

Release date: 06 January 2011

## **Global Marine Systems to install export cables for Gwynt y Môr offshore windfarm off the North Welsh coast**

- *576MW offshore windfarm is one of the largest currently in construction in Europe, and will inject over €2 billion into the UK and European offshore wind industry.*

RWE npower renewables has today announced the awarding of a multi-million pound contract<sup>(1)</sup> to UK firm Global Marine Systems, to install offshore export cables at Gwynt y Môr Offshore Wind Farm, North Wales.

At 576MW, Gwynt y Môr will be one of the largest offshore wind farms currently in construction, and is being built by RWE npower renewables. The project is a shared investment between partners RWE Innogy, Stadtwerke Munchen and Siemens<sup>(1)</sup>. Once fully operational, energy generation from Gwynt y Môr is expected to be equivalent to the average annual needs of around 400,000 homes<sup>(2)</sup>.

Announcing the award of the latest contract, RWE npower renewables' Gwynt y Môr Project Director, Toby Edmonds said: *"Gwynt y Môr is one of the largest offshore construction projects currently underway in the UK, and I am delighted that more and more elements can be delivered from within the UK supply chain, through the awarding of contracts such as this.*

*"We have one of Europe's most competent, skilled and experienced workforces in the field of offshore windfarm development and operation. Having Global Marine Systems Energy onboard will ensure Gwynt y Môr is delivered to the very highest standards across all aspects of the development."*

Global Marine Energy managing director Nicola Broom commented: *"We are pleased to be a key contractor to this, one of the world's largest offshore windfarms, which will further strengthen the UK's position as a world-leader in the renewables industry - contributing to reductions in carbon emissions, whilst also supporting the UK's marine engineering Industry.*

*"Our experience in managing the complexities of subsea power cable installation will be crucial to this project, which is massive in scale, and which will realise the great potential of the Welsh coast as a site for innovation in offshore transmission design."*

The offshore wind farm is being constructed 13 kilometres off the North Wales coast, in water depths of 12-28 metres, and was granted approval by DECC (Department of Energy and Climate Change) back in December 2008.

Global Marine Systems Energy, the energy unit of Global Marine Systems Ltd, was selected to carry out the subsea cable installation, on the basis of its historical track record of successful cable installation and the significant amount of work within the offshore windfarm market over the past ten years.

The Gwynt y Môr project represents a further significant expansion into the market for the company. Global Marine will apply its wealth of experience to installing the subsea power cables to take the electricity from Gwynt y Môr's two offshore electrical substations to underground transition pits on the shore.

Construction of the €2billion Gwynt y Môr project began in November 2009 when work to prepare land at St Asaph for the construction of a new 132/400kV substation was carried out by North Wales civil engineering company Jones Bros.

Turbine foundation installation is expected to start in the fourth quarter of 2011, and is expected to last for approximately two years.

Offshore export cable installation is due to commence in 2012, with Global Marine already involved in the planning and preparation of activities for the project.

ends

## Press contacts:

RWE npower renewables  
Mark Fleming  
Tel: +44 1793 474173 / m: 07825  
608096  
E-mail: [mark.fleming@rwe.com](mailto:mark.fleming@rwe.com)  
[www.npower-renewables.com](http://www.npower-renewables.com)

Fleishman-Hillard (for Global Marine)  
Caroline Roycroft  
Tel: + 44 20 7395 767  
E-mail:  
[caroline.roycroft@fleishmaneuropa.com](mailto:caroline.roycroft@fleishmaneuropa.com)

- **See the Gwynt y Môr Offshore Wind Farm website:** Download the project fact sheet and view the latest project information at: [www.npower-renewables.com/gwyntymor](http://www.npower-renewables.com/gwyntymor)

## Editors notes

<sup>(1)</sup> GyM represents a total investment of more than EUR2 billion, shared between RWE npower renewables' parent company RWE Innogy(60%); Stadtwerke München, Munich's Municipal Utility(30%); and Siemens(10%).

<sup>(3)</sup> Energy predicted to be generated by the proposal is derived using wind speeds monitored in the local area. This enables a calculation to be made to estimate the average annual energy production for the site based on 160 turbines each of rated capacity 3.6 MW. The energy capture predicted and hence derived homes equivalent figures may change as further data are gathered. Equivalent homes supplied is based on an annual electricity consumption per home of 4700 kWh. This figure is supported by recent domestic electricity consumption data available from The Digest of UK Energy Statistics and household estimates and projections from the UK Statistics Authority.

## About Global Marine Systems Limited

Global Marine Systems, the largest independent provider of submarine cables, installation, maintenance and related engineering services worldwide, has been in business for well over 160 years. Operating the world's largest fleet of cable ships and subsea vehicles, it is a market leader in marine cable installation, maintenance and related engineering services for offshore power, telecommunication and the oil and gas life industries. Global Marine is headquartered in the United Kingdom, with resources throughout Europe, Asia Pacific and the Americas.

For further information go to: [www.globalmarinesystemsenergy.com](http://www.globalmarinesystemsenergy.com)

RWE npower renewables is the UK subsidiary of RWE Innogy and is one of the UK's leading renewable energy developers and operators, committed to developing and operating wind farms and hydro plant to produce sustainable electricity.

The company operates 18 hydroelectric power projects and 23 wind farms in the UK, including the country's first major offshore wind farm, North Hoyle. RWE npower renewables is also working with marine energy technology partners to deliver new wave and tidal stream power projects in the UK. As Government policy focuses on achieving its EU commitment for 15% of UK energy to come from renewables sources by 2020, renewable electricity generation will need to increase to 30% of total output. We will be at the forefront of realising this aim.

In Wales, the company operates six hydroelectric power projects in North Wales, two offshore wind farms – North Hoyle, the UK's first major offshore wind farm, and Rhyl Flats, the largest renewables project in Wales, both off the North Wales coast. It also operates seven onshore wind farms from Neath in South Wales to Anglesey in the north.

RWE Innogy pools the renewable energy expertise and generating plant of the RWE Group. The company plans, builds and operates renewable power generation facilities, and aims to vigorously grow its renewable energy capacity in the UK and Continental Europe.

RWE npower renewables is a sister company to RWE npower, a leading integrated UK energy company with around 6.8 million customer accounts. RWE npower also owns and operates a flexible portfolio of conventional power stations as well as a portfolio of cogeneration plant producing more than 10% of the electricity used in England and Wales.

RWE is a major employer in Wales, operating five renewables office bases in South, Mid and North Wales, the Aberthaw Power Station and two Combined Heat and Power plants at Barry and Bridgend. In all, RWE's installed conventional and renewable energy generation in Wales supplies the equivalent of around one-third of Wales' electricity needs.

The company prides itself in its know-how, experience, quality of service and customer tailored solutions. Offering a comprehensive care plan after the sale or rental of their hammers including highly qualified service technicians, full range of spare parts, service and maintenance of the complete hammer systems.

For further information about RWE npower renewables and RWE Innogy visit [www.npower-renewables.com](http://www.npower-renewables.com) and [www.rweinnogy.com](http://www.rweinnogy.com)  
For further information about RWE npower visit [www.rwenpower.com](http://www.rwenpower.com)