

News stories on Vestas announcement for wind turbine manufacture in Port of Sheerness

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Vestas: Vestas signs option agreement for land at the Port of Sheerness, Kent in the UK

Subject to a satisfactory order intake on the V164-7.0 MW in the UK this option will enable Vestas to build a fully integrated offshore wind turbine manufacturing and installation facility.

Commitment to the UK and to local job creation. Press conference today.

The recent launch of the V164-7.0 MW, Vestas' first ever purpose-built offshore turbine, introduced a turbine of epic proportions. A turbine with components of this size demands new manufacturing facilities and in order to prepare for the planned 2015 serial production of the new turbine Vestas has signed an agreement for 70 hectares of land at the Port of Sheerness in Kent, UK to eventually serve these purposes.

The UK represents the world's largest offshore wind market and as such has a massive offshore project pipeline. The UK Round 3 projects alone account for 32GW. Vestas is committed to working with the UK government and offshore wind stakeholders to turn this pipeline into operational offshore wind farms and thereby ensuring not only sustainable energy for the UK, but also a large number of new jobs being created.

Vestas is prepared to make the necessary significant investment in turning the option into a full lease and building the planned new production facilities, thereby creating more than 2000 direct and indirect new jobs – provided the V164-7.0 MW order pipeline materialises as expected.

Job creation is a two-way street

With this option agreement in place, Vestas has shown our willingness and commitment to making major investments benefitting the UK, but Vestas alone cannot make it happen.

“We have shown our intentions to make major investments and subsequent job creation, but it is evident that we don't just jump head first into an investment of this size. We need to make sure it makes sense business wise,” says Anders Sjøe-Jensen, President of Vestas Offshore A/S and continues: “Before our customers can provide us with the needed order pipeline, they need to see stability in the market and a long term political and regulatory certainty that ensures their business case. Making that happen lies in the hands of the policy makers, so we are looking forward to seeing the UK government providing the best possible terms for the offshore wind industry to truly take off and the potential jobs becoming a reality”.

So, to secure the needed strong and predictable V164-7.0 MW order pipeline Vestas will be seeking two things:

- market and regulatory certainty from a transparent, long-term and stable policy framework
 - and public investment support to de-risk and reduce the large infrastructural investments required to build a facility of these proportions.
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Locate in Kent: comment from Peter Symons

Peter Symons, Director of Business Development at Locate in Kent said: "It is excellent news for Kent that Danish company Vestas has announced its plan to locate a facility to manufacture wind turbines at Sheerness Port. The Vestas plant will build on the county's already excellent credentials - its two existing wind farms and another under construction - London Array - which, once complete will be the world's largest. The wind energy industry is a key growth sector for the UK and Locate in Kent has been aware for some time that Kent has a particularly important role to play. We've been working in this sector for several years and began speaking to London Array six years ago and Vestas in 2010.

"Vestas' commitment to Kent reflects something we've known for a long time – the county represents an excellent opportunity for the offshore wind industry. Its coastline has several ports and harbours with excellent facilities to support both construction and operations and maintenance activities. Sheerness Port is part of the Medway Superhub, which offers more than 200ha of development land. These sites, along with its position between the North Sea and the Channel, the area's excellent links to London, the rest of the UK and the continent and its long maritime history, make it an ideal location to attract companies across the supply chain.

"Locate in Kent has been working closely with SEEDA, UK Trade and Investment, Kent County Council, the councils of Swale, Thanet and Medway and The Department of Energy and Climate Change to help secure investments in offshore wind. We've also engaged with The Crown Estate, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Envirobusiness in identifying Kent and Medway's proposition for the sector – and we think it's an excellent one.

"We'll continue to work hard to ensure Kent and Medway's sites are considered for all future opportunities and to help create jobs and secure investment for the wider benefit of the local economy."

Kent Online: Port boost could see 'thousands of jobs'

A massive investment in the Port of Sheerness could see the creation of 2,000 jobs.

Danish firm Vestas was due to announce Wednesday that it had signed an agreement with Peel Ports to take over 70 hectares of land in the docks.

It aims to build a manufacturing and installation facility for massive offshore wind turbines.

At the time of going to press, details were sketchy but it is understood the project will go ahead if the company receives orders to supply its V164-7.0MW turbines to UK wind farms.

Britain represents the world's largest offshore wind market and Vestas says it is "committed to working with the government and offshore wind stakeholders" to supply turbines.

A spokesman said: "Vestas is prepared to make the necessary, significant investment in turning the option into a full lease and building the planned new production facilities, thereby creating more than 2,000 direct and indirect new jobs - provided the V164-7.0MW order pipeline materialises as expected."

Vestas is the largest wind turbine manufacturer in the world and was set to outline its plans at the port on Wednesday morning.

Anders Sjøe-Jensen, president of Vestas Offshore, said: "We have shown our intentions to make major investments and subsequent job creation, but it is evident that we don't just jump head first into an investment of this size.

"We need to make sure it makes sense business wise."

It is believed several ports around Britain had been bidding for the facility as it would mean a massive boost to local economies.

Peel Ports was unavailable for comment.

The development comes just two months after Morrisons announced plans to build a superstore at Neats Court, Queenborough, which will create 300 jobs.

Reacting to the news Gordon Henderson MP said he was looking forward to finding out the finer details.

He added that the announcement follows "lots of hard work by lots of people" including himself to attract investment.

He called for the government, KCC and Swale Borough Council to work together to ensure all financial and planning issues are sorted so the development will go ahead.

Swale council's leader Councillor Andrew Bowles welcomed the news.

He said: "We are delighted at the prospect of what this announcement means for Swale and for Sheerness specifically.

"We have been working with SEEDA, Peel Ports and Kent County Council for almost a year and a half to arrive at this point and clearly are very pleased that such a major, industry-leading company has formally announced its firm interest in locating in the borough.

"While due planning processes have to be adhered to, a manufacturing base of such a scale could see the creation of thousands of jobs in the borough.

"Although there is a long way to go, such an announcement is extremely positive news for everyone on the Island and in Swale as a whole."

Business Green: Vestas earmarks Kent for wind turbine factory

Danish firm signs option agreement for land at the Port of Sheerness to build its 7MW offshore machine

Vestas has signed an agreement that could see it buy 70 hectares of land at the Port of Sheerness in Kent, just weeks after announcing it was searching for a site to build its new 7MW offshore wind turbine.

The Danish turbine manufacturer confirmed today that it has secured exclusive rights to the land, which could lead to a concrete investment to build a wind turbine manufacturing and installation facility, creating up to 2,000 jobs.

The option on the land lasts for approximately one year with a possibility to extend the agreement for another 12 months.

However, Vestas offshore president Anders Sjøe-Jensen said the company would only make a final investment if the government can offer market and regulatory certainty from a transparent, long-term and stable policy framework, and investment support to reduce the risk and cost of building such a large facility.

"We need to make sure it makes sense business wise," he said. "Before our customers can provide us with the needed order pipeline, they need to see stability in the market and a long term political and regulatory certainty that ensures their business case.

"Making that happen lies in the hands of the policy makers, so we are looking forward to seeing the UK government providing the best possible terms for the offshore wind industry to truly take off and the potential jobs becoming a reality."

The move raises the prospect of the world's largest wind turbine manufacturer significantly ramping up its presence in the UK, after controversially turning its previous factory on the Isle of Wight into a research and development centre.

EGi: Vestas picks Sheerness for base

Vestas has chosen the historic naval dockyard of Sheerness as its base to build possibly thousands of giant wind turbines.

It has taken 173 acres at the port of Sheerness, in Kent, with a view to going into production in 2015. It will manufacture the giant turbines for the North Sea and English Channel.
