

Vattenfall/Nuon take over Windcollectief Wieringermeer wind turbine positions and decided to invest 200 million euros to build first fifty turbines

**Amsterdam, 29 September 2017. Vattenfall, the parent company of energy company Nuon, is taking over the 32 turbine positions from the members of the Windcollectief Wieringermeer. This means that Nuon will own a total of 82 wind turbines at the future Wieringermeer wind farm, which will become the largest wind farm on the Dutch mainland.**

Nuon already owns 50 turbines but with this acquisition, it will considerably increase its share in this wind farm. Work began on this wind farm 10 years ago in a joint venture between ECN, Nuon and partners, and Windcollectief Wieringermeer. ECN will retain ownership of the remaining 17 wind turbines in the wind farm. One wind turbine, the Polder turbine, will be made available for local residents. In the near future, the new wind farm Windpark Wieringermeer will have 100 wind turbines. Together, they will produce approximately 1.3 billion kWh of renewable electricity, comparable to the consumption of approximately 370,000 households.

### **200 million euros**

In addition to the acquisition of 32 wind turbine positions, Nuon has taken the investment decision for the first construction phase of Windpark Wieringermeer. This involves an investment of approximately 200 million euros. This means that construction can start of the first fifty wind turbines. The turbines will be built in 2018. From 2019 they will produce the first power. These fifty turbines jointly have a capacity of 180 MW.

### **Fossil-free within a generation**

Vattenfall/Nuon has great ambitions in the area of sustainability and wants to be fossil-free within a generation, with wind power being one of the sources needed to achieve this aim. To do so, the company will invest five billion euros in the next five years in developing wind power in various parts of Europe. The Netherlands is an important market for these plans for wind power. "This decision is an important step in our strategy to invest in the production of renewable energy," says Peter Smink, CEO of Nuon. "Vattenfall / Nuon have been leaders in wind energy for many years. By scaling, this wind farm produces three times more green power compare to the original situation. We strengthen our position and, in addition, we enable our customers to become more sustainable."

### ***"WCW has chosen certainty"***

"The Windcollectief Wieringermeer was presented with a decision of whether to continue developing the wind farm under their own management or to sell their share to Nuon. We chose the latter option. Working with wind power involves many unknowns and associated risks for a company working in this field; just consider a situation with low energy prices and the possibility of there being no wind. By selling their share, WCW has chosen certainty," says Jaap van der Beek, Chairman of the Windcollectief Wieringermeer. WCW will still be involved after the sale of the wind turbines to Nuon in further developments and will put all their efforts into ensuring the wind farm is a success.

### **Preparations underway for new wind farm**

The preparations for the construction of the wind farm have now begun. Over the last year, the Nuon wind turbines were removed and sold to companies abroad. The vast majority of these wind turbines will have a new lease of life. This year, the first ground works will begin so that the major work of laying out this large wind farm can get underway in 2018.

### **Wieringermeer Wind Farm facts and figures**

- This came about through a joint venture between ECN, Nuon and partners, and Windcollectief Wieringermeer
- The existing 93 wind turbines will be replaced by 99 new, more efficient turbines
- Nuon will install 82 wind turbines (295 MW) and ECN will install 17 wind turbines. The plans also include one turbine for local residents.
- 370,000 households
- Linear array in the region

### **Time scale**

- 2009: Preparations commence for new wind farm
- 2012: "Green Deal" between the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Province of Noord-Holland, Hollands Kroon, Windcollectief Wieringermeer, Nuon and ECN
- 2013: Request for the government's National Coordination Regulation (RCR) submitted
- 2014: Neighbourhood council convened; members are from the planned wind farm region
- 2015: Governmental land use plan defined; permits issued and made available for viewing
- 2015: Subsidy approved
- 2016: Permits definitive
- 2017: Removal of the old wind turbines
- 2017: Nuon takes over the Windcollectief Wieringermeer wind turbines
- 2017: Investment decision has been made
- 2017: Preparations commence for construction
- 2018: Start of construction
- 2019: Wind farm ready

### **External consultants**

With the acquisition of the 32 windmill positions of the members of Windcollectief Wieringermeer, various external consultants were involved. Green Giraffe B.V. (financial) and Allen & Overy LLP (legal) represented the seller. Voltiq B.V. (financial) and Stek Advocaten B.V. (legal) have advised the buyer in reaching this transaction.

### **About Nuon**

Nuon is an energy company with more than 4,200 employees serving approximately two million household customers, companies and organisations in the Netherlands. The company's main aim is to supply reliable, affordable power that is as sustainable as possible. Nuon generates and supplies gas, electricity, energy-related products, heating and cooling, and helps customers reduce their energy consumption. Nuon has 2,000 kilometres of heat lines, 202 wind turbines, two hydro power plants, one biomass power plant, nine high-efficiency gas-fired power plants and one coal-fired power plant. Nuon is part of Vattenfall.

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