

“VISITING WIKINGER” VIDEO VOICE TRANSCRIPTION

Teresa Simón, Iberdrola communications: “We are here in the port of Sassnitz, in the north of Germany. This is the operations centre for the construction of the Wikinger offshore wind farm. When the park’s 70 wind turbines come into operation the installation will have a total installed capacity of 350 MW. Thanks to this wind farm the emission into the atmosphere almost 600,000 tonnes of CO₂ a year will be prevented. Today we are chatting with Iker García, the manager responsible for the transportation and installation of the wind farm’s foundations.”

Teresa Simón, Iberdrola communications: “Hello Iker, how are you?”

Iker García, responsible for the transportation and installation: “Hello, very good. Thanks Teresa.”

Teresa Simón, Iberdrola communications: “Iker, I have heard so much about Wikinger, I’m dying to see it.”

Iker García, responsible for the transportation and installation: “It’s a very interesting project. Before getting on the boat, we have to go and put on our safety equipment.”

Teresa Simón, Iberdrola communications: “Let’s go!”

Teresa Simón, Iberdrola communications: “Iker, what specific safety requirements does this project have?”

Iker García, responsible for the transportation and installation: “The first thing that we do is to give an induction session to all new staff that access the site that describes the Wikinger project and the risks involved. Here we have the PPE, which we will put on later. We’ve got a helmet, vest and boots, just like at any site. As this is a marine environment, and in our case, as we are going to go on a boat, we have a life jacket. If we were going to get onto an offshore platform we would also need to have harnesses and a survival suit but only if the water temperature is below 13° C or if we had to transfer onto a boat at night. On top of all that, if we are going to be on a boat, all Iberdrola staff have specific offshore training, which includes courses that last approximately seven days.”

Teresa Simón, Iberdrola communications: “Well then, let’s put them on and get going, shall we?”

Iker García, responsible for the transportation and installation: “Perfect.”

Teresa Simón, Iberdrola communications: “The jackets we see here are like the one we will see already installed at sea, aren’t they?”

Iker García, responsible for the transportation and installation: “Indeed, they are 60-metre-high structures, as tall as the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao. They weigh up to 650 tons and as you can see they are painted two colours: yellow and black. The yellow part stays above the water and is visible, as you will be able to see during our visit.”

Teresa Simón, Iberdrola communications: “And, out of curiosity, why are they painted yellow?”

Iker García, responsible for the transportation and installation: “It’s required by law and because of the contrast with the colour of the sea water, which makes them more visible.”

Teresa Simón, Iberdrola communications: “These jackets are like the ones we saw in the port. Tell us, how are they installed?”

Iker García, responsible for the transportation and installation: “Indeed, we need six teams to be able to install this jacket. The first install the piles, the second measures noise, the third loads the piles, the fourth installs the jacket, the fifth pours the concrete and the sixth transports all the components to port and to the offshore site. The installation of the piles may seem simple, but it involves placing a template on the seabed, placing the four piles and sinking them in the seabed to a determined depth with a 1,200 kJ hammer.”

Teresa Simón, Iberdrola communications: “I understand there have been some stumbling blocks along the way.”

Iker García, responsible for the transportation and installation: “Yes, there have been many challenges, firstly in relation to transport, because as you can see in the port, we don’t have any onshore storage, so we store everything as floating storage on barges and we have to coordinate this perfectly with the manufacturing teams. The second and more important challenge relates to noise. Germany has very strict legislation in issues of compliance with noise levels during the pile driving processes to avoid harming marine mammals and this has meant that we have been pioneers in the development of noise mitigation systems. The third challenge is coordinating all the team because as I explained before, we might have up to 18 ships and transport barges involved, some of them with an onboard staff of some 70 people.”

Teresa Simón, Iberdrola communications: “Iker, when will the wind farm begin commercial operation?”

Iker García, responsible for the transportation and installation: “We have planned to begin commercial operations by the end of 2017.”

Teresa Simón, Iberdrola communications: “Thank you very much for the visit. It has been a real pleasure having you as a guide”.