



Windfloat

NER300

The project

Technology category: Wind energy

Location: Coast of Viana do Castelo, Portugal

Max. NER 300 funding: EUR 30.0 million

Final investment decision: December 2016

Entry into operation: December 2018

State of advancement

The project is currently fully permitted and the engineering is almost completed. It has attracted three new shareholders and four financial entities are committed to provide a non-recourse financing structure.

Outlook for coming year

Financial close is expected for the middle of 2017. Later, all suppliers will start executing contracted services.

Outlook for coming 5 years

Fabrication and installation of the platforms. In parallel, REN (the Portuguese Transmission System Operator) will install the interconnection cable.

Project sponsor

WindPlus, S.A.

Project summary

The Windfloat project consists of the development of a pre-commercial floating wind farm with 3-4 units totalling 25 MW to be installed approximately 20 km off the coast of Viana do Castelo, Portugal. The project will use standard commercial wind turbines mounted on WindFloat floating structures.

WindFloat technology design is based on a semi-submersible platform adapted from oil and gas concepts for hosting a wind turbine. The main challenge of this project is the integration of the turbine with a floating platform, which has been successfully proved in the Demonstration Project in operation since late 2011 to July 2016. This Demonstration Project included design, installation, commissioning and testing of a 2 MW WindFloat in 42 m water depths with a grid connection at Aguçadoura. It completed a successful 5 year test period with a total production around 17 GWh.

Windfloat's pre-commercial phase also intends to advance the state-of-the-art of floating support structures, by demonstrating the scalability of WindFloat to host larger turbines.

Finally, the development and construction of this pre-commercial phase will support research and development in auxiliary services (such as wind measurement in deep waters or dynamic cables) while supporting the creation of a European industrial cluster for future floating wind farms.