

First wind turbine at Coega IDZ

ELECTRAWINDS Belgium has started construction of its first wind turbine in the Coega Industrial Development Zone in Port Elizabeth.

The wind turbine will be completed in time to provide energy for the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium during the 2010 FIFA World Cup™.

Electrawinds has invested R1.2 billion in the Coega Wind Farm Project to build 25 turbines. Each turbine has a capacity of 1.8 MW which translates into an annual yield 5,700,000 kWh, enough energy to power about 1,700 households.

The electricity generated by the wind farm will be fed into the national grid and will be distributed by Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan to households within the metro.

When completed the wind farm will be able to supply the Nelson Mandela Bay with an average of 45 MW of green energy.

According to Luc Desender, Managing Director of Electrawinds, the construction marks the first commercial wind project in South Africa and for Electrawinds its first operational project outside Europe.

"In Belgium, Electrawinds is one of the pioneers of renewable energy and has, in the meantime, built up great know-how. It is now our ambition to fulfil that pioneering role in South Africa as well."

The first wind turbine units arrived in South Africa from Denmark on Sunday, 9 May 2010 on board the Red Cedar at the Port of Ngqura. A R70 million special crane from Vanguard, a crane and transportation company, will be used to erect the wind turbines. It is one of only seven of its kind in the world and comes from Germany.

The wind turbine is a VESTAS V90 with a 95-meter tower and a 90-meter rotor.

Desender says the company has already laid the foundation work for the wind turbine. This consisted of the placement of the embedment unit and the pouring of concrete.

"In line with the Coega Development Corporations objectives to make a measur-

able impact on the lives and people of the Eastern Cape, some 50 jobs were created during the construction phase of the foundation," said Desender.

Jan Dewulf, Electrawinds Director for Business Development, said: "We want to invest not only in turbines but also in people. Electrawinds is committed to establishing an education fund for students interested in renewable energy."

"With Emil Unger, Electrawinds already has a representative in South Africa but through the required training, it also wants to offer local young people opportunities so that, in time, they will be able to follow up our projects in South Africa," he said.

Three engineering students are currently studying at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

Overall 133 indirect construction jobs, 55 construction jobs and 12 permanent jobs will be created during the building of the wind farm which will be completed in 2011.

Pepi Silinga, CEO of the Coega Development Corporation, said the Electrawinds project will provide the Eastern Cape Province, and specifically the Nelson Mandela Metro, with electricity security as well as access to the latest technology in renewable energy.

"The project will allow the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality to meet the growing demands for electricity. It will also contribute to the socio-economic development of the region through job creation and the scholarships Electrawinds has provided to the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University engineering students."

The electricity produced by Electrawinds wind turbines will not be in competition with Eskom, as wind energy is not a replacement for Eskom but is an alternative energy.

According to National Energy Regulatory Rules there is a difference in price between wind energy and energy produced from coal but it will not directly affect consumers.

Enquiry No. 21



Ruben Berendts, project manager of Electrawinds (left) and Daniel Kurylo, business development manager at Vestas (right) shows Minister Dipuo Peters

