



Monthly TPWind Newsletter
November 2011

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Produced for TPWind by the European Wind Energy Association

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://www.windplatform.eu/9.0.html>.

Section 1 – Funding opportunities

7th Framework Programme for Research and Development

The new FP7 Energy calls for proposals (belonging to the 2011 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: 8 November 2011 (pre-proposals only – this topic follows a two-stage evaluation procedure)

Topic NMP.2012.2.2-4: Cost-effective materials for larger blades for off-shore wind energy applications

Content/scope: Off-shore wind offers enormous potential but also poses great technical challenges. The industrial initiative in the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) on wind energy thus considers this as one of its strategic objectives. In particular, new cost-effective materials, architectures, and processes are crucial for the next generation large-scale off-shore wind turbine generators. As a non-binding example: 90- metre blades are considered to be a possible target combination with materials that can offer a weight reduction of about 40% compared with standard designs.

Research proposals should address the development of innovative advanced materials and/or material combinations (including coatings) associated with the rotor, and in particular the blades, of an off-shore wind turbine generator. The reduction of the weight of the components without sacrificing their strength is a key objective with increasing rotor diameter. The proposed solutions should demonstrate to cope realistically with the particular and stringent demands of large blades in view of off-shore applications, such as e.g. long term operation in a corrosive and humid environment, under severe temperature variations and high load conditions. Compliance with environmental regulations as well as the environmental sustainability of each proposed solution shall be assessed with special emphasis on the recyclability. Blade design may be addressed if specifically relevant to the development of the materials. Dedicated modelling, standardisation, improvement of rotor blade test methods and/or the production of (certified) reference materials may also be addressed as an integrated part of the research proposal.

In order to ensure industrial relevance and impact of the research effort, the active participation of industrial partners, including end users and those involved in industrial development in harsh environments, represents an added value to the activities and this will be reflected in the evaluation, under the criteria Implementation and Impact.

NMP.2012.4.1-3 Development of advanced magnetic materials without, or with reduced use of, critical raw materials

Content/scope: Permanent magnets are essential e.g. in transport, wind energy and refrigeration applications, while externally controllable magnetic materials are being used in IT applications. Magnetic materials may require the use of critical raw materials which are increasingly sensitive to market distortions. Within the present call, the critical raw materials are the priority ones given in the report 'Critical Raw Materials for the EU'. In the light of possibly reduced levels of exports due to trade restrictions resulting in an uncertain long-term availability of these elements, there is a need to focus research on developing new magnetic materials without critical raw materials (or with drastically reduced quantities), without compromising their functional performance. Substituting magnetic materials and/or reducing the use of critical raw materials in view of the raw materials initiative has already been initiated, but finding high-performing magnetic materials is only in its infancy and further research is needed.

Research proposals should address the development of novel advanced magnetic materials that reduce the dependency on Critical Raw Materials. The proposed solution should show substantial improvement on their performances and/or on the elimination or drastic reduction of use of critical raw materials. The nature of magnetism to be investigated could be, but is not limited to, carbon-based magnetism (e.g. in graphene and functionalised nanotubes), molecular magnetism, interface- and defect- (impurities or structural defects) based magnetism, or magnetism in complex heterostructures or in magnetic fluids. New magnetic material with better characteristics, hard permanent magnets with a high energy product (high magnetisation and high coercivity) and soft permanent magnets with low coercivity, materials exhibiting half-metallicity or a high magnetocaloric effect and externally controllable magnets are included. The research should investigate how to reduce or substitute the quantities needed of scarce elements via modelling and material design improvements. Eco efficient production and recycling processes as integrated part of the material science and engineering research should be proposed to increase manufacturability and to reduce the total amount of critical raw material necessary. Estimates of cost comparisons should also be elaborated. Standardisation and/or the production of (certified) reference materials

may also be addressed as an integrated part of the research proposal. The research should include test structures to validate the material properties and should also consider how to extend the life time of materials; an LCA should prove the targeted reduction in the use of critical raw materials. General device design is excluded.

NMP.2012.4.1-2 Innovative recycling technologies of key metals in high-tech applications

Content/scope: The EU industry is becoming more and more dependent on metals which are essential in the manufacture of advanced technological products, such as circuit boards, semiconductors, coatings, magnets, mobile phones, computers, home electronics, and solar panels. For example, these metals include platinum group and rare earth metals. The use of electronic products is increasing globally, because of the combination of shorter product lifecycles and stricter legislation, which are making electronic waste the fastest growing recycling segment.

Recycling technologies reduce waste going to disposal, consumption of natural resources and play an essential role in the move towards sustainable consumption and production.

Within this SME intensive sector, there is also potential to significantly improve recycling efficiency and capacity by encouraging innovation and introducing more effective processes and technologies. This would save costs, energy, and natural resources and thus help Europe to be less dependent on prices and imports of the key metals in high-tech applications.

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

TPWind sponsorship opportunities still open

On 26 September TPWind launched new sponsorship opportunities to provide its members with additional visibility at EU level.

Becoming a TPWind sponsor is still possible: every organisation with at least one representative in TPWind is entitled to do so.

In order to become a sponsor or in case of any question, please contact Filippo Gagliardi, TPWind Secretary General (filippo.gagliardi@ewea.org; +32 2 2131813).

Three different packages (platinum, gold and silver) are available:

- **Platinum sponsor**

Price: € 20,000 (*up to 31 January 2014*)

Benefits for the sponsor:

1. Publication of sponsor's logo and hyperlink on the TPWind website (on the homepage: <http://www.windplatform.eu/>).
The Platform website had **more than 13.500 single visits over the past year.**
2. Publication of sponsor's logo and hyperlink on monthly TPWind newsletters (before the table of contents - past newsletters are available here: <http://www.windplatform.eu/9.0.html>).
Newsletters reach **more than 500 wind energy experts and decision-makers in Europe** every month.
3. Possibility of displaying promotional material (publications as well as banners and flags) **on a dedicated stand** at TPWind Events, which take place twice a year (General Assemblies in March or April and Energy Events in October or November).
All sponsors' material will be placed at the entrance of the venue in order to be clearly visible and available for participants.
Every TPWind Event gathers approximately 200 wind energy experts and decision-makers from all over Europe.
4. Possibility of delivering a 10 minutes speech at TPWind networking cocktails, which close every Platform Event.

- **Gold sponsor**

Price: € 15,000 (*up to 31 January 2014*)

Benefits for the sponsor:

1. Publication of sponsor's logo and hyperlink on the TPWind website (on the homepage: <http://www.windplatform.eu/>).
The Platform website had **more than 13.500 single visits over the past year.**
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All sponsors' material will be placed at the entrance of the venue in order to be clearly visible and available for participants.
Every TPWind Event gathers approximately 200 wind energy experts and decision-makers from all over Europe.

- **Silver sponsor**

Price: € 10,000 (*up to 31 January 2014*)

Benefits for the sponsor:

1. Publication of sponsor's logo and hyperlink on the TPWind website (on the homepage: <http://www.windplatform.eu/>).
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Sponsors' resources won't be used to generate revenues but solely to cover the costs of new TPWind Working Group facilitators, which will be introduced as from the next round of meetings on 4 October. For this reason, once the overall budget for covering facilitators' costs will be reached, sponsorships opportunities will be closed. As a result, sponsorship opportunities will be sold on a first come first serve basis.

Also, sponsorship contracts will be effective as from the day of signature until the end of the TOP Wind project, which currently provides EU funding to the TPWind Secretariat (i.e. up to 31 January 2014). For this reason, the sooner a sponsorship contract is signed, the longer its benefits will apply.

Finally, sponsorship contracts will be signed between the sponsor and the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA), which hosts the TPWind Secretariat and coordinates the TOP Wind project. From a legal and contractual point of view, EWEA will therefore represent the sponsors' contact point and counterpart.

Outcomes of the first TPWind Energy R&D event

On 4 October, 2011, TPWind held in Brussels its first Energy R&D Event open to the public. This was a very important step for the Platform, which has so far organised events for its members only.

TPWind plans to hold this new type of open event once a year, in order to improve its visibility at EU level and encourage an open debate on cross-sectoral R&D issues. For this reason every event will be organised in cooperation with the Platform Advisory Board, which represents the link between TPWind and relevant external stakeholders.

The first Energy R&D Event focused on grid integration and therefore involved wind energy, grids and oil & gas players, as well as decision-makers at EU and national level.

The conference was chaired by Mr. Henning Kruse, TPWind Chairperson, and saw the participation of approximately 100 experts from the various sectors involved.

The open conference took place in the afternoon of 4 October, while TPWind Working Group meetings, focusing on the implementation of the European Wind Initiative, were organised in the morning.

The day was closed by a networking cocktail.

The proceedings of the event (presentations and pictures) were uploaded on the TPWind website and are available [here](#).

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Section 3 – Members’ news

EU free movement of electricity: Connecting Europe facilitated

On 19 October the European Commission proposed new EU legislation for speeding up and financing new energy infrastructure.

“€9.1 billion of financial support from the EU budget for priority projects is substantially more money than was provided in the past”, said Christian Kjaer, Chief Executive Officer of the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA), referring to the Connecting Europe facility. “Although it represents only a small proportion of the €200 billion the European Commission has estimated is needed for energy infrastructure improvements, it should, together with the proposal for Project Bonds, leverage significant additional private investments”, he added.

Kjaer warned it would be still not clear how this money will be divided between electricity, gas, and carbon capture and storage (CCS) infrastructure. CCS will not be ready by 2020, which means by the end of the time frame of this regulation. “A clear priority should be given to financial support for electricity infrastructure. This will bring clear benefits for Europe’s energy security, the internal electricity market and integrating very large amounts of renewable energy”, said Kjaer.

EWEA fully supports the Commission’s plans to eliminate unnecessary delays in authorisation procedures for new priority European power lines including offshore grids. “It is not necessary for authorisation to build new electricity grids to take over ten years, and this proposal will help to reduce these delays”, said Kjaer commenting on the guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure.

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 18 November 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 300 people in total).

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Section 4 – Events

November 2011

EWEA Report Pre-Launch:

Achieving 30% lower emissions in the EU - the role of wind energy and other renewables

8 November 2011, Brussels, Belgium

With Commissioner Connie Hedegaard, Minister Martin Lidegaard, Jo Leinen MEP and Josche Muth

[Programme and registration](#)

Offshore grid connection requirements workshop

Future challenges - the European wind industry's perspective

Workshop during EWEA OFFSHORE 2011

30 November 2011, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

[Register to attend](#)

NB: Attendance at the workshop is available only to registered conference delegates or exhibition visitors at EWEA OFFSHORE 2011.

Introduction to wind seminar: Wind Energy - The Facts: Offshore

Monday 28 November 2011, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Pre-event seminar on the eve of EWEA OFFSHORE 2011

[Programme and registration](#)

EWEA OFFSHORE 2011: The world's largest offshore wind energy conference and exhibition

29 November – 1 December 2011 - Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Over 1,000 experts from the offshore wind industry and associated sectors have already registered to attend the conference at EWEA OFFSHORE 2011.

In these few days you may learn more than in any other week of the year. The many learning opportunities on offer include:

- **Hardware:** Design, data verification and risks associated with different support structure types. Building lighter, more cost effective big turbines: new solutions and all the latest models.
- **Logistics:** Health and safety lessons, new guidelines and how to optimise resources and O&M strategies in order to meet the supply chain demands of this growing industry.
- **Cross-sector experience:** Learning from real life data across the whole sector: how to bring down costs and reduce the technical risks of offshore wind energy.
- **Doing business:** Risk and reward: where and how to invest in European markets, including a spotlight on the French call for tender; evaluating and managing financial risk.
- **Grids:** New interconnections across Europe, integrating with oil and gas grid infrastructure and ENTSO-E's network code requirements.
- **Measuring the resource:** The cutting-edge technologies used by experts to quantify and qualify the wind in complex sites and the latest findings on nacelle based LIDAR measurements.

The senior industry leaders will discuss on a panel debate about the technology choices for moving forward: direct drive vs. gearboxes, turbine weight, cost and maintenance:

- Andreas Nauen, CEO, REpower
- Henrik Stiesdal, CTO, Siemens Wind Power
- Mark Garnett, Director, Wind Power Group, Doosan Power Systems
- Eddie O'Connor, CEO, Mainstream Renewable Power
- Stefan Lammens, CTO, Hansen Transmissions
- Antonio de la Torre Quiralte, Product Development Director, Gamesa
- Finn Strøm Madsen, President, Vestas Technology R&D

Do you have newly hired or non-technical people in your team?

Make sure they attend the [pre-event seminar 'Wind Energy – The facts , Offshore'](#), taking place on Monday 28th November.

Full information and registration: www.ewea.org/offshore2011

April 2012

EWEA 2012 Annual Event: Europe's premier wind energy event

16 – 19 April 2012 - Copenhagen, Denmark

Call for innovative abstracts is now open!

EWEA 2012 in Copenhagen will focus on innovation - the major driver of the industry - by bringing together the best minds in policy, technology, financing and science and by showcasing fresh, cutting-edge ideas across six key tracks.

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

Presentations submitted will be divided along these thematic lines, and only those which highlight genuinely new developments and innovative approaches will be selected for the conference.

The key dates relating to the programme set up are as follows:

- **Abstract submission deadline: 22 November 2011**
- Full programme online and abstract authors notified: End January 2012

Full information on abstracts submission guidelines and deadlines

The **exhibition continues to grow with already 80% sold out** to exhibiting companies representing the full spectrum of the supply chain. [See who is already on the exhibition floor](#) and discover more about all innovations planned for EWEA 2012: www.ewea.org/annual2012.

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**All EWEA events are organised by the Industry for the Industry and represent real value for money:
EVERY EURO SPENT ON THESE EVENTS IS PUT TO WORK PROMOTING WIND ENERGY.**