



**World Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition**  
2 - 6 July 2002  
Berlin

*German wind power as a showcase: The Uckermark region in Brandenburg is the destination of just one of several trips on offer during the WWEC.*

*Atypical turbines: The Iven wind farm (Mecklenburg-West Pomerania) with 24 two-bladed 750-kW wind turbines.*



Photo: Franken

# A whirlwind of activity in Berlin

Organisers of the World Wind Energy Conference anticipate tangible results

**T**he global wind power sector is astir. The Danish experts at BTM Consult AsP recently published their World Market Update 2002, forecasting 80,000 MW of installed capacity by 2006 (see page 68). That's a hefty sum considering that only a quarter of that is on

stream now. So it's evident that political and administrative obstacles still have to be removed and the right policy frameworks put in place to achieve this target.

Although an ever-increasing number of countries throughout the world are beginning to seriously promote wind power, a true global breakthrough hinges on the implementation of suitable political and technological strategies that are in line with local conditions. Precisely such strategies are the focus of the World Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition (WWEC), taking place in Berlin from 2-6 July.

The World Wind Energy Association (WWEA) is hosting the major event together with more than 50 national wind power associations. The WWEC is being organised by the German Wind Energy Association (BWE) in co-operation with the companies WIP Munich and ETA Florence. The event's appeal is evi-

dent in the consistently increasing amount of international support. The organisers are pleased to report that more and more organisations are getting actively involved, including most recently the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Federation of German Windpower (FGW), who have announced their official support.

WWEA president Preben Maaegaard assigns high value to the Berlin conference as a way to further global wind power development: "Our industry has already taken many encouraging steps forward, but success has been limited mainly to countries like Germany, the US, Spain and Denmark. The World Wind Energy Conference in Berlin must signal that it's necessary to create favourable policy frameworks for wind power in all nations, based on the experiences of the countries that have been most successful so far."



Photo: Eredia

It's particularly good news then that the event is receiving strong political backing. The five-day conference and exhibition are taking place under the auspices of EU environment commissioner Margot Wallström, with the joint support of four German ministries. Environment Minister Jürgen Trittin will participate in the official opening for the German government.

Host country Germany is still the major driving force behind international development, thanks to strong political support within the country. By this summer more than 10,000 MW of installed capacity will be in place. In the light of the record-breaking figures from the first quarter of 2002 (see page 14) global wind power champion Germany is well on its way to achieving more than 12,000 MW of installed wind energy capacity by the end of the year.

## Chirac cabinet not making friends – renewables “not up to industrial standard”

Chancellor Gerhard Schröder acknowledged the wind power sector's contribution to jobs creation and securing a sustainable energy supply when he praised the achievements of the Renewable Energy Sources Act before the German parliament in a government policy statement on a national strategy toward sustainability. But only the

future can tell how the results of the parliamentary elections in September will impact policy.

Several other countries presenting themselves at the Berlin conference are well-positioned to soon emerge as the most attractive markets of the future: In addition to its 1,050-MW Proeolica scheme, Brazil recently passed a 3,300-MW programme for wind energy and small-scale hydropower, largely modelled on Germany's Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG). The Brazilian promotion scheme foresees guaranteed, fixed prices for a period of 15 years. In other countries, such as South Korea and Hungary, regulations have been passed in recent months that also echo the EEG, although in both of these cases the feed-in prices have yet to be determined.

The current situation in France, on the other hand, is not as positive

as was anticipated just a few months ago. First there were crippling difficulties concerning the grid connection of independently operated wind farms. And now the cabinet appointed by recently re-elected president Jacques Chirac is not exactly making friends with wind planners in France: While nuclear power in Germany is quickly becoming obsolete, new

French environment minister, Roselyne Bachelot, called it “the cleanest form of energy,” adding that although renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power must be developed, they “aren't up to industry standards.”

Photo: Wobben Windpower



These statements show that the road toward widespread use of renewable energy is by no means without political obstacles. So it's all the more crucial that international wind power players provide each other with mutual support in their activities and share their experiences. The World Wind Energy Conference in Berlin is an important step in this direction. The current boom in the world's leading wind countries must be continually safeguarded in terms of policy, and it must extend to other nations as well, by spreading the necessary expertise

**Just before the boom:** In May the Brazilian government decided another wind and small hydropower expansion programme.

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and creating international networks. This in turn supports the success in existing wind power markets by opening up new sales and export opportunities.

Besides these political and economic issues, the conference programme also offers scientists and users a broad scope of technical presentations, in which state-of-the-art technology will be presented and discussed. There is also an attractive supporting programme including various workshops and excursions.

Germany, in its role as host country, will present its extensive political, technological and commercial experience in the wind power sector. Conference participants will also have the opportunity to visit wind farms near Berlin. Several trips are being planned with the assistance of renowned companies.

For instance, one of the trips leads to one of Europe's most productive wind farms – an Enertrag wind farm in the Uckermark region, where 76 wind turbines generate power for 73,000 households. It will be of particular interest to foreign visitors to see how the turbines



Photo: Celker

have been integrated into the "typical" central European landscape. Another tour will lead to the production facilities of turbine manufacturer REpower Systems AG, which recently experienced a triumphant debut on Germany's Neuer Markt stock market.

Also scheduled is a trip to the Iven wind farm in West Pomerania, where 24 two-bladed turbines of 750 kW capacity each are in opera-

tion. Alongside these mills the Nordwind Group and Brand Elektro are building smaller 150-kW plants specially designed as stand-alone systems. The two companies will demonstrate a test plant near Tempel before the tour continues on to the Baltic Sea coast, where excursion participants can view the research facilities of the Stralsund Technical University. Research is being conducted there on the production, storage and use of hydrogen generated by wind and solar power.

A company called CargoLifter has developed a concept, which should prove to be of particular interest to the wind power industry: a transportation airship using "Lighter-Than-Air" technology. Conference delegates will be able to tour CargoLifter's visitor centre in Brand.

Participants from all the continents have signed up for the WWEC, which promises to be the international wind energy highlight of the year. A total of 800 delegates from 60 countries are expected to attend – many of them from "newcomer" countries in Latin America, Asia, Australia and Africa. Moreover, with the generous financial support of the German Environment Ministry, the organisers are in a position to invite special foreign guests whose participation would otherwise be impossible. Altogether, the World Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition look to be a true global forum for wind energy – one with its sights set on the future. ■

*By Stefan Gsänger, Osnabrück  
(Germany)*

## Expanding wind power everywhere

To live up to its claims of being a global event, the organisers of the World Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition (WWEC) have made special efforts to actively integrate wind power players from all corners of the earth. As main promoter, the World Wind Energy Association (WWEA) and its numerous member associations representing all the continents reflect this global character.

The extensive international participation is evident in the conference programme, which includes presentations from various nations far and near. In addition, special continental forums are scheduled, in which regional strategies for wind power development are to be developed. The forums are on the one hand directed toward participants from the world's various regions to facilitate local networking, and on the

other hand toward conference delegates interested in collecting in-depth information and in developing contacts across continents.

The forums will offer ample room to investigate regional conditions and frameworks and to discuss political and technological steps that still need to be taken. The forums will be led and moderated by leading wind power experts from the regions, who will report the results at the closing session of the WWEC on 6 July.

Forums on the following six regions are being planned:

- Africa and the Arab states
- America
- Asia
- Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific region
- East Europe and the CIS
- Europe/European Union

For more info:

[www.world-wind-conference.org](http://www.world-wind-conference.org)