



## Press release

# RWE opens new office in Brussels to explore Belgium offshore market

Essen, 20 November 2024

RWE's offshore wind division opened a project office in Brussels yesterday at an event attended by Offshore Wind CEO Sven Utermöhlen and other senior management, supply chain partners, wider industry and dignitaries. Situated in the heart of the city, it will act as the base from which a team of RWE experts will explore the Belgian offshore market. Their first task will be to assess the bid criteria of Belgium's next round of offshore wind development, the Princess Elisabeth Zone. The team, headed by An Stroobandt, won't have to wait too long: The bid criteria are widely expected to be published in the coming days.

**An Stroobandt, country lead offshore wind development Belgium for RWE:** "Our decision to open a project office in Brussels is in response to the Belgian government creating an investment-friendly environment for the offshore wind industry to participate in the upcoming tender, ensuring the realisation of renewable energy production by 2030. My team and I are looking forward to fully engage with stakeholders while we evaluate the tender criteria as and when these are published."

RWE's presence in the Belgian North Sea dates back to the start of offshore wind development in Belgium 15 years ago with the Thornton bank windfarm, in which RWE has a 27% stake. And five years ago, RWE signed a power purchase agreement for the Northwester 2 wind farm's entire production of around 800 GWh per year.

An added: "The North Sea offers great potential for offshore wind, partly because of the favourable wind climate and the relatively shallow water depth. It is a key region for RWE's offshore wind projects, and we are currently constructing nearly 5GW of offshore wind in the Dutch, German, UK and Danish parts of the North Sea. My team's goal is to add a Belgian wind project of our own to that list."

### Leading global player in offshore wind

RWE currently operates 19 offshore wind farms globally. The company aims to triple its global offshore wind capacity from 3.3 GW today to 10 GW by 2030.

As of 2020, a total capacity of 2.261 MW of offshore wind power is operational in the Belgian part of the North Sea. In 2021 the Belgian government decided for a phased increase in offshore wind production, of up to 3.5 GW in the Princess Elisabeth Zone, which covers an area



of 285 km<sup>2</sup>.

The tender for the first offshore wind farm in the Princess Elisabeth Zone will officially open when the Belgian government publishes the tender criteria, which is widely expected before the end of the month. The first new offshore wind farm is expected to start generating electricity from 2029.

**For further enquiries:** Maarten Abele  
Media Relations RWE Benelux  
M: +31 62 533 8363  
E: [maarten.abele@rwe.com](mailto:maarten.abele@rwe.com)

**Pictures of the office opening event** are [available at RWE's media database](#) (credit: RWE).

#### **RWE**

*RWE is leading the way to a clean energy world. With its investment and growth strategy Growing Green, RWE is contributing significantly to the success of the energy transition and the decarbonisation of the energy system. Around 20,000 employees work for the company in almost 30 countries worldwide. RWE is already one of the leading companies in the field of renewable energy. RWE is investing billions of euros in expanding its generation portfolio, in particular in offshore and onshore wind, solar energy and batteries. It is perfectly complemented by its global energy trading business. RWE is decarbonising its business in line with the 1.5-degree reduction pathway and will phase out coal by 2030. RWE will be net zero by 2040. Fully in line with the company's purpose - Our energy for a sustainable life.*

#### **Forward-looking statements**

*This press release contains forward-looking statements. These statements reflect the current views, expectations and assumptions of management, and are based on information currently available to management. Forward-looking statements do not guarantee the occurrence of future results and developments and are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Actual future results and developments may deviate materially from the expectations and assumptions expressed in this document due to various factors. These factors primarily include changes in the general economic and competitive environment. Furthermore, developments on financial markets and changes in currency exchange rates as well as changes in national and international laws, in particular in respect of fiscal regulation, and other factors influence the company's future results and developments. Neither the company nor any of its affiliates undertakes to update the statements contained in this press release.*

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