

SHIPPING- AND LOGISTICS COMPANIES TO LOWER LCOE

BY MARIANNE SOMMER // PHOTO: CLAUS PEUCKERT

A new research study puts focus on shipping- and logistic companies as an important tool to bring down Levelised Cost of Energy

THE EFFORTS to bring down the price of offshore wind energy has so far mainly focused on the development of large components such as turbines, foundations and substations. However, by involving the shipping- and logistic-chain further in the process when building offshore wind farms, there is a giant potential for further cost reductions. This is the basis of a new PhD-project, which has been launched with MBA in shipping- and logistics, Thomas Poulsen at the helm.

“My purpose with this project is to look across the entire industry and get an overview of the life cycle of an offshore wind farm – from the first geological tests are being carried out till decommissioning of the turbines. After that, to de-mystify the offshore wind market, create transparency and increase

availability so that shipping companies and players within logistics to a greater extend can contribute with their expertise,” says Thomas Poulsen, who has previously worked at A.P. Moeller-Maersk.

He has followed the industry closely throughout the past five years and notes that today shipping- and logistic-companies are not sufficiently involved in the development process of new offshore wind projects. The aim is to involve these players in the future and have them contribute within the areas where they can help lower costs.

Get in the game

Getting the industries to cooperate on a larger scale requires an effort from all parties. For example, manufacturers must be better at sharing their plans with sub-suppliers already during the development phase. On the other hand, then the shipping- and logistics-industry must invest more in the industry, Thomas Poulsen believes.

“In this connection the task will be to kill the fear that it’s too risky to invest in an industry which has been invented by

the state and is run on subsidies. Because different governments all over the world agree to focus on the green transition,” he states.

“So my advice to the shipping- and logistics industry is: Get in the game and become a part of this – this is an emerging industry. And once we break the curve of cost of energy then progress may happen even faster,” Thomas Poulsen adds. //

The project in short

The PhD-project, which is financed by The Danish Maritime Fund and the University of Aalborg, ends in January 2017. By then Thomas Poulsen and his team will have carried out more than 400 interviews with scientists, politicians and specialists all over the world.

Read more about the project on: www.windscm.com



Research shows that a 20 MW wind turbine is possible in theory and when turbines get bigger, projects can only be realised if vessels, cranes and infrastructure follow suit, says Thomas Poulsen, who is working on his PhD-research project: Global wind energy shipping and logistics research project.