

2012 to be good year for offshore wind in Europe: Association

► European Union, though battling severe economic headwinds, its wind industry has picked up the pace and substantially increased offshore projects developed in the region.

According to the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA), developers connected 132 turbines to the grid in the first half of this year. Those turbines, which have the cumulative capacity to generate 523 megawatts, represent a 50% increase over the first half of 2011.

EWEA points out, 2012 could turn out to be the best year ever for off-

shore wind energy in Europe, as a further 160 turbines, totaling 647.4 MW, are built but awaiting grid connection. But this is subject to weather conditions at sea and grid connection delays.

A total of 4,336 MW offshore wind capacity was operating as of 30 June 2012 - up from 3,294 MW in June 2011 - producing electricity for the equivalent of 4 million households.

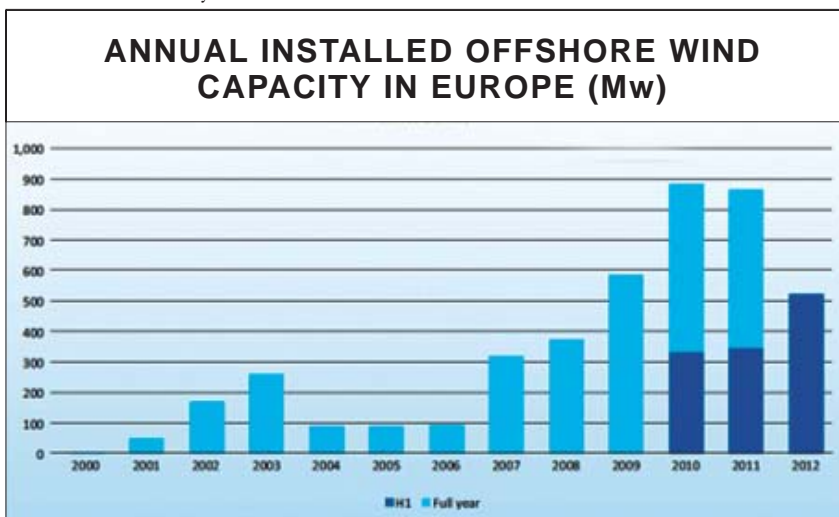
During the first half of 2012 overall, 13 wind farms were under construction. Once completed these wind farms will account for an additional



capacity of 3,762 MW.

In the first six months of this year, the number of financial transactions closed equaled the number closed in all of 2011. No projects in 2011 had been financed through debt; however, 30% of projects closed this year were done so with debt. EWEA attributes the increase in deals to the diversity of commercial banks and public financing agencies engaged in the market.

The Danish wind consultancy MAKE Consulting estimates that project financing will need to grow by 50% over the next five years in order for European countries like Britain, Germany, and France to meet their offshore wind targets. With European banks continuing to deleverage themselves, it's not clear if the necessary project finance will be available.



Chinese agency assures BIR that commercial data will be treated confidentially

► General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) has assured that it will refrain from publishing any lists containing commercial data.

Recently, some BIR member companies have expressed concern that data given to Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) for the purpose of registering overseas suppliers and importers seemed to have been used by some agencies/consultants to inform interested companies on the Chinese market and potential customers.

According to Wikipedia, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) is a ministerial-level department under the State Council of the People's Republic of China that is in charge of national

quality, metrology, entry-exit commodity inspection, entry-exit health quarantine, entry-exit animal and plant quarantine, import-export food safety, certification and accreditation, standardization, as well as administrative law enforcement.

AQSIQ directly administers provincial entry-exit inspection and quarantine bureaus and bureaus of quality and technical supervision.

The data provided includes company names, license numbers, description of goods etc.

BIR has conveyed their members' concern to AQSIQ and stressed the fact that the business-sensitive information must by all means be treated confidentially. AQSIQ assured BIR that in the future they will refrain from publishing any lists containing commercial data.