

PRESS RELEASE

**PRYSMIAN LAUNCHES NEW CABLE SOLUTION ENABLING
UP TO 15% COST REDUCTION OF OFFSHORE WIND FARMS**

PRYSMIAN 66 kV CABLE SYSTEM ACHIEVES QUALIFICATION IN CARBON TRUST PROGRAMME

**STATE-OF-THE-ART MATERIALS AND LIGHTER DESIGNS FOR MORE SUSTAINABLE AND COST-EFFECTIVE
ELECTRICAL ARRAYS**

Milan, 17 March 2016 - Prysmian Group, world leader in the energy and telecom cable systems industry has gained verification of its higher voltage cable system technology for offshore wind inter-array networks. The Group announces the successful completion of type testing of its 66 kV cable system in accordance with CIGRE and IEC test protocols, as part of the Carbon Trust's Offshore Wind Accelerator (OWA) programme.

"This new qualification milestone is a further advance along our path towards the development of innovative, sustainable and cost effective cable solutions for the offshore renewable power industry" stated Raul Gil, Prysmian PowerLink Chief Operating Officer "Prysmian is both prepared and fully geared to support the global offshore wind market, such as the UK's Round 3 project opportunities", he added.

The Carbon Trust is an independent UK company with a mission to accelerate the move to a sustainable, low-carbon economy. The OWA is Carbon Trust's flagship collaborative RD&D programme, involving nine offshore wind developers and supported by the UK Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Scottish Government, which aims to reduce the cost of offshore wind through innovation, developing innovative concepts into commercial solutions.

Among the prioritised technological challenges, the OWA identified higher voltage electrical arrays as an area for development which could deliver significant benefits to the design of future offshore wind farms. As has been reported elsewhere, developers can expect to reduce their overall offshore wind farm capital expenditure by up to 15% by raising the inter-array voltage level to 66 kV. Moving to 66 kV would demonstrate a material improvement in lifecycle costs compared with 33 kV, which becomes increasingly attractive as wind turbine continue to develop in size.

To encourage an accelerated development of a competitive 66 kV cable system market, the OWA supported selected cable manufacturers, including Prysmian, with the testing and certification of their 66 kV cable system designs.

Jan Matthiesen, Director of Innovation at the Carbon Trust commented: "Moving to 66 kV intra-array networks offers a great opportunity to cut costs. However, through the Offshore Wind Accelerator we identified that there was limited investment going into the development of 66 kV cables that could be cost competitive to 33 kV intra array cable. This is a key requirement if we are to move to higher voltage arrays. This latest announcement proves the effectiveness of the OWA in bringing cable manufacturers and offshore wind developers together to accelerate development, manufacture and certify important new cable solutions for 66 kV."

Prysmian has now type tested a 3-core, 66 kV EPR insulated "wet-design" cable system with aluminium conductor - copper is also available - and integrated optical element. The solution includes factory, field joints and plug-in terminations (using proprietary Click-Fit™ technology) and combines the use of state-of-the-art EPR insulation - a material with excellent performance in direct contact with water, with the cost effectiveness of a lighter, lead-free design. The qualification process was carried out in Prysmian laboratories in the UK and in Italy.

Although the qualified cable technology is innovative in its application, Prysmian has experience of over 40 years with such "wet design" EPR insulated cables up to 72.5 kV in a wide range of applications. This success in the qualification of its 66 kV system will provide the necessary confidence to offshore wind developers to reap the benefits by raising their inter-array system voltage to achieve significant overall cost reductions and a higher competitiveness of offshore wind energy systems.

Prysmian Group

Prysmian Group is world leader in the energy and telecom cables and systems industry. With almost 140 years of experience, sales of about €7.5 billion in 2015, over 19,000 employees across 50 countries and 88 plants, the Group is strongly positioned in high-tech markets and offers the widest possible range of products, services, technologies and know-how. It operates in the businesses of underground and submarine cables and systems for power transmission and distribution, of special cables for applications in many different industries and of medium and low voltage cables for the construction and infrastructure sectors. For the telecommunications industry, the Group manufactures cables and accessories for voice, video and data transmission, offering a comprehensive range of optical fibres, optical and copper cables and connectivity systems. Prysmian is a public company, listed on the Italian Stock Exchange in the FTSE MIB index.

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