

## **Asturien besøg, 26. maj 2011, Roshage molen**

On behalf of the local council I will like to welcome you here to the municipality of Thisted, here in Hanstholm.

I will explain the background for establishing the DanWEC fund – an abbreviation of Danish Wave Energy Center

Wave energy has a large and unfulfilled potential and there are unique preconditions in the North Denmark Region to utilize this potential and cash in on great business gains. There are large energy and climate gains to be had from wave energy. Hanstholm is the best suited location for wave energy in Denmark and the first privately owned plants on the open sea has therefore been established here.

The North Denmark Region and Hanstholm have unique preconditions to contribute to the utilization of the technological and market potential of wave energy through the establishment of DanWec test centre and research park for wave energy operators. We can here mention:

Aalborg University is on an international top-class level and clearly in front in Denmark. The university's existing test facilities and researchers are used by all significant Danish and a number of foreign wave energy firms. The knowledge level with regard to wave energy is already high and the wave energy group from Aalborg can offer technical assistance, proof-of-concept, test etc.

Hanstholm has the best wave conditions and the physical conditions are close to optimal for testing. This is the case for solutions on the shore, solutions anchored on the sea bed close to the shore and solutions which require larger waves and water depths.

The business structure and the facilities around Hanstholm Harbour are particularly suited to support a wave energy centre. Besides the basic facilities there is also a service for marine technical assistance 24 hours a day all year round.

The DanWEC fund was established on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2010 by Hanstholm Harbour, Hanstholm Havneforum and the municipality of Thisted. The purpose of the fund is to support the utilization of wave energy in Denmark by developing, owning, renting out and running facilities for tests, demonstrations and knowledge gathering.

### **Main activity**

During the initial period of the fund, an important task has been to service and examine stakeholders' actual need and request for services from the test centre and from researchers. Based on this information, the services and content of the test centre has been described and a plan for establishing the centre has been agreed. As the fund does not have sufficient funds on its own, external funds have been sought.

The largest application for a test centre with a budget of 60 mio. kr. has been sent to Green Lab DK (applying for 40 mio. kr.) and to Vækstforum Nordjylland (applying for 20 mio. kr.). In addition, work on a smaller application to Vækstforum Nordjylland and to private funds has been carried out.

Much information has been gathered and visits carried out, including visits to Wave Star and Daxa Wave's wave energy plant.

- Profiling of the North Denmark Region and Hanstholm as an international front-runner within the field of wave energy. This is done through the establishment of the first, well-functioning wave energy centre of its type in Europe and based on a broad range of relevant services to wave energy operators and the highest possible knowledge platform with regard to technology and market conditions.

The obtaining of the goals will take place through a unified effort from the region's researchers, practitioners and public authorities. The vision is to contribute to a break-through for wave energy, which can be compared to the "Danish wind adventure" and where the region will be portrayed as a first-mover and harvest considerable positive gains for business development.

On the technology side the need is primarily for consultant services as well as testing facilities, which can reduce and document a competitive cost of energy for different wave energy solutions. On the commercial side it is mainly competences regarding market introduction and advice on financing which is asked for.

It is exactly these requirements – inspired by known set-ups from research parks and business incubators in other fields - which DanWec seeks to solve. The demand for Danish operators on DanWEC is documented and there are even similar efforts in other places internationally even if there is not yet an actual research park for wave energy operators in Europe.

It was a little about our visions for the fund, then I will wish you a good visit here in Denmark.