

## Press release

### RWE chooses Van Oord for foundations and array cables at Sofia Offshore Wind Farm

- **Final major preferred supplier selected for RWE Renewables' largest development**
- **Van Oord to establish logistics hub in UK's North East to deliver the work**
- **Scope includes 100 turbine foundations and more than 350 kilometres of array cables**

Swindon, 10 December 2020

RWE, the world's number two in offshore wind, has advanced the development of Sofia Offshore Wind Farm. The company has selected the international marine contractor Van Oord as the preferred supplier for the engineering, procurement, construction and installation (EPCI) of the monopile foundations and array cables, for one of the world's largest offshore wind projects.

The 1.4 Gigawatt (GW) Sofia is sited on Dogger Bank in the central North Sea 195 kilometres from the North East coast, where Van Oord, through its UK-branch MPI Offshore, will create a logistics hub to deliver the comprehensive scope of work.

Van Oord will deploy its offshore installation vessel Aeolus to install the 100 extended monopile foundations without transition pieces, while the 350 kilometres of array cables will be installed by the family-owned firm's first cable-laying vessel Nexus. The company will sub-contract the fabrication of the foundations and array cables.

Sven Utermöhlen, Chief Operating Officer Wind Offshore Global of RWE Renewables said: "On Dogger Bank, we are realising one of the world's largest offshore wind farms. Van Oord is a well-known partner to us, with Sofia the fifth and largest UK offshore wind farm that we have worked on together. This gives us a wealth of experience to draw on as we progress the project through its construction phase. Sofia is a flagship for RWE Renewables in terms of technology and innovation, and for the UK through regional supply chain opportunities and as a major contributor to the nation's net zero ambitions."

Van Oord worked closely with RWE on the construction of the Rampion, Humber Gateway, Robin Rigg and London Array offshore wind farms. Sofia brings the opportunity to further develop UK supply chain relationships, evolve construction techniques, and optimise the design of the foundations, which will be supporting some of the largest turbines currently on the market.



Pieter van Oord, CEO of Van Oord said: “We are extremely proud to be working together with RWE Renewables as the EPCI contractor for the permanent works of the Sofia Offshore Wind Farm. Van Oord is again at the forefront of projects that contribute to the transition to renewable energy. The project will be executed by MPI Offshore from our Stokesley office in Teesside and will deliver excellent opportunities for the local supply chain and labour market and to support the industry’s UK Sector Deal ambitions.”

Onshore construction will get underway at Sofia’s converter station site in Teesside early next year. Work on the foundation and array package is set to begin after the project’s financial investment decision in Q1 2021, with installation scheduled for 2024.

This foundation and array cable news now completes the main packages for Sofia with preferred supplier agreements already in place with Prysmian Group for the project’s HVDC export cable; a consortium of GE’s Grid Solutions and Sembcorp Marine for its HVDC transmission system, and Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy, set to supply the wind farm with its most advanced 14 Megawatts (MW) offshore wind turbines.

Sofia wind farm is 100% owned by RWE, the second biggest player in offshore wind globally and the UK’s second largest generator of electricity.

The UK plays a key role in RWE’s strategy to grow its renewables portfolio and to become carbon neutral by 2040. The company is currently constructing the offshore wind farm Triton Knoll. In addition, RWE and partners recently, signed Agreements for Lease with The Crown Estate to develop extension projects at four offshore wind farms; Gwynt y Môr, Galloper, Greater Gabbard and Rampion.

By the end of 2022, RWE aims to expand its renewables portfolio to more than 13 GW net capacity by investing €5 billion net, with the UK one of the core markets in Europe. Together with partners, the gross investment volume can amount to up to €9 billion. To achieve its growth targets, RWE has an attractive project development pipeline of more than 22 GW, across all of the company’s strategic core regions.

For more information about Sofia Offshore Wind Farm visit: [www.sofiawindfarm.com](http://www.sofiawindfarm.com)

**With photo:** *Van Oord’s offshore installation vessel Aeolus will be used on Sofia.*

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### **RWE Renewables**

*RWE Renewables, the newest subsidiary of the RWE Group, is one of the world's leading renewable energy companies. With around 3,500 employees, the company has onshore and offshore wind farms, photovoltaic plants and battery storage facilities with a combined capacity of approximately 9 gigawatts. RWE Renewables is driving the expansion of renewable energy in more than 15 countries on four continents. For further growth a net investment budget of €5 billion is available until 2022. When adding in possible partnerships, the medium term investment budget could reach up to €9 billion. The focus is on the Americas, the core markets in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.*

### **Sofia Offshore Wind Farm**

*Sofia is the largest project in RWE Renewable's current development portfolio with a generating capacity of up to 1.4 gigawatts (GW). The wind farm site is located 195 km off the coast of the North East of England and on the shallow central area of the North Sea known as Dogger Bank. Once operational, Sofia will be able to generate enough green energy to meet the electricity needs of almost 1.2 million average UK homes.*

### **Van Oord**

*Van Oord is a Dutch family-owned company with 150 years of experience as an international marine contractor. The focus is on dredging, land infrastructure in the Netherlands, offshore wind and oil & gas infrastructure. Its head office is in Rotterdam. Van Oord employs 5,000 staff, who worked in 2019 on 200 projects in 44 countries. The fleet consists of about 70 vessels and a large amount of special-purpose and auxiliary equipment. Marine ingenuity is characteristic of Van Oord. By using innovative, smart and sustainable solutions, it wishes to contribute to a better world for future generations.*

### **German General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

*Following the introduction of the GDPR, RWE would like to continue to send you press releases featuring information on the latest topics regarding RWE and to contact you via electronic means for this purpose. We hereby inform you that we have updated our privacy policy. We will not disclose any personal data that we have collected, stored and processed for the purposes of sending you our press releases to third parties. Your personal data has been submitted on a voluntary basis. You have the right to prohibit this use at any time. You have the right to obtain information from us concerning your stored personal data at any time and free of charge and to object to the processing or use of your data. If you do not wish to continue to receive press releases, please inform us of this via [datenschutz-kommunikation@rwe.com](mailto:datenschutz-kommunikation@rwe.com). Your data will then be removed from our system and you will not receive any more press releases from us. Please direct enquiries regarding our privacy policy to [datenschutz@rwe.com](mailto:datenschutz@rwe.com).*