

INVESTMENT - The use of renewable energy resources

New wind energy plant - Green Power Słowiński

The wind farm Green Power Słowiński consists of 104 wind turbines and will be constructed in the communities of Stupsk and Ustka within the next few years. The green energy generated there will be purchased by Energa-Obrót.

STANISŁAW ZEMBRZUSKI

Green Power Słowiński (GPS) will start operating in 2010 or even one year earlier. Everything depends on the pace of completion of the construction-related formalities, which are numerous.

The owner and investor of GPS is Green Power Polska (founded in 2006) which is in turn owned by the Japanese company Green Power Investment Corporation.

– The wind turbines will be located in the west of Ustka. The wind farm will consist of 104 wind turbines, each with the capacity of 2.3 MW, which gives the total capacity of about 240 MW (the Polaniec Wind Farm, for comparison, has eight units with the capacity of 225 MW each). The turbines will be over 100 m high and the rotor diameter will be almost 90 m. The turbines ordered by Green Power Słowiński will be manufactured by Siemens – says Artur Stawikowski of Green Power Polska.

For the time being, design works are underway and their completion is expected in one year's time. Then the investor will have to go through a bureaucratic struggle for the construction license. According to Adam Stawikowski, talks with PSE-Operator are being held concerning the high voltage line necessary to connect GPS with the national electro-energetic system. Because of the considerable capacity (it is worth noting that all the wind farms operating at the moment in Poland have the capacity of about 280 MW) the turbines will be connected directly to the power grid with the voltage of 400 kV.

The sale of the energy that GPS wind turbines will be producing during the next years has already been settled. It will be purchased by Energa-Obrót, like the so-called green certificates attesting that the energy comes from a renewable source. The sale of these certificates (which are treated as property rights) is an additional source of income for the owners of wind farms (and any other power plants based on renewable energy sources). The energy itself is sold at market prices. The prices for certificates reach 240 zlotys/MWh (which is the maximum price determined by the amount of the so-called Substitution Fee, paid in case of failure to comply with the obligation of possessing an appropriate number of certificates). Energy sellers are obliged to make sure that the energy from renewable sources constitutes an appropriate part of the energy sold to consumers – 5.1% in 2007.

The mechanism of certificates verifies the compliance with this obligation and provides a financial support for the producers of energy from renewable sources.

The preparations and negotiations aiming at signing the contract of purchase of energy and property rights between Energa-Obrót and Green Power Polska had lasted for one and a half years. The agreement was eventually signed by Masaaki Matsuoka, a Director of Green Power Investment Corporation, and Jacek Śmiech, the President of Energa-Obrót.

– This undertaking is unprecedented in our country. It is going to be Poland's biggest wind farm constructed onshore and one of the biggest such wind farms in Europe – says Jacek Śmiech.

In 2010 the energy produced by Green Power Słowiński will account for about 20% of Energa's yearly demand for green energy. In three years' time energy sellers will have to make sure that 10% of the energy they sell comes from renewable sources. Energa's position in this respect is already very good.

The company has about 30% share of the market of energy produced from renewable sources. It is no wonder since Energa is Poland's biggest producer of energy from hydropower plants. It has 45 such power plants with the total capacity of 355.2 MW. Many small water, wind, biogas and biomass energy sources are connected to Energa's grid. In 2006 the amount of energy from renewable sources belonging to Energa totaled 755 GWh (including 668 GWh from the Włocławek Hydropower Plant). About 50 MWh came from other renewable sources.

GPS is not the only project related to renewable energy sources implemented by Green Power Polska. The company is holding talks with communes concerning the localization of new potential wind energy investments. It also considers taking over projects prepared by other developers.

Energa is Poland's biggest producer of energy from hydropower stations.



Fot. Lukasz Smolinski

We are going to continue the intensive investment in the production of environmentally-friendly energy – says BARBARA KLIMIUK, President of Energa's management board.