



Press Release

Government's Commitment for Offshore Wind Encouraging, say Wind Industry

September 11, Chennai: The government will soon be implementing India's first offshore wind demonstration project as part of several activities planned for offshore wind development in India announced Alok Srivastava, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy at the Facilitatating Offshore Wind in India (FOWIND) stakeholder sensitisation workshop organised by Center for Study of Science Technology and Policy (CSTEP).

"With the MNRE acting as the nodal agency, the organisations constituting the proposed Joint Venture, implementing the demonstration project will include NTPC, Power Grid Corporation, Power Transmission Corporation, IREDA, GPCL and NIWE. On the global platform, this project will announce the entrance of India in the offshore domain", said Alok Srivastava.

The government wants to showcase India as an ideal offshore wind generation location on the global platform. Related to this, the government also hopes to open international competitive bidding for investment. Capital costs involved in offshore wind development are estimated at Rs. 25-28 crores per MW, which is one of the biggest concerns voiced by the industry at the workshop. The good news is that India already has manufacturing capacity as well as the capacity to manufacture the steel and cement requirements for building offshore wind farms.

"European Union (EU) is very happy to partner with the Indian Government to open up offshore wind opportunities in India based on Europe's experiences. Through this project, we would like to support a policy framework and have in place the baseline feasibility information for Gujarat and Tamil Nadu to set up of offshore farms", said Smita Singh, Progarmme Manager, European Union Delegation to India.

FOWIND, a 51 month EU funded project has completed its first quarter and has come out with the FOWIND Inception Report, 2014, which states the four considerations that India has to keep in mind while planning offshore wind development including low cost of manufacturing, scheduling power demands, lowered uncertainty in terms of purchase power agreements and high bankability of wind resource assessment. The report also identifies locations along the Tamil Nadu and Gujarat coast where the potential of offshore wind development is high. It however cautions that both states need to conduct long term wind measurement campaigns if they want to utilise this clean source of energy.

This workshop is part of a series of dissemination and outreach activities scheduled under the FOWIND project.



Notes to the Editor:

1. FOWIND (www.fowind.com) is a project funded by the European Union's Indo-European Cooperation on Renewable Energy programme. The project is being undertaken by a consortium of organisations including GWEC as the lead partner, Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), DNV GL (formerly GL-Garrad Hassan), Gujarat Power Corporation Ltd. (GPCL) and World Institute of Sustainable Energy (WISE).
2. About CSTEP: Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) is a not-for-profit research organisation incorporated in 2005 u/s 25 of The Companies Act, 1956. It was formed with the vision "to enrich the nation with technology-enabled policy options for equitable growth". CSTEP aims to conduct rigorous, independent and interdisciplinary research on subjects relevant to India's economic, social and technological growth and development. CSTEP undertakes multi-disciplinary policy research using science and technology as enablers in the areas of Energy and Climate Studies, Infrastructure, New Materials, and Security Studies. CSTEP is recognised as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. For more information on CSTEP, please visit www.cstep.in

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