



**4<sup>TH</sup> October 2016**

**Photo caption:** Project director, Marcel Sunier (front) with the EDF Energy Renewables team developing the new Blyth offshore wind farm

## **RENEWABLES TEAM SETS UP BLYTH OFFICE TO SPEARHEAD NEW WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT**

EDF Energy Renewables has established a new project office in Blyth to manage the construction of a new offshore wind farm.

The Blyth Offshore Demonstrator wind farm will be located around 6km off the coast of Blyth, connecting to a new substation being built on the site of the former Blyth Power Station.

The scheme's 25-strong project team has now moved into the Blyth Workspace office centre to plan, manage and coordinate all the engineering and construction activities associated with the new development.

Marcel Sunier, Project Director said: "The new Blyth project office provides a single central location for all the project staff involved in the new development.

"This is a complex project and the Workspace office provides the ideal location to ensure that close communication is maintained between the project team and the specialist contractors involved in the different aspects of the scheme.

"We are also delighted to be moving into the heart of the Blyth community and will look to hold some meetings in the coming months for those local people who want to know more about the project.

"I would also like to thank the Blyth workspace for accommodating us and helping with the move, it is very much appreciated."

Construction work has already begun on the onshore substation and offshore work will start in 2017 with the installation of the special gravity base foundations, the offshore electric cable and the wind turbines.

At its peak there will be around 200 people working on the scheme and the project will incorporate a number of new and innovative features. For the first time in an offshore wind project, the turbines will be installed on self-floating and submersible gravity-base foundations and this will be the first project to use 66kV cable technology to connect the wind farm to the onshore substation.

Wholly owned by EDF Energies Nouvelles, the Blyth Offshore Demonstrator project will be built by EDF Energy Renewables, a 50-50 UK joint venture between EDF Energies Nouvelles and EDF Energy.

When complete the Blyth Offshore Demonstrator wind farm will comprise five wind turbines with a total capacity of 41.5MW, providing enough low carbon electricity to meet the average annual needs of 34,000 homes. \*

**ENDS**

**Notes for Editors:**

EDF Energy Renewables is one of the UK's leading renewable energy companies. It is focussed on the development, construction and operation of onshore and offshore wind farms and already operates just under 600 MW of wind farms, with another 300MW under construction and 1000 MW in planning and development. EDF Energy Renewables (EDF-ER) is a 50:50 Joint Venture between EDF Energy and EDF Energies Nouvelles, the renewable arm of the EDF Group.

\*Based on "offshore" turbines operating at 36.9% capacity (2011-2015 average load factor for "offshore" wind from Digest of UK Energy Statistics) and assuming 3,938 is the average UK household electricity consumption in kW hours (based on BEIS's "Energy Consumption in the UK" (July 2016).

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