

Press Release

Flagship project for green hydrogen:

AquaVentus plans offshore energy production in the North Sea

- At the digital Parliamentary Evening (8 December), the AquaVentus initiative presents a landmark project involving the offshore production of green hydrogen
- By providing ten gigawatts of production capacity by 2035, AquaVentus aims to make a substantial contribution to the German and European hydrogen strategy
- Bundestag Member Dr Stefan Kaufmann, Federal Commissioner for Hydrogen, emphasises the importance of green hydrogen for the North Sea region

Heligoland/Berlin, 9 December 2020 - It is the project that has been keenly awaited by many, not just the 200 attendees of the digital event. The Parliamentary Evening "Green hydrogen from the North Sea" on 8 December was centred around achieving a successful energy transition. The newly established association AquaVentus presented an unrivalled project to install ten GW offshore wind turbines in the North Sea between Heligoland and the Dogger Bank sandbank by 2035. The wind power will be used to produce hydrogen, which will then be transported to land via a pipeline.

Besides Jörg Singer, Mayor of Heligoland and Chair of AquaVentus, speakers included Bundestag Member and Federal Commissioner for "Green Hydrogen" Dr Stefan Kaufmann and Sven Utermöhlen, COO Wind Offshore Global at RWE Renewables.

Ten gigawatts by 2035 – AquaVentus, the central pillar of the hydrogen strategy

The EU and Germany are committed to the goal of reaching climate neutrality by 2050. The production of green hydrogen from renewables at sea can make a significant contribution to this endeavour and play a key role in the decarbonisation of Germany as an industrialised country. Green hydrogen opens up a huge amount of potential for the energy industry, turbine construction and the CO₂-free design of energy-intensive sectors, as well as the transformation of the mobility and logistics sector. "Producing up to one million tonnes of green hydrogen per year might sound utopian. But we are confident that this will become a reality and soon be normal. I am delighted that the Island of Heligoland can make a substantial contribution to reaching Germany's climate targets and will become a key element of the national hydrogen strategy of the Federal Government," says Jörg Singer.

The Federal Commissioner for Hydrogen, Dr Stefan Kaufmann, regards AquaVentus as a true flagship project. "The North Sea region is set to play a pivotal role in the future hydrogen economy. The AquaVentus initiative brings together strong partners and connects the value chain from production to transportation to customers. The project can demonstrate how innovative technologies work together in practice," says Kaufmann.

AquaVentus calls for national hydrogen strategy to be rapidly fleshed out

The North Sea surrounding the Island of Heligoland is an ideal starting point for the planned turbines thanks to the strong winds and proximity to the wind farms in the Dogger Bank area. "Offshore wind can provide electricity reliably and inexpensively and is therefore perfect for producing green hydrogen on an industrial scale. However, the production of hydrogen at sea requires substantial start-up investments in pilot projects. Making a clear statement on offshore production and transforming the hydrogen strategy into legislation will enable German policy-makers to speed up the development of this technology and tap into its potential for climate protection," explains Sven Utermöhlen, COO Wind Offshore Global at RWE Renewables and Deputy Chair of AquaVentus.



About AquaVentus

Detailed information available at www.aquaventus.org

AquaVentus is a strong consortium that is currently made up of 27 leading international companies, organisations and research institutions. Together we intend to make a substantial contribution to the implementation of the German and European hydrogen strategy. Our sustainable goal is to produce green hydrogen at sea, with the clear vision of achieving ten gigawatts of production capacity for green hydrogen from offshore wind energy and transporting it to land by 2035. This could provide groundbreaking impetus for the energy transition and for reducing CO2 emissions in the mobility sector and industrial production.

The project portfolio associated with the AquaVentus initiative includes various sub-projects along the value chain from the production of hydrogen in the North Sea to transportation to customers on the mainland. These coordinated projects synchronise demand and production, thereby facilitating market roll-out. The AquaVentus project portfolio includes the following: The development of offshore wind turbines with integrated hydrogen production (AquaPrimus), a large-scale offshore hydrogen park (AquaSector), a central supply pipeline (AquaDuctus), infrastructure for harbours (AquaPortus), hydrogen-based maritime applications (AquaNavis) and a research platform (AquaCampus).

Founding members

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Schatzmeister Kay Martens