

WindSupply

Promoting the UK component supply chain

- The UK Government has set a target of 10% of electricity to be produced using renewable energy by 2010. (Currently it is ~0.5%)
A further target of 15% by 2015 was announced in December 2003.
- Offshore and onshore wind farms are planned to provide <90% of this renewable energy. Many of the wind turbines will be sited offshore.
- The leading manufacturers of wind turbines are Danish and German. (Danish manufacturers have 44% of the world market, German manufacturers 36%.)
- The total investment in wind farms in the UK could reach £50 billion. Approx. half of this is in the wind turbine and associated mechanical & electrical components.
- West Midlands, East Midlands and Yorkshire Development Agencies as well as the DTI are supporting the **WindSupply** project to assist companies to enter the wind turbine market component supply chain.
- Research has taken place in Germany to identify the major wind turbine and leading component manufacturers, the products and components required and their existing supply chains. Many standard industrial products as well as components specifically designed for the wind turbine market will be required.
- Main components are: bedplates & hubs, bearings & shafts, gearboxes & couplings, yaw & pitch systems, brake systems, hydraulic units, lubrication systems, grid connections, generators, lightning protection, control systems, steel towers, foundations, fabrications, rotor blades, canopies & spinners, meteorological sensors, lighting, protective coatings, fasteners. Details of the type of products and components required are available to interested companies.
- Workshops to feedback the project's findings are held regularly. Visits to wind turbine manufacturers, major component suppliers, designers and approval bodies are planned. Promotion of the UK's capabilities at exhibitions, conferences, in the trade press and through the WindSupply website is currently being developed.
- **WindSupply** hosted a stand alongside 15 UK companies at the WindEnergy 2004 exhibition in Hamburg. 30 potential suppliers to the market also joined market appraisal visits to a wind turbine manufacturer, a turbine testing facility and met with a range of companies at the exhibition. Similar events were held alongside the Husum wind energy exhibition in Germany, September 2003.
- If your company has products that could be relevant to this new market. Register an interest to get further information of the market requirements and to discuss how you can become involved.

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