



Press release

RWE's Sofia offshore wind farm to use recyclable blades

- **RWE's largest offshore wind farm in construction - Sofia - enters agreement with Siemens Gamesa for recyclable blades**
- **44 out of the project's 100 turbines will be equipped with recyclable blades**
- **Aim for 50 percent of Sofia's blades to be produced in the UK**
- **Agreement marks the largest order of recyclable blades in the world**

Swindon, 9 March 2023

RWE can announce that its UK flagship offshore wind project Sofia, in construction off the North East coast, has signed an agreement with Siemens Gamesa to deploy recyclable blades on 44 of its 100 turbines. This follows the successful installation of recyclable blades at RWE's Kaskasi wind farm off the German island Heligoland.

In total, 132 individual recyclable blades will be installed at the 1.4 gigawatts (GW) offshore wind project. This is the maximum available given the current market capacity for the new specialist resin used in the blades. However, it means Sofia is paving the way for the future of the wind industry and demonstrates RWE's global leadership on innovation and sustainability.

Sven Utermöhlen, CEO RWE Offshore Wind: "We are delighted to have secured this agreement with Siemens Gamesa. Sofia is our largest offshore wind farm to date and this world first is a significant step in taking the long-term sustainability of offshore wind farms to the next level. RWE believe this is the right direction for the future of our sector, which has sustainability at its core."

RWE has been at the heart of the offshore wind sector since the start, having installed the first offshore turbines at Blyth, UK in 2000. Now, as one of the world's leading renewable developers and with more than 20 years of experience, it remains at the leading edge of innovation, looking at the whole life cycle of its wind farms. In this world first, the components of the blades will be able to be recycled for new applications once reaching the end of their lifecycle.

Clark MacFarlane, UK Managing Director, Siemens Gamesa: "When we began working with RWE on installing our recyclable blades for their Kaskasi project, we knew that we had taken the first major steps on delivering a major change to the renewable wind sector. Having the opportunity to produce even more for Sofia is fantastic and fully demonstrates our and RWE's focus on developing and delivering even greater levels of sustainability for renewable generation globally."

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While many components of a wind turbine, such as the tower and nacelle, already have established recycling practices, the composite materials used in wind turbine blades have been more challenging to recycle. This difficulty is primarily because they use a specific resin to bind all their elements together.

In its recyclable blades, Siemens Gamesa will use a new resin type, with a chemical structure that can be efficiently separated from other elements. The process protects the properties of the materials and so allows them to be reused in new casting applications, for example in the automotive industry, or in consumer goods like suitcases and flatscreen casings.

As part of the agreement, 50 percent of Sofia's turbine blades will be produced in the UK at Siemens Gamesa's Hull factory. This supports local supply chain ambitions and reinforces the growing role the Humber region has to play in supplying the growing offshore wind industry.

Other technologies are being developed to recycle conventional turbine blades that reach the end of their lifecycle. However, these new blades, made recyclable from the outset, represent a key next step in terms of maximising sustainability and environmental benefits.

RWE is a leading player in renewables and expects to invest more than €50 billion gross by 2030 to grow its green core business, globally, with £15 billion earmarked for the UK. During 2022, the 856 megawatts (MW) Triton Knoll offshore wind farm became fully operational, while Sofia offshore wind farm is now well into construction.

RWE has a strong UK pipeline with involvement in four of the UK's seven offshore wind extension projects, and the Round 4 project Dogger Bank South. Meanwhile the company is also exploring floating wind projects including in the Celtic Sea region.

Sofia offshore wind farm project is located on Dogger Bank in the central North Sea, 195 kilometres (km) off the North East coast of the UK. Offshore installation is expected to begin in 2023, with project completion in 2026. The development will use the very latest SG 14-222 DD turbines with 108 metres long turbine blades and a 222 metres rotor diameter.

Pictures for media use are available at the [RWE Media Centre](#) (*credit; Siemens Gamesa*)

To find out more about Sofia visit our [website](#).

For further enquiries:

Kelly Nye
Media Relations
RWE Offshore Wind GmbH
M +44 7795354552
E. kelly.nye@rwe.com



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RWE is leading the way to a green energy world. With an extensive investment and growth strategy, the company will expand its powerful, green generation capacity to 50 gigawatts internationally by 2030. RWE is investing more than €50 billion gross for this purpose in this decade. The portfolio is based on offshore and onshore wind, solar, hydrogen, batteries, biomass and gas. RWE Supply & Trading provides tailored energy solutions for large customers. RWE has locations in the attractive markets of Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region. The company is responsibly phasing out nuclear energy and coal. Government-mandated phaseout roadmaps have been defined for both of these energy sources. RWE employs around 19,000 people worldwide and has a clear target: to get to net zero by 2040. On its way there, the company has set itself ambitious targets for all activities that cause greenhouse gas emissions. The Science Based Targets initiative has confirmed that these emission reduction targets are in line with the Paris Agreement. Very much in the spirit of the company's purpose: Our energy for a sustainable life.

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