

Sif designated as strategic for the offshore wind sector

Sif has been granted the status of 'Strategic Project' by the European Commission and the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy (KGG) for the production of offshore wind foundations under the Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA). This makes Sif one of the first two Dutch companies that belong to the select group of industrial projects considered by Brussels to be essential for accelerating the energy transition and strengthening European manufacturing.

By giving such industrial projects priority in permits and financing, Europe aims to emphasize the importance of having its own independent industry that can accelerate the deployment of offshore wind while simultaneously strengthening the industrial base. With the strategic status, the EU aims to safeguard and scale up the production capacity for crucial offshore wind components in Europe. This underlines once more that offshore wind foundations are an essential part of offshore wind farms.

Fred van Beers, CEO of Sif says about the granting of the status of 'Strategic Project': "It confirms the crucial role that Sif plays in the supply chain of offshore wind energy and thus in the Dutch and European energy transition. It once again proves that offshore wind is one of the most important and fastest opportunities to become energy independent and to effectively contribute to the energy transition. The concrete effect of this on the utilization of our factory cannot yet be indicated at this time, but it strengthens confidence in stability and certainty for the future."

Stientje van Veldhoven, Minister of Climate and Green Growth: "These are exactly the projects we need to make our industry more sustainable. They show that the Netherlands can take the lead in clean technology and at the same time strengthen our position in Europe."

Jeannette Baljeu, Member of the European Parliament (VVD): "This is exactly the direction we need to go in Europe. We want to be less dependent on energy from outside Europe and take strong control of production ourselves. By investing in offshore wind and the industry around it, we are building clean, affordable, and European energy. This strengthens our economy and makes our energy supply more independent. The Netherlands is leading the way in this, and recognition as a strategic project under the Net Zero Industry Act underscores that. We can be proud of that."

The European Union strives for greater energy independence within the internal market and, in that context, has also underlined the importance of European production of foundations for offshore wind with the NZIA for offshore wind. The recognition of Sif fits into a broader European strategy to ensure that the production of clean energy technologies – such as wind energy, batteries, and hydrogen – takes place more within Europe.

Strategic projects focused on net-zero emissions should contribute to the achievement of the European Union's objectives as described in NZIA. "The overall objective of this regulation is to improve the functioning of the internal market by creating a framework to ensure the Union's access to a safe and sustainable supply of Net-Zero technologies. This includes scaling up the production capacity of these technologies and their supply chains to ensure their resilience while also contributing to the achievement of the Union's climate goals and the climate neutrality

objective, [...] and by contributing to high-quality jobs in Net-Zero technologies, thereby also enhancing the Union's competitiveness,” according to the European Commission.

Obtaining the status of a strategic Net-Zero project within the framework of the NZIA provides the following benefits:

- The label gives the project the highest possible status of national importance and priority at the national level for all administrative procedures, as well as for the permitting procedure, including environmental impact assessments and spatial planning.
- Faster permitting through shorter overall timeframes for the entire permitting procedure.
- Discussion within the Net-Zero Europe Platform, also regarding the provision of advice on its financing with a view to cross-border supply chains and considers funding sources and support with resources from the EIB, among others.
- Expedited treatment in dispute resolution procedures, lawsuits, appeal procedures, and judicial procedures.
- Possible consideration in the 'overriding public interest' regarding exemptions in environmental legislation.

For further information, please contact:

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ABOUT SIF HOLDING N.V.

Sif offers total solutions for the design and **production** of foundations for offshore wind farms, including logistics services and marshalling. Sif traditionally serves the markets of Northwestern Europe and is working on a global presence. Sif combines two highly automated and flexible production facilities in Roermond and Rotterdam (Second Maasvlakte) with technological leadership in the field of rolling and welding of heavy steel plates, based on 75 years of experience and innovative self-developed techniques and processes. Sif mainly produces monopiles, transition parts and piles with which jacket foundations for wind turbines can be anchored in the seabed.