
Press release

New industrial association to establish new standards for sustainable dismantling of wind turbines

Cross-industry dialogue launched

Hanover, 17 January 2019. Dismantling of XXL products will be a real challenge especially for the wind industry, due to the forthcoming end of the feed-in tariff support under the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG). A newly founded association therefore is set to develop first-time standards for the dismantling of wind turbines. After three years of collaborative efforts in the IPH research project DemoNetXXL, ten companies have jointly established the Industrial Association for Repowering, Dismantling and Recycling of Wind Turbines (RDRWind). The aim of the association is to promote the dissemination of new technical applications and sustainable processes, standards and norms. On 30 January 2019, RDRWind is holding a member meeting in Wildeshausen that will welcome further stakeholders from the wind, dismantling and waste management industries.

2021 will abruptly signal the end of the 20-year feed-in tariff scheme under the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG) for about 5,000 wind turbines. In Germany, subsidies for another 8,000 turbines will be withdrawn by late 2025. For operators, this raises the question of whether existing turbines can be refurbished and further operated; if this is not possible, the wind turbines will need to be decommissioned and dismantled. In the process, wind turbine components will be checked for recycle ability and recycled.

Project engineer Martin Westbomke at the Institute for Integrated Production Hanover (IPH) non-profit GmbH has developed a software model in the “DemoNetXXL - Dismantling Networks for XXL Products” project of the DFG (German Research Foundation) since 2016 to facilitate time saving and cost-effective dismantling. Over the past three years, a network of repowering and dismantling experts has emerged from this research project who have drawn up recommendations for action for the dismantling process. “Dismantling and recycling are also part of a turbine’s life cycle. Key is to move forward and develop sustainable concepts for people and the environment across industries,” explains Martin Westbomke.

After completion of the research project, ten of the companies involved have joined together on 7 December 2018 to create the Industrial Association Repowering, Dismantling and Recycling of Wind Turbines (RDRWind) with the aim of facilitating cross-industry exchange. “It is our goal to develop first ever binding standards for the sustainable dismantling of wind turbine giants,” says Martin Westbomke, first chairman of the association. Deputy chairs are Annette Nuesslein of windConsultant and Jens Monsees of SSC Wind GmbH. Members elected Dr. Markus Binding of Veolia Umweltservice West GmbH as secretary. Ralf Voßhenrich of Hagedorn GmbH will be in charge of the finances of the association.

RDRWind intends to act as a platform for project developers, maintenance and operation companies and dismantling and recycling service providers in the wind energy industry. The recycling economy and health, safety and environment in dismantling will be permanent concerns of the association across industries. A key focus will be a cooperative exchange with national and European partner organisations of the wind industry.

The goal of the association in 2019 is to bundle expertise and practical experiences in cooperation with further associations and companies to create a new DIN standard for sustainable dismantling of wind turbines.

The new industrial association RDRWind is open to interested companies. The member assembly of the association will be held at SSC Wind GmbH on Wednesday, 30 January 2019. Interested parties are invited to the public part from 10am to 12:30pm. Registration is possible at (0511) 279 76-447 or by email to westbomke@iph-hannover.de.

Further information is available at demonetxxl.iph-hannover.de.

About the IPH

The Institute for Integrated Production Hanover (IPH) not for profit GmbH performs research and development in the field of production engineering. The company was set up as a spin-off of Leibniz University Hanover in 1988. The IPH provides research and development, consulting and training in all topics relating to process engineering, production automation, logistics and XXL products. The institute's customers include companies from tool and mould making, mechanical and plant construction, aerospace and automotive, electrical and forging industries.

The company is located in the Marienwerder science park northwest of Hanover and currently employs about 70 people, about 30 of whom are scientific staff.

Press contact

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Image material



RDRWind e.V.: Founded by ten companies from the wind industry. Association chairman is Martin Westbomke of IPH. (Source: IPH)