## Large wind generator



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The joint venture, now in its fifth year, has indicated the V164 platform, originally announced as a 7MW model in 2011, could still evolve further, while rivals examine completely new products.

New MHI Vestas CEO Phillippe Kavafyan said it could become the offshore industry "workhorse" and expressed a desire to keep the platform competitive for a few more years, banking on the industry wanting a proven design over a new, albeit larger model.

Its 8-8.8MW version of the turbine has been installed (or is set to be installed) at several UK, Dutch, Danish and German projects, with a combined total of 2.24GW.

MHI Vestas suffered a small setback when the 9.5MW test turbine in Denmark was destroyed in afirein 2017, the cause of which was blamed on a faulty component damaged during installation.

The V164-9.5MW has a pipeline of roughly 3.7GW. It was named as the preferred turbine for the 950MW Moray East and the 860MW Triton Knoll wind farms off the UK's east coast. Both projects won support in 2017's contracts for difference support auction.

It is also set for Belgium's 224MW Northwester 2, the German 252MW Deutsche Bucht project and the 731.5MW Borssele III & IV site in the Netherlands, where two models will be installed on mono-suction-bucket foundations for the first time.

Beyond Europe, the manufacturer announced it had signed a preferred turbine supplier agreement for its V164 8-9.5MW platform for projects in Taiwan with Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, which owns three sites off Changhua county in the west of the country.

Siemens Gamesa's machine is another big turbine that has benefited from regular and incremental evolutions since its initial launch in 2011 as a 6MW unit with a 120-metre rotor.

The rotor is now 167-metres in diameter — the largest currently on the market — up from the previous 154-metre versions, providing a specific power rating of 365W/m2assuming an 8MW capacity.

The latest evolution also profited from the merger of Siemens and Gamesa, the latter of which owned the now-defunct8MW Adwen turbine, both in terms of technology and pipeline.

Its 6MW predecessors, with a 154- and 120-metre rotor, have been installed at Ørsted's 210MW Westermost Rough (UK), 252MW Gode Wind 2 (Germany) and Equinors's 402MW Dudgeon (UK) sites, among others, while the subsequent 7MW counts the 1.2GW Hornsea Project One and



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the 329MW eastern phase of the Walney Extension development in the UK in its track record.

In the ten months since its launch, the new 8MW platform has secured orders for almost 5.7GW of offshore-wind capacity, including the 1.5GW in France taken from Adwen, 900MW in Denmark and 1.4GW in the UK, as well as smaller orders in Germany, the Netherlands and Taiwan, meaning SGRE's market leading position remains relatively safe.

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