Exclusive Interview: RWE Innogy

**How Offshore wind helps RWE to become “greener”**

_Udo Reher, Head of Procurement at RWE Innogy, explains in this exclusive interview with IQPC how offshore substations are important “cornerstone” of RWE’s overall goal to increase “green energy”. Mr. Reher will speak at IQPC’s International Conference Offshore Wind Power Substations, 28 – 30 August in Bremen. Read this interview for an exclusive preview of his presentation._

IQPC: What is your company’s role in the offshore wind sector?

**Udo Reher:** RWE Innogy GmbH develops, invests in, owns and operates on a long-term basis offshore wind projects in Europe. Offshore wind is seen as a cornerstone of the achievement of RWE Group’s target to make its asset base become “greener”.

IQPC: In a dynamic and competitive market like offshore wind, how do you set yourself apart from other companies?

**U.R.:** We are determined to overcome bottlenecks in the supply chain as we have proven e. g. by the order of two construction vessels. When it comes to competition it is more about availability of funds than projects so RWE Innogy may benefit from RWE’s experience with the financing of large infrastructure and power plant projects which were delivered in the past.

IQPC: Where do you see the main challenges for offshore substations? Which impact do they have on your work?

**U.R.:** On-time and on-budget is the key. The impact of the substation cannot be over-estimated because a working substation is a prerequisite to generate cash. However, subsea cables are not less important in that context.
IQPC: Reducing the overall cost is a key driver in substation design. Where do you see room for improvement?

U.R.: Further standardisation of the design may help to abbreviate design cycles and thus reduce cost. That is a very general and possibly simplifying statement but from time to time it seems to be right to go back to the basics. Investors as well as financiers may be particularly interested in solutions including the installation to reduce interface risks.

IQPC: Which of today’s developments will shape future substations? What will they look like in 5 years?

U.R.: Substations have a very mature technology which has been developed to a quite sophisticated status over the last couple of years. We do not expect significant changes/developments in the next 5 years. There might be further improvements in the instrumentation and control equipment though but the core components of a substation will probably be the same in 5 years as they are today.

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