

Highlights of DEWEK 2008, The International Technical Wind Energy Conference

C. Ender, M. Dahm, DEWI



C. Ender

ENGLISH

At the end of November 2008, the DEWEK for the second time was held in Bremen - all in all this was the ninth DEWEK. The conference took place at the end of a year characterised by the amendment of the Renewable Energy Sources Act in Germany and the worldwide financial crisis. Everyone talked about massive cutbacks and throttling of production. During our preparations for the conference we therefore kept asking ourselves if this year's DEWEK would be just as successful as in 2006. The answer now is: Yes, the conference was a success all along the line. The already high number of delegates in 2006 was even exceeded and the exhibition with a larger booth area than last time was completely sold out. When asked to name the highlights of the conference, delegates answered differently. For some it was the gathering of engineers and scientists with their papers and posters, for others the contact with companies and their staff and for a third group it was the excursion. The list could be continued, which shows that also from the delegates' point of view DEWEK 2008 was a complete success. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors and supporters and hope that we can count on their support also for the next DEWEK in 2010.

Research in the field of wind energy has taken on an increasingly significant role over the last few years and will remain important in the future. This was emphasised in the opening session by Mr. Nick-Leptin of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. In the years 2004-2006 on average approx. 17 million Euros of the research budget were used for wind energy, whereas by 2007 this figure had increased to 35 million Euros (34 per cent of the total research funding in the field of renewable energies). The funding was allocated to various projects, with a major portion going to offshore research (e.g. the offshore test site with the RAVE projects, the research on the FINO platforms, etc.). Greetings of the host city of Bremen were presented by Senator Loske, responsible for Environment, Construction, Traffic and Europe, who even interrupted a meeting in order to deliver his speech - just in time. In his speech he also mentioned the activities of the cities of Bremen and Bremerhaven in the field of wind energy. Offshore wind energy was the main topic in the contribution by Mr Buddenberg of the energy supply company EWE AG, who presented the activities of his company in the field of wind energy and particularly its involvement in offshore projects. What will be the



Fig. 1 and 2: DEWEK 2008 conference rooms during the sessions (left and below)

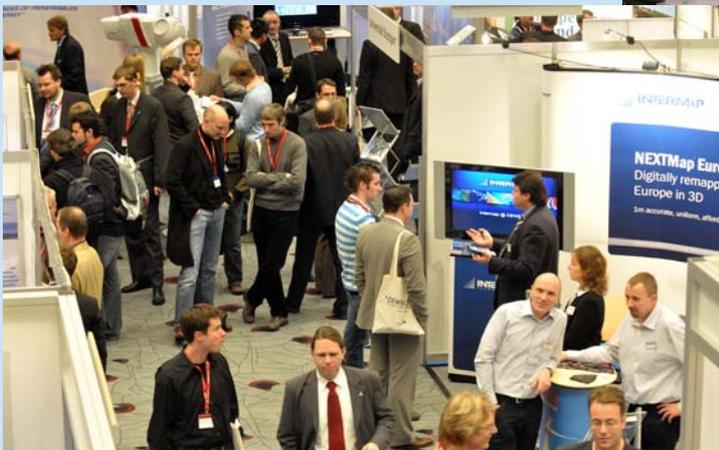


Fig. 3: DEWEK 2008 exhibition (left)

future of wind energy – or rather: Wind Energy, Quo Vadis? (see article page 6) This subject was addressed by Mr Molly in his speech, who also explained that the global wind resource at present is approx. 1,300 times higher than the capacity of all power plants installed world-wide. Mr Molly also emphasised that in future engineers would have to make even greater efforts to optimise the individual wind turbine components and to develop new procedures and materials.

With 172 papers and posters submitted for DEWEK 2008, the number of contributions increased by more than 10 % compared to the last conference. Of these contributions, the scientific committee of DEWEK selected 95 as oral and the rest as poster presentations. The papers selected then were grouped in 19 sessions, with three sessions each running parallel. The 640 delegates therefore had to decide which session they were going to attend, which was not too difficult because the organisers had managed to avoid presenting similar topics in parallel sessions. In all three rooms a simultaneous German-English translation was offered, enabling the over 200 foreign guests from 26 countries to follow the lectures. With the exception of Australia, all continents were represented - a real Who's Who of wind ener-

gy. Compared to 2006, there was a slight increase in the number of participants, which is a very good result, considering how many competing conferences had been organised last year all over the world. Our special thanks go to the chairmen who always had the tight schedule perfectly under control, using a large hourglass plus yellow and red cards where necessary. Apart from attending the lectures, the conference delegates also took the opportunity to visit the accompanying exhibition and meet representatives of companies, universities and research institutes for discussions and exchange of ideas. Altogether 61 exhibitors presented their products and services to an international audience.

The first conference day concluded with a reception sponsored by DEWI-OCC in the poster exhibition lobby. Here delegates and authors could discuss the subjects presented in all detail and in a relaxed atmosphere over drinks and culinary delicacies. The reception was followed by the traditional DEWEK conference dinner in the historic town hall of Bremen. Unlike the last time when the dinner was held in the upper hall, this year's dinner took place in the ancient wine cellar of the building, where enormous old wine barrels and rustic oak furnishings provide a very spe-



Fig. 4 and 5: Conference Dinner in the Ratskeller Bremen (left and below)



Fig. 6: Excursion by boat to the BARD VM WTGS near Hooksiel (left)

cial atmosphere. Here the conference delegates were able to relax and discuss their impressions of the day while enjoying delicious food and excellent wine. And if someone went missing, he or she most probably could be found at the chocolate fountain - a true highlight of the evening where people kept queuing up.

For more than 70 participants the conference was not over after the second day, because they took part in the next day's excursion to two multi-megawatt wind turbines near Wilhelmshaven. The first wind turbine visited was the BARD VM, a five megawatt offshore turbine installed in the water approx. 500 m off the shore near Hooksiel. A boat starting from Hooksiel harbour carried the participants to the site of the wind turbine. Whereas in the harbour the temperatures were still quite pleasant for November, it was windy and cold on the water. After having circled the wind turbine twice, the boat went back to the shore and the participants were able to warm themselves up over lunch consisting of Grünkohl (curly kale) and other North German specialties. In the afternoon the participants could visit the new GE wind turbine 2.5 xl, on the DEWI test site. We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the two manufacturers and their staff for their cooperation and help.

Finally we would like to thank once more all the delegates, exhibitors, authors, chairmen, simultaneous interpreters, the teams of Maritim and of Messe Bremen and the DEWI staff who helped with the organisation. We would be very glad to welcome all of you again at DEWEK 2010 on 17/18 November 2010.