



GWEC
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WIND INDUSTRY HAS ACHIEVED 50 GW OF CAPACITY INSTALLED WORLDWIDE in 2005

Husum/Brussels, 22nd September 2005 --- The global wind industry has reached a 50 GW milestone of wind energy capacity installed worldwide, with an increase in total installed generating capacity of 20% in 2004, said representatives from the Global Wind Energy Council - GWEC - at the council's launch at the Windmasters Dinner, during the HUSUMwind Trade Fair today (1).

"Wind energy has now reached the milestone of 50GW of worldwide installed capacity and the industry is ready for a broader roll out. Wind energy has the maturity, clout and global muscle to deliver deep cuts in CO₂, while providing a hedge against fluctuating fossil fuel prices and reduce energy import dependence", said Prof. Arthouros Zervos, Chairman of GWEC. *"The global energy challenge of our time is not only to tackle climate change, but to meet the rising demand for energy and to safeguard security of energy supplies. As a power technology which can meet these three challenges, wind energy is a leading candidate."*

GWEC, the global forum for the wind energy sector, called for stronger national and international policies to support the global expansion of wind energy as part of the range of policy options required to tackle climate change. According to the report Wind Force 12, boosting investment in wind energy to a level where it would provide 12% of world electricity generation by 2020 would result in annual reductions of 1,832 million tons of CO₂ in 2020 from 1,245,030 MW of wind energy installed. In the report, the value of the global market for wind turbines is to move from the current €8 billion to an € 80 billion annual business by 2020 (2).

Notes to Editors:

(1) In 2004, the global wind power industry installed over 8,154 megawatts (MW), an increase in total installed generating capacity of 20%. Global wind power capacity has grown to over 50,000MW by mid-2005, which will generate approximately 100TWh of electricity.

(2) "Wind Force 12, a blueprint to achieve 12% of the world's electricity from wind power by 2020". This report is the main global wind energy assessment. It has been conducted since 1999 and the 2005 report has been completed by Greenpeace and EWEA on behalf of the GWEC - the Global Wind Energy Council. A copy of the Wind Force 12 report can be downloaded at: www.gwec.net ; www.ewea.org ; www.greenpeace.org.





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The thirteen countries are Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, India, Italy, Japan, the Philippines, Poland, Turkey, the UK and the USA. These markets are at an early but developing stage, and provide an insight into where major wind growth may be achieved.

GWEC highlights the following points concerning the status of the wind energy sector:

1. Wind energy is a powerful resource. It is safe, clean, and abundant. Unlike conventional fuels, wind energy is a massive indigenous power source permanently available in virtually every nation in the world, delivering energy security benefits of avoided fuel costs and no long term fuel price risk. Wind energy also avoids the economic and supply risks of dependence on imports, and reduces political dependence on other countries. Wind energy provides sustainable economic growth, technological progress and creates employment and exports.
2. Wind energy has come a long way since the prototypes of just 25 years ago. Two decades of technological progress have resulted in today's wind turbines being state-of-the-art modern technology - modular and rapid to install. A single wind turbine can produce 200 times more power than its equivalent two decades ago.
3. The cost of wind energy has dropped 50 per cent in 15 years and on current trends in major markets is on course to be cost-competitive with conventional fuels within a decade. The global market has reached 50,000MW, generating 100Twh per year and employs 100,000 people. In 2004 the value of global wind installation business was at €8 billion, and will increase to €15.6 billion by 2010.
4. The global energy challenge of our time is to tackle the threat of climate change, meet the rising demand for energy and to safeguard security of energy supplies. Wind energy is one of the most effective power technologies that is ready today for global deployment on a scale that can help tackle these problems. Wind power can be installed far quicker than other conventional power station. This is a significant factor in economies with rapid electricity demand growth.
5. The International Energy Agency estimates that under current trends, the world's electricity demand could double from 2002 to 2030. The global power sector requires 4,800 Gigawatts (GW) of new capacity to meet increasing demand and replace aging infrastructure, at a cost of €10 trillion in power generation, transmission and distribution. By 2030, the power sector could account for 45 per cent of global carbon emissions. The investment choices made now will determine the level of emissions of carbon dioxide for many decades.
6. Wind energy is one the world's fastest growing energy sectors and offers the best opportunity to begin the transition to a global economy based on sustainable energy.
7. Wind energy is capable of continuing its successful history over the next two decades if positive political and regulatory frameworks are implemented, removing the obstacles and market distortions that currently constrain the industry's real potential. The success of the industry to date has been largely created by the efforts of a handful of countries, led by Germany, Spain and Denmark. There are other 13 key countries around the world that can play a leadership role to help unlock global growth opportunities. These markets are at an early but developing stage; they are Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, India, Italy, Japan, the Philippines, Poland, Turkey, the UK, and the USA.





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8. Wind power does not need to be invented, nor is there need to wait for any magical breakthrough; it is ready for global implementation now. Modern wind farms are already being built that provide bulk power equivalent to conventional power stations.

9. As a power technology which can cut carbon, help to meet growing electricity demand, and provide energy security, wind energy is a leading candidate. It is one of the few energy supply technologies that have the maturity, clout and global muscle to deliver deep cuts in CO₂, while providing a hedge against fluctuating fossil fuel prices and reduce energy import dependence.

GWEC is the global forum for the wind energy sector, uniting the wind industry and its representative associations. Member associations represent all the world's wind turbine manufacturers and 99 per cent of the world's 50,000 megawatt installed wind energy capacity. They operate in more than fifty countries and include over 1500 companies, organisations and institutions.

The founding Association members of GWEC are AWEA – American Wind Energy Association; AusWEA – Australian Wind Energy Association; CanWEA - Canadian Wind Energy Association; CREIA – Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association; EWEA – European Wind Energy Association; IWTMA – Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association; JWEA and JWPA – Japanese Wind Energy and Wind Power Associations.

The Corporate Members include Airtricity, EHN, Gamesa, GE Energy, Hansen Transmissions, LM Glasfiber, Nordex, RES, Shell WindEnergy, Siemens, Suzlon and Vestas.

GWEC membership also includes representative associations from the EU-25 Member States, Russia, Africa, Asia, South America, New Zealand and many other countries.

