

INDIA OFFSHORE WIND WORKSHOP AT WINDEUROPE 2017



India Offshore Wind stakeholders Wednesday had a workshop as a side event at WindEurope in Amsterdam, where more than 60 people from Europe and India participated.

India's BNP as well as power consumption is growing 7% a year. An unpleasant result is heavy severe air pollution, but also a strong wish for renewable energy. Winning prices at solar auctions are down at around 3 Eurocent/kWh and at onshore wind auctions at around 4 Eurocent/kWh. Offshore wind could be another viable source for the Indian renewable energy mix.

Dr Katyal from "National Institute for Wind Energy" presented the Indian preparations for coming offshore wind developments for the states of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. "Large scale offshore wind auctions are under preparation for 2022", Dr Katyal stated.

The "First Offshore Wind Project for India (FOWPI)" presented site data on wind, soil and metocean for a 200 MW demonstration project in Gujarat near the port of Pipavav Bandar. A lidar installed by NIWE is measuring wind at site, and a vessel from Fugro Survey India will go offshore during December to implement a geophysical survey at site. COWI India in Chennai has also prepared a metocean study of European standard for the project. By Mid 2018 all FOWPI's technical preparations will be documented ready for a tender call by NIWE.

Speakers from Ørsted and Siemens Wind Power were worried about which local content requirements can be expected, but an Indian national in the audience explained that no fixed limit exists on this – it is a negotiable wish by Indian authorities. It was also mentioned that India in fact has a very capable industry manufacturing wind turbines and large steel structures.

During the workshop participants discussed the next steps needed to get India Offshore moving. Andreas Heinz from EIB was very active in the debate. EIB actively supports the introduction of offshore wind technology in India, but requires a European Standard EIA as well as a fair risk for the project. To reach this EIB has initiated preparation of a road map to be prepared as soon as possible, and the participants at the workshop strongly supported this approach.

Representatives from EcoFys, ITPower and the Danish Energy Agency presented the background for different European Auction models in UK, Germany, Netherlands and Denmark and extended the arguments into the Indian offshore wind situation. In an auction uncertainties and risks would be many for tenderers of a demonstration project and also for authorities – so an auction may fail. An auction model is requested in the existing policy for India Offshore Wind, but Indian nationals in the audience mentioned that this might be relaxed for a demonstration project.

As event organizer Per Vølund from COWI, who is also Project Manager of FOWPI, concluded the workshop saying: "This workshop has assessed India Offshore Wind with an impressive expertise and professionalism, disclosing an enormous progress made in preparation of India Offshore Wind over the last 2 years, but also many outstanding challenges. At similar workshops we have recently had in India the progress leads to enthusiasm and eagerness – believing we can make it work. Though it probably will be difficult I also believe Offshore Wind India could happen within a few years. We should all participate in the offshore wind workshop at the coming RE-Invest conference in Delhi in May – it is eventually Indians who will make this happen, and you will see that they generally believe it will soon".