

Turbine balancing act on Groningen sea dike

German developer Innogy has launched a headline procurement campaign for its innovative Oostpolderdijk demonstration wind farm in Groningen.

The three-turbine project being co-developed with Dutch water association Noorderzijlvest will be the first to be built on a sea dike.

Manufacturers Servion, Vestas, Enercon and Lagerwey have all pitched hardware and installation offerings.

"The turbine selection process is difficult because of the limited space. We have

challenged suppliers to limit the use of space for their cranes," said project manager Martine van Gemert.

Lagerwey has proposed a first outing for its climbing crane, which attaches to the turbine towers to install nacelles and blades.

The Dutch company is bidding its L100-2.5MW turbine featuring modular steel towers for the project.

Also under consideration are Servion 3.4M104, Vestas V90 and Enercon E-82 machines, it is understood. Innogy will award a contract

by the first quarter of 2019.

The developer has also launched a tender for a civil engineer to build the project starting in April 2019. Work-scope includes strengthening the dike.

Innogy said it hopes the project will prove sea defences can provide viable sites for wind farms.

"Even if we develop on only 1% of the 3600km of primary sea defences, and that is conservative, there is a lot of potential," added van Gemert.

Oostpolderdijk was awarded SDE+ price support equivalent to €69 per megawatt-hour last month including a €5 premium for its unique location.

► Innogy secured SDE+ price support last month for its eight-turbine, 33MW share of the 21-unit Oostpolder wind project being co-developed with farmers and the local community near Eemshaven in Groningen. The Council of State is due to rule this autumn on an appeal filed by objectors.