

Res lincs offshore wind farm

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Lincs Wind Farm is an offshore wind farm project in England, in the North Sea near the Skegness coast. A consortium of investors in renewable energy, including Ørsted, operates this project.

The project is located in the North Sea, east of England. It is within the UK territorial shelf, 8 kilometers off the Skegness coast. The operating base of the project is in Port Grimsby, the most extensive operations and maintenance base globally, which houses the O& M teams for 4 of Ørsted's wind farms.

Walpole onshore substation was expanded in 2009 to accommodate the capacity of the Lincs Offshore Wind Farm and to connect the wind power to The National Grid network. The additional extension at Walpole was necessary to step up the 132 kV from the farm to 400 kV required for grid connection.

Siemens Transmission started the offshore substation after Ørsted installed the foundations in 2011. These activities coincided with the installation of monopiles from 2010 to 2012, drilling operations, and completion of the onshore substation in 2011. Onshore works, meanwhile, began as early as 2010.

Ørsted reached the final investment decision in September 2009 and started construction in 2010. The UK Government issued a Renewable Obligation Certificate (ROC) for 20 years. The consortium started construction in 2010, or else they would not have qualified for the ROC. They financed the loan in 2012.

The project owners committed £575 million in 2011 for the project and secured the £1 billion project with the 2012 investment of £425 million.

After the final investment approval by Centrica in September 2009, Siemens project ventures and Ørsted (formerly DONG Energy) bought 50% of the project equity in December 2009.

Until January 2017, Centrica owned 50% of the stake in the joint venture, while 50% equity was shared equally by Ørsted and Siemens. The three companies also shared the project financing while obtaining the rest of the project finance from 10 different banks.

In January 2017, Green Investment Bank bought the combined 75% stake of Siemens and Centrica and now owns the majority. Ørsted still has its 25% stake. Ørsted still manages the wind farm and has been in operations for 15 years.

Power generation started in August 2012 and was commissioned in 2013. The commissioning in September 2013 was just four years after the final investment decision in September 2009.

The power technology from the project will last for up to 20 years, as the electrical equipment and turbines



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would need replacements after two decades to continue the farm operation up to its expected lifespan of 40 years.

The project has produced 8,543 GWh of electricity for The National Grid over almost nine years of fully operating. The offshore wind farm ranks 15th in the UK regarding installed capacity.

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Web: <https://www.hollanddutchtours.nl/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

