

Hoogstraten wind farm under construction

Installation of six new 2,000-kW wind turbines began this week in Hoogstraten (North of Belgium). The wind turbines have a shaft height of 78 meters and a rotor diameter of 80 meters (each blade is 40 meters long); the entire structure weights around 265 tonnes.

The wind farm is yielding enough electricity annually to supply an average of 6,000 families for one year (23,000 MWh). The investment amounts to € 15 million.

In May the wind turbines will be connected to the electricity grid and given a trial run. They will be commissioned in late June 2004,

The turbines are being assembled by Dutch manufacturer Vestas on behalf of Electrabel through its subsidiary Electrabel Green Projects Flanders.

In line with its policy of operating diversified generating facilities, Electrabel is increasingly active in developing and using power generated from renewable sources. Electrabel has a strong hydropower presence in France (32 %) and is developing wind farm projects in France, Italy, the Iberian Peninsula and Belgium.

Electrabel, a European provider of comprehensive and tailor-made energy solutions

Electrabel is one of Europe's front-runners in the energy sector and leader on the Benelux market. It responds to the opportunities presented by the deregulation of the electricity and natural gas market by developing its offer of energy products and services throughout Europe. In doing so it is able to combine high quality with close support for each customer, drawing on a network of commercial subsidiaries and partnerships with local operators. Electrabel intends to double its 1999 electricity sales volumes by 2004.

In Europe, the company manages a diversified portfolio of generating facilities totaling 28,500 MW, and is active in trading on all the energy markets. Furthermore in Belgium it manages electricity and natural gas networks on behalf of distribution system operators.

Electrabel is part of Tractebel, the international energy and services business of SUEZ.

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Ce communiqué est également disponible en français.

Dit persbericht is ook beschikbaar in het Nederlands.

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