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In focus: Renewable energies Bremen taps into market trend

The writing is on the wall: by the year 2020, the renewable energy market will provide 28% of Germany's total energy consumption, e.g. in the form of solar, wind and geothermal energy, bioenergy or hydropower. Bremen is adapting to these changes by strengthening resources in the business and scientific communities, by fostering ecological and economic innovation with targeted support, by creating incentives for new start-ups and for the growth of existing companies. One example for the establishment of 'green industry' in Bremen is the firm of Phytolutions, which produces algae in bioreactors. In addition to environmental benefits, this helps to secure and create viable jobs for the future on a sustainable basis.

Strong location, safeguarded future Bremeninvest as partner for business

On behalf of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, Bremeninvest is responsible, among other things, for developing, strengthening and marketing Bremen as a location for renewable energies. We lend support to your inward investment and facilitate access to support programmes at state, national and EU level. We also enhance not only interdisciplinary exchange between the business and academic communities, but also the formation of networks.

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Always close to the wind

Renewable energies – our strength for the future





Bremen - where the wind blows from Pacesetters for wind energy

Always close to the wind – a situation that has been familiar to Bremen people since the days of sailing ships. No wonder, then, that a centre for wind energy has developed here, where research and production work hand in hand, and sometimes side by side as neighbours. More than 140 enterprises and institutes in the State of Bremen – from engineering consultants to suppliers, from production to logistics – are pacesetters in the wind energy industry. They are backed up by the scientific expertise of the IWES and IFAM Fraunhofer Institutes, the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research and by the Bremen Centre for Mechatronics (BCM). They all deliver research findings that hit the mark in the fields of wind energy and offshore technology – be it from wind tunnels or from test benches for rotor blades.

Where offshore is the talk of the town Bremen – close-knit network, short pathways

Offshore wind turbine makers like short pathways, which they find in Bremen, the German state with the strongest shipbuilding traditions. Bremen has efficient ports and attractive riverside industrial estates by the Weser. The state also boasts a highly skilled workforce that is marking advances not only in the maritime, but also in the aerospace and wind energy industries. The best proof can be seen in the ‘multi-megawatt’ turbines built in Bremerhaven. The prototypes for ‘Alpha Ventus’, the German offshore test field north of the island of Borkum, will soon be followed by large numbers of wind turbines designed for the high seas. Bremen is creating ideal conditions for such progress – for example at Blexer Bogen, the last bend in the River Weser before it heads for the North Sea. A heavy-lift terminal for up to 150 wind turbines a year will be built there by 2014.

Leaders onshore as well

Bremen fosters innovation. With refreshing speed.

Thousands of them rotate above fields and meadows up and down the country – onshore wind farms, the original model for all wind turbine installations. Yet wherever they generate energy, wind turbines in operation are mostly serviced, maintained and monitored via Bremen, where major wind farm enterprises and service providers have tended to concentrate.

The situation is similar in the repowering industry. Dismantling outdated turbines, upgrading them appropriately and installing them at new sites – this is another field in which Bremen has the specialists, for example at Deutsche Windtechnik AG. Statistics show which way the wind is blowing – in the 1980s, a typical wind turbine had a power rating of 55 kW. Today, power ratings can exceed 6000 kW. In short, the industry is making giant leaps forwards. And Bremen is among the leaders.

WAB - the competence network Focusing on the advancement of wind energy

Concentrated know-how from the Weser region is what the Wind Energy Agency Bremerhaven/ Bremen (WAB) stands for. It brings together no fewer than 270 enterprises and institutes under a single roof. The common aim shared by all is to advance the cause of wind energy, both onshore and offshore. The WAB sees itself as an intermediary between the wind energy industry and policymakers at local and national level. Networking members is of key importance in this endeavour, to ensure that aims are furthered through wide-ranging exchange, that projects are initiated and that research projects receive support. The network taps various means to achieve its ends: systematic information dissemination and public relations work, close linkages to business development agencies in the region, and presence at national and international fairs.

