



Press Release

ABO Wind achieves first successes in France

Subsidiary founded and first sites secured

(Wiesbaden 04.06.2002) To step up its activities in France, ABO Wind set up in January a subsidiary, ABO Wind SARL, with offices in Toulouse and Colmar. For the time being, three to four employees are planned for the subsidiary. As project volume grows, staff numbers will be increased. The technical and financial expertise necessary for wind park project planning will initially come from the German parent company which has many years' experience in Germany and staff who have been active in French business for a long time. The goal is to develop the subsidiary into a largely independent project developer with good market position within medium sized wind farm developers. At the same time, alliances with French partners are planned in individual cases. As Managing Director, Benoit Praderie, will be responsible for setting up the French company. He has many years' experience of working internationally in the area of renewable energy and detailed knowledge of the French wind energy market.

For ABO Wind Chief Executive Officer, Matthias Bockholt, this market represents one of the most interesting future markets for the exploitation of wind energy:

“At present, France fulfils all conditions for a successful market entry : very good wind conditions, legally guaranteed power purchase agreements for wind generated electricity and a potential for suitable locations which has hardly been tapped into”.

First sites secured

So far ABO Wind SARL has four locations for wind farms under definite contract. The sites near Carcassonne in the Department of Aude, provide the possibility for the construction of up to approximately 22 wind turbines with a total capacity of 30 Megawatt (MW). Contracts for two further projects in Alsace-Lorraine, each with a potential capacity of twelve MW, are close to conclusion. The company is presently working on a total of ten locations. Most of these are in the Department of Aude in the south of France and in Alsace-Lorraine. Completion of the first wind farm is expected by 2003/2004.

Security of investment for wind power in France

In June 2001 the French National Assembly passed a law opening up the wind energy market. As was the case with the German renewable energy law, energy providers in France have been obliged since then to buy wind produced electricity. Wind energy generators receive 8.38 cent per kilowatt hour (kWh) for electricity fed into the grid. This regulation applies for the first five years of operation, after which payments are reduced depending on the amount of electricity produced.

With such security for development and investment, it becomes economically attractive to utilise France’s wind potential, ranked at number two in Europe after England. The French government plans to invest ten billion euro into the expansion of wind energy by the year 2010.

The barely 100 MW of installed capacity at present – corresponding to approximately 1% of wind farms operating in Germany – will be increased by the erection of 5000 turbines amounting to 10,000 MW.

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