

## Press release

### Kaskasi: RWE offshore wind farm commences regular operation

- **342-megawatt wind farm can supply more than 400,000 households**
- **RWE tests worldwide-first recyclable rotor blades manufactured by Siemens Gamesa**

Essen, 23 March 2023

Today, the RWE wind farm Kaskasi, located around 35 kilometres north of the island of Heligoland, officially commenced regular operation in the presence of Robert Habeck, German Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action. With an installed capacity of 342 megawatts (MW), Kaskasi can supply the equivalent of over 400,000 households with green electricity.

The 38 wind turbines of Kaskasi were successively commissioned over four months. Since the end of 2022, all turbines have been feeding green electricity into the grid. After all required tests were successfully completed, the wind farm is now commencing regular operation. The approval procedure for the wind farm started in spring 2019 and construction was greenlighted by the German Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie) at the end of 2020. The total offshore construction time was nine months, the investment costs for Kaskasi amounted to around 800 million euros. More than 100 people at RWE alone worked on implementing this large project – hand in hand with the staff from over 70 suppliers.

**Robert Habeck, German Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action:**

“Offshore wind is a key driver of the energy transition. Offshore wind turbines can produce more electricity during more hours per year than onshore turbines. We have thus increased the expansion targets in the German Offshore Wind Energy Act considerably, to at least 30 gigawatts by 2030. In addition, we have made significant improvements to the legal framework and took action to speed up approval procedures. With the area development plan, we have put the foundation in place for planning the expansion of offshore wind energy in Germany. Kaskasi was the only new offshore wind farm completed off the German coast last year. Its inauguration is to mark a turning point, we now want to drive the expansion of offshore wind energy forward in a targeted and coordinated manner.”

# RWE

**Markus Krebber, CEO of RWE AG:** “Our Kaskasi offshore wind farm was the only that was constructed and connected to the grid in Germany last year. Many more must follow over the coming years for Germany to reach its climate targets. As one of the world’s leading companies in offshore wind, RWE can contribute considerably to achieving these goals. Together with our partner we have just selected the preferred turbine supplier for the next offshore wind cluster off the German coast. The cluster will have a total capacity of up to 1.6 gigawatts. And of course, we will also take part in the large German offshore auctions in summer this year.”

## **The worldwide first recyclable rotor blades tested under real-life conditions**

Three turbines at the Kaskasi wind farm are equipped with the first rotor blades that can be recycled at the end of their life cycle. What is special about this? Thanks to a new type of resin with a special chemical structure, the materials used for producing the Siemens Gamesa RecyclableBlade can now be separated again for the first time. This process ensures that the properties of the individual materials remain intact so that they can be reused. The recyclable rotor blades are also installed at the [Sofia](#) wind farm, which is currently being constructed by RWE off the UK northeast coast.

**Marc Becker, CEO Business Unit Offshore at Siemens Gamesa:** “Approximately 90 percent of a wind turbine can already be recycled. However, up to now it was not possible to recycle the rotor blades. We are now taking the crucial step to elevate the sustainability of wind turbines to the next level and be able to recycle the entire turbine by 2040 at the latest.”

After Nordsee Ost (295 MW) and Amrumbank West (302 MW), Kaskasi is the third RWE wind farm that will be operated and maintained from the company’s service station on Heligoland. Around 100 service technicians, engineers and control room staff ensure smooth operation of the three wind farms. And RWE is continuing to drive forward the expansion of offshore wind energy off the German coast. North of the island of Juist, the company is developing the Nordseecluster in collaboration with a Canadian partner. The four sites will feature a total installed capacity of up to 1.6 gigawatts. The two projects (N-3.8 and N-3.7) of the first construction phase with a capacity of 660 MW are currently awaiting approval. The partners are planning to take part in the German government’s offshore wind auctions and to exercise their rights of entry for the remaining two areas (N-3.6 and N-3.5) this year.

### **For further enquiries:**

Sarah Knauber  
RWE Media Relations  
T +49 (0) 201 5179 5404  
E [sarah.knauber@rwe.com](mailto:sarah.knauber@rwe.com)

An [infographic](#) as well as images from the construction of Kaskasi for media use are available at the [RWE Media Centre](#) (copyright: RWE)



## **Kaskasi – impressive dimensions in the German North Sea**

**Wind turbines:** The 38 wind turbines (SG 8.0-167 DD Flex) with a capacity of up to 9 MW each reach a height of 190 metres in total. Each rotor blade is over 80 metres long.

**Foundations:** Each of the wind turbine foundations weighs up to 740 tonnes, the equivalent of 600 compact cars. Selected foundations feature a technological world première: For the first time, special steel collars were installed on three foundations. The design of the “collared monopiles” is based on an RWE patent.

In addition, RWE is testing three foundations with a concrete ring that expands and compacts the surrounding ground after being driven into the seabed (self-expanding pile shoe). Both technologies are set to improve the turbines’ stability in difficult ground conditions on the seabed.

**Converter station and cable:** The electricity generated in the individual turbines is sent to the offshore converter station weighing approximately 1,400 tonnes, where it is transformed to the voltage required for transmission. A total of 60 kilometres of sea cable was laid for Kaskasi. This is the same length as the Eurotunnel, which connects the UK to Continental Europe.

### **RWE**

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.

### **Forward-looking statements**

*This press release contains forward-looking statements. These statements reflect the current views, expectations and assumptions of management, and are based on information currently available to management. Forward-looking statements do not guarantee the occurrence of future results and developments and are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Actual future results and developments may deviate materially from the expectations and assumptions expressed in this document due to various factors. These factors primarily include changes in the general economic and competitive environment. Furthermore, developments on financial markets and changes in currency exchange rates as well as changes in national and international laws, in particular in respect of fiscal regulation, and other factors influence the company’s future results and developments. Neither the company nor any of its affiliates undertakes to update the statements contained in this press release.*

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