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DATE  
PAGE

15 July 2019  
1 of 2

## The North Sea "wind harvest" of the first half of 2019 exceeds the first half of 2018 by 16 percent

- **Transmission of 9.51 terawatt hours from sea to land stable with a strong 15 percent of total wind power generation in Germany**
- **TenneT calls for greater expansion of offshore wind energy in Europe to achieve European climate goals**

In the first half of 2019, the wind energy transmitted from the North Sea to land by the transmission grid operator TenneT rose to 9.51 terawatt hours (TWh)\*. This corresponds to an increase of a good 16 percent compared with the first half of 2018 (8.17 TWh). "We see the share of electricity transmission from the North Sea stable at around 15 percent of the total wind power generation in Germany, which reached almost 64 terawatt hours in the first half of 2019", said TenneT COO Tim Meyerjürgens. There have also been further improvements in cost efficiency for new offshore grid connection systems in recent months.

Most recently, TenneT awarded a contract for the construction of the offshore converter platform and the land station for DoWin5 in May, achieving cost savings of around ten percent compared to the previous DoWin6 project. "Thanks to the standardization of the offshore grid connection systems that we are pushing ahead with, it was also possible to achieve a lower cable price compared to the previous projects," says Meyerjürgens. An important contribution to this cost efficiency was also made by the expertise bundled at TenneT as the leading transmission system operator at sea. With the connections currently planned and under construction, TenneT will increase the offshore transmission capacity in the German part of the North Sea to almost 9 gigawatts by 2024.

With regard to the current offshore expansion rate in Europe, Meyerjürgens said: "According to all international studies and scenarios, the current roll-out rate of offshore wind in Europe is not sufficient to achieve the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement for Europe. An accelerated and large-scale roll-out is necessary".

In this context, TenneT has just presented a feasibility study by the North Sea Wind Power Hub consortium on the implementation of wind power hubs in the North Sea. "A future internationally coordinated approach could implement the connection and integration of a roll-out of large-scale offshore wind energy more effectively and at considerably lower costs of up to 30 percent than with continued individual national planning," says Meyerjürgens. Since the North Sea has a great

potential for offshore wind energy, the implementation of 180 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2045 could be achieved through the consortium's approach.

### **Additional figures**

The current maximum infeed performance of offshore wind farms in the North Sea reached 4,989 MW on 24 March 2019 at. The capacity expansion of the offshore wind farms in the North Sea amounted to 5,577 MW on 30 June 2019. TenneT's offshore transmission capacity is 6,232 MW.

The wind turbines in the Baltic Sea (not the TenneT grid area) generated 2.13 terawatt hours\*) in the first half of 2019, so that Germany's total offshore yield in this period was 11.64 terawatt hours\*). In addition to 52.27 terawatt hours\*) of onshore wind energy generated, the total yield amounted to 63.91 terawatt hours\*).

*\*) Financially subsidised electricity in accordance with the German Renewable Energy Act (EEG), without other direct marketing; for 2018, as the preliminary actual value. The volumes of energy produced onshore and in the Baltic Sea for the months of November and December 2018 are incorporated as preliminary estimated values.*

### **About TenneT**

TenneT is a leading European electricity transmission system operator (TSO) with its main activities in the Netherlands and Germany. With over 23,000 kilometres of high-voltage connections we ensure a secure supply of electricity to 41 million end-users. TenneT is one of Europe's major investors in national and cross-border grid connections on land and at sea, bringing together the Northwest European energy markets and accelerating the energy transition. We make every effort to meet the needs of society by being responsible, engaged and connected.

### **Taking power further**