 3-years term, starting on 1 January 2012 and finishing on 31 December 2014.

Current Steering Committee members are visible on the Platform website (<http://www.windplatform.eu/5.0.html>): this webpage will be updated on 12 December to reflect the new composition of the Steering Committee.

Implementation of the European Wind Initiative (EWI): latest developments

The implementation of the European Wind Initiative is advancing and the latest developments are:

- The EWI 2012 Work Programme, outlining the funding recommendations of the Wind European Industrial Initiative Team (Wind EII Team) for next year, has been recently finalised. The Wind EII Team is composed of TPWind, European Energy Research Alliance (EERA), EU and Member States representatives. Its goal is to translate the EWI into recommendations for budget allocations and calls for proposals at both EU and national level, in order to ensure its proper implementation. The EWI 2012 Work Programme will soon be uploaded in the TPWind online members' lounge: Platform members will therefore have the possibility of analysing the Wind EII Team funding recommendations for 2012.
- TPWind and the EU's Joint Research Centre (JRC) finalised the EWI overarching and project specific KPIs (key performance indicators). KPIs were discussed during the summer and approved at the last Wind EII Team meeting, held in Brussels on 27 September. Moreover, the Wind EII Team suggested creating a raw materials index to discount the effect of large market-triggered variations to the costs of raw materials. The implementation of this system will be discussed at future Wind EII Team meetings.
- TPWind Working Groups are currently finalising the new EWI Implementation Plan, which will cover the 2013–2015 period and will replace the current one (focusing on 2010–2012 and available on the SET-Plan website (http://ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/initiatives/initiatives_en.htm)). The new Implementation Plan will also be finalised in the first half of 2012 at the latest. The next round of TPWind Working Groups' meetings, to take place in Brussels on 6 March 2012, will therefore focus on this goal (see the "Events" section of this newsletter for more information).
- TPWind is currently rewriting the grid integration strand of the EWI, in order to avoid overlaps with the European Electricity Grid Initiative (EEGI). The new strand, together with a list of binding recommendations for the EEGI, will be finalised in the coming months. Following this step and pending the approval of the EEGI, the new strand will be published by the European Commission as an annex to the EWI and to the EEGI.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will soon be signed between TPWind and the European Energy Research Alliance (EERA), to define their roles in the implementation of the EWI and EERA's Joint Programme on wind power, which are both part of the SET-Plan. EERA is a network of prominent EU R&D centres and since May 2011 it is contributing to the implementation of the EWI. For reciprocity reasons, TPWind will be involved in the implementation of EERA's Joint Programme on wind power, which shares many of the EWI objectives although on a different timescale (the EWI looks primarily at the reduction of the cost of energy; EERA focuses mainly on long-term R&D issues). The MoU will ensure clarity in the TPWind-EERA cooperation: TPWind will maintain

responsibility for the implementation of the EWI while EERA will continue to act as the coordinator of its Joint Programme on wind power.

- TPWind is actively contributing to the development of Horizon 2020, the successor to the FP7 that will allocate EU R&D funds over the 2014 – 2020 period. To do so, in November TPWind submitted two key documents to the European Commission: a letter highlighting the financial needs of the EWI (sent to the Climate Action, Energy and R&D Commissioners) and a discussion note providing inputs on how Horizon 2020 should work to improve its effectiveness and its support for wind energy. Both documents were discussed in meetings held between EC officials and TPWind Secretariat representatives. In 2012, the last FP7 Energy call for proposals will be published. Following this step, the transition into Horizon 2020 will begin. TPWind will therefore keep its members updated on the developments and will work to create the conditions for an easier and more effective implementation of the EWI over the 2014 – 2020 period.

Additional information on the implementation of the EWI will be provided in upcoming issues of this newsletter.

More information on the EWI and the SET-Plan is available on the following European Commission's website: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/set_plan/set_plan_en.htm

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Section 3 – Members' news

Rare earths: wind power industry NOT a major user

The misperception that Europe's wind power industry is a major user of rare earth metals can now be laid to rest. The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) has published its "Report on Critical Metals in Strategic Energy Technologies", clearly showing that the European wind industry is not a significant user of rare earths.

"The share of the neodymium and dysprosium that will be used by the European wind power sector in the 2020-2030 timeframe would remain 1% of world supply were realistic supply assumptions used", said Justin Wilkes, Policy Director of the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) on 28 October in Brussels.

The JRC report correctly identifies the increasing use of permanent magnet generators in wind turbines. The main materials used in these magnets are rare earth oxides, mainly neodymium and dysprosium.

The report states:

- Neodymium - in 2020 the European wind industry will use between 326 and 635 tonnes, equivalent to between 1.8% and 3.5% of world's 2010 supply, and in 2030 will use between 192 and 730 tonnes, which is between 1.1% and 4.0% of world's 2010 supply.
- Dysprosium - in 2020 the European wind industry will use 22 and 44 tonnes, equivalent to between 1.9% and 3.6% of world's 2010 supply, and in 2030 will use between 13 and 50 tonnes, which is between 1.1% and 4.2% of world's 2010 supply.

The major shortcoming of the report is the assumption that supply of the rare metals will not increase beyond 2010 levels, despite future supply scenarios being publicly available.

EWEA research shows the European wind industry would use 0.81% of world supply of neodymium in 2020, 0.95% of world supply of dysprosium in 2020, and 0.35% of world supply of neodymium in 2030 and 0.41% of world supply of dysprosium in 2030.

Please find a detailed EWEA response to the Joint Research Centre [here](#).

The JRC Report on Critical Metals in Strategic Energy Technologies can be found [here](#).

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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 Filippo Gagliardi and send him their contribution by 16 December at the latest (filippo.gagliardi@ewea.org; +32 2 2131813).

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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Section 4 – Events

March 2012

TPWind 8th General Assembly

6 March 2012 - Brussels, Belgium

The 8th General Assembly will be a key event for TPWind, as it will be the first since the selection of its new Steering Committee members.

As always TPWind members will have the opportunity to hold Working Group meetings where future projects and activities of the Platform will be discussed. Specifically, TPWind members will focus on the implementation of the European Wind Initiative (EWI) over the 2013 – 2015 period.

Furthermore, a plenary session will be organised to provide TPWind members with a comprehensive update on Platform's plans and EU wind energy policies.

The 8th General Assembly will include a networking cocktail.

For more information on the event, which is **for TPWind members only**, please contact Filippo Gagliardi (filippo.gagliardi@ewea.org; +32 2 2131813).

April 2012

EWEA 2012 Annual Event

16 – 19 April 2012 - Copenhagen, Denmark

The EWEA Annual Event is Europe's **premier wind energy event**; a place where the industry's brightest minds meet to exchange the latest knowledge, forge meaningful business relationships and create connections with influential people from around the world.

It combines a comprehensive, **high-quality conference** with a **first class exhibition** and **incomparable networking opportunities**. This is why it is considered unmissable by the international wind energy community.

Over 10,000 professionals from around the world are expected to attend and experience the **power** of the wind energy industry.

The call for abstracts closed on 25 November. EWEA received over 600 submissions along the six thematic lines of the conference program:

1. **Policies, markets & programmes**, chaired by Jan Hylleberg, DWIA
2. **Financing**, chaired by Michael Liebreich, Bloomberg New Energy Finance
3. **Hardware technology**, chaired by Henning Kruse, TP Wind
4. **Resource assessment**, chaired by Jos Beurskens, ECN Wind Energy
5. **Grids & infrastructure**, chaired by Frans van Hulle, EWEA
6. **Science & research**, chaired by Peter Tavner, EAWE

A committee of experts will review all of the abstracts and select the freshest and most cutting-edge ideas for the conference programme, which will be communicated by the end of January 2012.

The preliminary conference program can already be consulted online and if you register before 20 December you can benefit from the early bird rates and save up to 25%.

More than 300 leading companies from the whole wind energy value chain have already reserved their booth at the exhibition grounds. [See the exhibitor list already on the exhibition floor](#)

Upcoming EWEA Workshops

In addition to its main events, EWEA also organises focused events on issues of strategic importance to members and the industry as a whole. In 2012, EWEA will return to Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria with its fourth consecutive series of conferences in emerging wind markets organised in co-operation with the national associations.

EWEA will continue its highly successful series of policy debates in Brussels, attracting key EU decision makers and making wind energy an integral part of energy discussions at EU level.

Following the success of the technology workshop for specialists in 2011, EWEA will hold a second one in 2012, plus an 'introduction to wind energy' seminar for those new to the industry on the eve of EWEA Annual 2012, as well as further events related to European projects including Twenties, TPWind and SEANERGY 2020.

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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