

## International Showcase project



**NIGHT SHIFT:** A Sany rotor is lifted at the Ralls demonstration plant in Texas

## China's Sany to start up 10MW US wind farm

RICHARD A KESSLER  
FORT WORTH

Sany Electric expects to commission its 10MW Ralls wind farm in Texas on 15 June, marking the debut of the Chinese vendor's turbines in the US. *Recharge* has learned.

The project in the Texas Panhandle, which Sany is funding at an undisclosed cost, consists of five SE8720111E 2MW turbines. It will act as a showcase for potential US buyers, who are largely unfamiliar with the Chinese vendor and its offerings.

Electricity generated will be sold into the merchant market on a spot or short-term contract basis, where prices can experi-

ence large swings. Private lenders in the US will generally not finance utility-scale wind projects without a long-term off-take arrangement.

The SE8720111E has an 86.8-metre diameter rotor on top of an 85-metre high tower. Sany says its turbines can achieve 100% power production in winds as low as 0.7m/s (1.1km/h).

SANY is also looking at a 20-turbine project that it would develop near the demonstration site.

Chinese turbine maker Goldwind has led the way in setting up demonstration projects on American soil. It has followed up its three-turbine pilot project in Minnesota by purchasing a

106.5MW project in Illinois that has a 20-year power-purchase agreement. Goldwind is supplying equity, with the China Development Bank contributing debt.

Sinovel, China's market leader and the world number two, is also looking at developing a US site, says a company executive.

Turbine makers see the prospect of Chinese state banks providing cheap equipment and project financing as a potentially strong selling point, but US developers are wary of the potential political and technological difficulties.

No Chinese company has a turbine plant in the US. Given the large trade imbalance in China's favour, Congress and the White

House are pressuring Chinese firms to set up manufacturing operations in America.

Goldwind has sought to counter anti-Chinese commercial sentiment by using blades and towers made in the US for the 71-75 turbines it will site in Illinois.

American developers tend to work with one or two established European or US vendors, while many utilities tend to be conservative in their purchasing decisions.

Unlike its Chinese rivals, Sany has a manufacturing presence in the US — a \$60m plant that assembles heavy construction equipment in Georgia — which has won it friends at the state and local levels.

## Europe Turbine sales

## Upbeat Siemens seals 360MW of onshore orders

BEN BACKWELL  
LONDON

German wind turbine maker Siemens says it has won onshore orders for a total of 360MW in Europe in the first four months of 2011.

The 11 orders are for 151 units,

including 19 of its new 3MW direct-drive turbines for the 39MW Dagpazari project in Turkey and the 18MW Millour Hill in the UK.

The figures show the company is steadily gaining momentum in the onshore sector to add to its leading

position in the offshore market, claims Siemens Energy chief executive Michael Stess.

"In 2010, Siemens was already number two in America, which is one of the biggest markets for onshore wind. Now we're catching up in Europe as well," he says.

Siemens has a goal of becoming one of the world's top-three wind turbine suppliers by 2012.

However, consultants say the company lost market share in 2010 and has slipped down the rankings as Chinese manufacturers increase their sales.

## International Research

## DeWind sells first turbines in Canada

RICHARD A KESSLER

DeWind will supply five of its new 2MW D9.2 wind turbines for a research site on Prince Edward Island in Canada, to enter operation by the end of the year.

Assembly contractor Teco-Westinghouse will build the nacelles at its plant in Round Rock, Texas, 30km north of state capital Austin. Towers will come from a new plant in Trenton, Nova Scotia, a joint venture between the province and a subsidiary of Darwood Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering (DSME), the parent company of DeWind.

The tower plant is also scheduled to manufacture rotor blades, although it was not immediately clear if it would supply this order.

The research site is owned by the Wind Energy Institute of Canada, whose main sources of funding are government agency Natural Resources Canada, and PEI Energy, the provincial electric utility.

DeWind chief executive Robert Rugh notes that the deal is the first for his company's turbines in Canada and will take the first towers to be shipped from the Trenton facility, which begins operation next month.

The deal closely follows DeWind's acquisition of rights to 160MW of the Novus wind project in western Oklahoma.

The company will install 40 D9.2 turbines on the site in the first phase later this year, and is studying which models could be used for the second 80MW phase.

## Gamesa to offload 48MW Polish wind farm to utility PGE

EUROPE Spanish turbine maker and developer Gamesa has agreed to sell its 48MW Pelplin wind farm in Poland to PGE Energia Odnawiana, the renewables subsidiary of Polish utility PGE.

The Pelplin facility, in the Pomorskie region of northern Poland, is under construction and Gamesa says it has agreed to hand over the finished wind farm during the first half of 2012. It consists of 24 Gamesa 990 turbines.

Gamesa has a portfolio of 677MW of wind projects in development. It has 108MW under construction, with building work due to start on another 78MW this year.

## Canada Manufacturing

## Tower deal will help Vestas grow in Ontario

BENJAMIN ROMANO  
SEATTLE

CS Wind will supply towers to Vestas, helping the global wind leader's turbines satisfy the domestic content requirement in Ontario.

At the same time, the Danish giant has received an order for 83 of its V90-1.8MW turbines for an unnamed project in Canada.

Vestas will deliver the turbines during the autumn of 2012, and commission them at the end of the year. The contract includes a ten-year service and maintenance agreement.

The company says it is not disclosing the identity of the buyer at the customer's request, but it is the second order Vestas has announced in Canada this year. In April, it received an order for 58 V90 turbines.

The tower supply deal includes steel from Essar Steel Algoma, of Sault Sainte Marie, Ontario, to be rolled into tower sections at CS Wind's factory in Windsor, Ontario, which recently opened. Initial tower deliveries are slated for November.

## 390MW

The total capacity of Vestas turbines in operation in the province of Ontario

To qualify for Ontario's feed-in tariff (FIT), which pays C\$0.135 per kWh for onshore wind, project owners must use Ontario goods and labour for 50% of costs, from 1 January 2012.

Vestas chief executive Ditlev Engel told *Recharge* last month that the company has no plans to expand its manufacturing footprint in North America to serve the Ontario market. Instead, it is doing it through partnerships such as this one.

A company spokesman tells *Recharge* that the Ontario towers will contribute about 13% towards the domestic content requirement. Supply deals are in place for nacelle parts, representing another 17%. More detail on these deals is expected in the coming weeks.

The final 20% domestic content consists of balance-of-plant and professional services work carried out by local road contractors and consultants.

Vestas installed its first turbine in the province in 2001 and now has 232 machines with a capacity of 390MW in operation there.

The company is also supplying 27 V90-1.8MW turbines to the Point Aux Roches project in

southwest Ontario, which is expected to be completed in late summer.

The company's total Canadian portfolio consists of more than 1,000 machines, capable of generating almost 1.7GW.



**LEADING THE FIELD:** One of the six Vestas V82-1.65MW turbines at the Frogmore wind farm, Ontario

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