CHANTIERS DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE

Major milestones for the marine renewable energy sector

- **Nordseecluster offshore electrical substations ready for installation in the German North Sea**
- **New very large-scale paint hall inaugurated to support offshore direct current platforms (HVDC) production**

Photos credits : on the left Chantiers de l'Atlantique/ Bernard Biger ; on the right Chantiers de l'Atlantique/ Maxime Castric

Saint-Nazaire, February 10, 2026 – **Chantiers de l'Atlantique today announced the completion of two offshore electrical substations for the Nordseecluster, a joint offshore wind project of RWE and Norges Bank Investment Management. The substation topsides are ready for offshore installation and will depart Saint-Nazaire in March.**

A ceremony held at the Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard marked the successful completion of the engineering, construction and integration phases of the two substations. The event was attended by local elected officials, Tobias Keitel, Chief Technology Officer of RWE Offshore Wind, Laurent Castaing, General Manager of Chantiers de l'Atlantique, and Frédéric Grizaud, Senior Vice President Marine Renewable Energies business unit at Chantiers de l'Atlantique.

Each offshore substation is approximately 40 meters long and 22 meters high. The first topside weighs 1,800 tons, while the second reaches 2,500 tons. Both units will be transported by barge to their installation site in the North Sea, around 50 kilometres north off the German island of Juist, on a voyage lasting around eight days. The foundations for the two substations have already been successfully installed.

The substations will form the operational heart of the Nordseecluster offshore wind project. They will collect electricity generated by the turbines, increase the voltage and transmit the power to the DolWin6 high-voltage direct current (HVDC) converter station. DolWin6 acts as a central energy hub, consolidating electricity from several German offshore wind farms before transmitting it to shore in direct current and feeding it into the onshore power grid. The Nordseecluster substations are also equipped to gather operational data from the wind farms and to enable remote monitoring and control from land.

The Nordseecluster will have an installed capacity of around 1.6 gigawatts (GW) — equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of approximately 1.6 million German households.

The Nordseecluster will be constructed in two phases: the offshore works on Nordseecluster A are proceeding well with foundation installation completed end of last year and installation of the 44 wind turbines to begin in summer 2026. The turbines with a rated capacity of 15 MW each will be connected to the two substations built in Saint-Nazaire. After full commissioning in early 2027, Nordseecluster A will have a total capacity of 660 megawatts (MW). The second expansion stage, Nordseecluster B, will contribute an additional 900 MW through its 60 wind turbines, which will commence commercial operation in 2029.

Signed in June 2023, the contract for the delivery of the two substations generated more than 750,000 working hours at Chantiers de l'Atlantique.

"We would like to thank RWE for their trust. Delivering two offshore substations simultaneously is a major achievement for our teams and reflects both their commitment and technical expertise. This project demonstrates the international competitiveness of the French offshore wind industry, confirms our position as a leading player in a rapidly expanding sector, and highlights our contribution to European energy sovereignty," explains Frédéric Grizaud, Senior Vice President Marine Renewable Energies business unit at Chantiers de l'Atlantique.

Tobias Keitel, Chief Technology Officer at RWE Offshore Wind, added: "It is impressive to see these two large topsides ready for installation in the German North Sea. With the foundations already in place, everything is prepared for the upcoming 'wedding at sea' — the moment when the topsides are successfully installed on the foundations. My sincere thanks go to Chantiers de l'Atlantique for their outstanding craftsmanship, as well as to our valued partner Norges Bank Investment Management, the entire RWE team, and everyone involved in bringing the Nordseecluster to life. With this 1.6-gigawatt cluster, RWE is significantly expanding its offshore wind portfolio and helping to deliver a reliable, clean, and affordable energy system".

Technical characteristics:

Nordseecluster substation 1

- Capacity: 225 MW
- Topside weight: 1,800 tons
- Monopile foundation weight: 800 tons
- Topside dimensions: 41 m (length) × 26 m (width) × 22 m (height)

Nordseecluster substation 2

- Capacity: 433 MW
- Topside weight: 2,500 tons
- Jacket foundation weight: 2,000 tons
- Topside dimensions: 42 m (length) × 30 m (width) × 22 m (height)

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Photos credits : on the left Chantiers de l'Atlantique/ Maxime Castric ; on the right Chantiers de l'Atlantique/ Claire Ronsin

On the same day, Chantiers de l'Atlantique inaugurated the extension of its Anemos paint hall, alongside local elected officials, the partner companies involved in the project, as well as site management and project teams.

Now fully operational, the facility brings to a close 14 months of construction work that began in November 2024. Already the largest painting booth of its kind in Europe, Anemos has seen its surface area expanded from 1,750 m² to 3,500 m², significantly enhancing the shipyard's industrial capabilities.

The extension forms a key part of the investment plan announced by Chantiers de l'Atlantique in May 2024 to double its electrical substation production capacity, in response to sustained market growth and rising demand for HVDC offshore platforms. Unique in Europe, the expanded paint hall is a cornerstone of this strategic program.

Dedicated primarily to the blasting and painting of structural blocks for HVDC platforms, the two paint halls offer tightly controlled conditions for ventilation, temperature and humidity. These facilities are critical to ensuring the long-term durability of offshore substations operating in harsh marine environments, enabling reliable performance over several decades — from the collection of wind-generated electricity to voltage step-up prior to transmission to shore.

The project was delivered in collaboration with around fifty local companies and benefited from support under France's Green Industry Investment Tax Credit (C3IV), further strengthening the competitiveness of the French offshore wind supply chain.

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About Chantiers de l'Atlantique

Leveraging the expertise of its teams and its network of subcontractors, combined with first-class industrial facilities, Chantiers de l'Atlantique is a leading player in the design, integration, testing, and turnkey delivery of cruise ships, naval vessels, electrical substations for offshore wind farms, as well as fleet services.
At the heart of tomorrow's industrial challenges, the company designs and builds ships whose environmental performance exceeds the most stringent standards, while also delivering offshore wind power equipment that positions it as a major player in the energy transition.

Plus d'informations :
www.chantiers-atlantique.com