

Report

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EDP Innovation CEO Antonio Vidigal

The topic of Antonio Vidigals presentation was floating wind turbines. EDP is operating a demonstration project approximately 6 km from shore next to the town Póvoa de Varzim, Portugal. The concepts for floating wind turbines are adopted from oil rigs, as the costs for grounded offshore installations are increasing with the water deeps. For wind turbines actual two types of floating wind turbines are tested.

1. Spare (e.g. Hywind project, Norway)
2. Dutch tri-floater (e.g. Windfloat project, Portugal)

The first one has the drawbacks of very high water deeps as the spare is around 100 m long and it has to be assembled offshore. The second one can be assembled onshore in a dock and afterwards pulled to the operation position. Also is this type feasible for water deeps from 40 m where offshore wind turbines with foundation are not available.

The Windfloat project works so well that the next steps are to increase the power of the wind turbine from now 2 MW to a value between 6 MW and 8 MW and to increase the number of platforms to 4.