

Metoc Monitors Installation of World's Largest Offshore Wind Farm at Greater Gabbard

Submitted by: Rea-TMA Marketing

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Metoc (<http://www.metoc.co.uk>) is to monitor and report on the installation of wind farm infrastructure for Airtricity - the renewable energy development division of SSE (Scottish and Southern Energy) - which is developing the £1.3billion Greater Gabbard offshore wind farm off the East coast of the UK in a joint venture with RWE npower renewables.

Greater Gabbard is the world's largest offshore wind farm in construction and involves the installation of 140 Siemens 3.6MW wind turbines and associated cabling by eight 'state of the art' installation vessels.

On each of the vessels, Metoc (<http://www.metoc.co.uk>) will provide the Client Representation on behalf of Airtricity, monitoring and reporting to ensure the project requirements are fulfilled.

Metoc (<http://www.metoc.co.uk>)'s Head of Marine Planning and Operations, Eric Briar (<http://www.metoc.co.uk/pressreleases/Eric%20Briar.pdf>), said: "We are very happy to have been awarded this contract and our marine team is looking forward to working closely with Airtricity on this prestigious project. We believe it is an important role, ensuring the client requirements are maintained to the highest standard."

On completion, the wind farm will have a total capacity of around 500MW, with all turbines mounted on steel monopiles and transition pieces, in water depths between 24 and 34 metres. The development of Greater Gabbard, excluding the connection to the electricity grid, is expected to require investment of around £1.3billion.

Onshore work on the construction of the wind farm is now under way, and offshore work is on track to begin in June this year. Greater Gabbard is expected to be fully operational in the first quarter of 2011.

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Note for Editors

Metoc (<http://www.metoc.co.uk>) helps industry and Government to develop resources based on a full understanding of financial, environmental, and engineering issues, to reduce risks and costs and so maximise the return on investment.

Metoc has 25 years experience in working worldwide as advisers and project managers on infrastructure projects in the marine, coastal and river environments. This has ensured a detailed understanding of clients' needs and the crucial interface: where engineering meets the environment. Capabilities in consent delivery and engineering support, combined with high-level project management experience, enable Metoc to prevent costly dislocation throughout a project's life-cycle.

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