

North Sea countries forge alliance to build energy knowledge base



Scotland, Norway (Rogaland), Northern Germany (Ems-Achse) and Northern Netherlands (Energy Valley) have formed a unique alliance called ENSEA (European North Sea Energy Alliance) to develop a knowledge base for the energy transition. All of these North Sea countries possess specific expertise, thus bringing not only cooperation but knowledge diversity into the alliance. The collaboration between Europe's leading players in the production and transport of natural gas and electricity (Energy Valley), the exploration of oil and gas (Scotland), sustainable energy (Niedersachsen) and in supplying clean energy (Rogaland) allows for a knowledge base to be built on the integration of conventional and sustainable energy resources together with their application. The alliance was dubbed "Region of Knowledge" by the European Union.

Scottish, Norwegian and Northern German partners

The Energy Valley Foundation sought collaboration with knowledge institutes, governments and the business communities in Scotland, Norway and Northern Germany.

After intensive negotiations with the European Commission, a € 3 million grant was awarded from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7).

Kick-off on October 8th in Papenburg

The project was officially launched at Forum Alte Werft in Papenburg, on October 8th 2012. High profile guests attended the event, among them: David McAllister, the Prime Minister of the Federal State of Niedersachsen, Max van den Berg, Royal Commissioner of Groningen, Janne Johnsen, Federal State President of Rogaland and Hans Peter Beck, Chairman of the Energie Forschung Zentrum Niedersachsen.

Energy transition

The term "energy transition" refers to the process of transition from energy supply based on fossil fuels to more sustainable energy production, for instance, by using wind or solar energy or by applying biomass. ENSEA has been created to help in the transition period.