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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Seatower Cranefree foundation for offshore wind turbines has been successfully installed at the Fécamp site in the British Channel

The company Seatower has successfully installed a new type of foundation for offshore wind turbines expected to change the industry with its unique cranefree technology. The new foundation was installed on February 9 at the Fécamp site in the British Channel and is by experts regarded as a potential game changer due to fast and efficient installation procedures without the use of offshore cranes or special purpose vessels.

The first Seatower Cranefree Gravity® foundation for offshore wind has been successfully installed in the British Channel approximately 15 km off the French coast at the Fécamp offshore site at 30 meters water depth. The installation was carried out by MT Højgaard.

Fast and efficiently, the hollow Seatower foundation was towed out to its desired position by two tugs and then deployed by letting seawater flow into the hollow foundation. The foundation was thereby fixed to the seabed by its own ballasted weight.

"We are pleased that both the manufacturing schedule and installation of the first Seatower went according to plans. This type of foundation is perfect for larger turbines and we have now demonstrated that installation can happen also during winter time and in harsh offshore conditions, which is one of many advantages that will reduce the cost of offshore wind," says CEO and co-founder of Seatower Petter Karal.

Low Cost and Environmentally Friendly

Seatower expect that the new Cranefree Gravity® based foundation will change the offshore wind power industry due to its many advantages compared to the commonly used steel structures.

"Our foundations are less costly than conventional foundations such as steel monopiles. Seatower Cranefree Gravity® are quicker to install and less risky, as the installation involves fewer personnel in the offshore operations. Also Seatower Cranefree Gravity® is environmentally friendly. There is no noise from pile hammering or drilling during the installation process, since the hollow foundation is simply filled with sand to anchor it safely to the seabed," explains Petter Karal.
The manufacturing and installation of the first installed Seatower Cranefree Gravity® is executed by a consortium consisting of Seatower, Danish MT Højgaard and French Eiffage TP.

A video explaining fabrication and installation methods is available by clicking here.

The demonstrator site is located at the wind project “Parc Éolien en Mer de Fécamp” owned by the French energy company EDF Energies Nouvelles, Danish DONG Energy and German wpd Offshore.

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Notes for editors:

- Seatower Cranefree Gravity® has been deployed in water depths of around 27 meters. The base plate for the new prototype is 23 meter in diameter and over a meter high and has innovative steel skirts at the bottom for penetration into the seabed, which reduces the required weight. The weight of the completed structure with ballast is approx. 2000 tonnes.

- The Fécamp site “Parc éolien en mer de Fécamp” is a 498MW offshore wind farm development project located around 13km off the Normandy coast. The project is being brought forward by EDF Energies Nouvelles, Danish Dong Energy, independent renewables developer wpd Offshore and wind turbine manufacturer Alstom.

- The design of Cranefree Gravity® foundations is widely patented and has been verified and approved by certification authority DNV.

About Seatower:

Seatower is a European leading designer of foundations for offshore wind turbines. It’s unique Cranefree Gravity® technology - based on principles from the offshore oil & gas sector - allows offshore wind projects in deeper waters to be executed cost-efficiently and with minimized risk. Seatower provides turnkey installation of its foundations in partnerships with local companies close to the installation site.