

2nd generation DC grid access for large scale offshore wind farms

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Cost reduction is a must to make Offshore Wind a competitive renewable energy source: Reaching LCoE below 10 ct.€/kWh by 2020



For significant cost saving in the grid access part we need paradigm shifts!







New AC grid access attaches the electrical equipment to the turbine foundation

 Official launch at the EWEA Offshore conference 03/2015

New DC grid access uses distributed small DC platforms

- First presentation to the offshore wind industry at the EWEA Offshore conference 03/2015.
- Official launch 10/2015 at "Nationale Maritime Konferenz" in Bremerhaven

New Siemens AC Grid Access Solution (SGA-AC) uses an Offshore Transformer Module



The new SGA-AC consists of an OTM attached to a booster turbine

- Distributed transmission asset in incremental 250 MW blocks
- Compact and rugged design
- Electrical components optimized from our accumulated lifecycle experience
- Modular approach
- Installation with wind turbine foundation or independently
- Can be implemented with every wind turbine supplier
- Environmentally Friendly
- ✓ Low Maintenance
- Flexibility and choice for customers:
 Optimized conventional platform also available

✓ 40% Cost reduction and

✓ One third smaller in size and weight compared to a traditional substation

DC grid access in the German bight today





DolWin gamma, 900MW, in construction by Alstom, Picture from Overdick

We have learned our lessons from the German bight!

We looked at the whole system from the very beginning (from blade to shore)

We kept the offshore equipment as simple and robust as possible

We kept the offshore platform sizes and weights in ranges good to handle

We sticked to what developers and operators are used to from AC grid access in terms installation and maintenance

The new DC grid access concept: Siemens Grid Access using a Diode Rectifier Unit (SGA-DRU)



The root for the large DC platform is the air insulated converter and air insulated DC switchgear

Current approach



Converter

- Bi-directional power flow
- But
 - Complex
 - Large
 - Air insulated



New Grid Access solution



Rectifier

- Simple
- Robust
- Low losses
- Low maintenance costs
- Encapsulated
- But
 - One way power flow
 - AC voltage control by WTGs



Major reductions in weight and volume can be achieved by encapsulating all HVDC equipment

DC Compact Switchgear

Diode Rectifier Unit with flame retardant and biodegradable insulation







Simplified single line diagram of NGA 1200 MW



Size reduction enabled by the encapsulated rectifier

Current approach (900 MW)



New Solution (1,200 MW)



Space required for converter, Xformers and reactors: 50.000 m³ Space for the rectifier module: 3 x 2200 $m^3 = 6.600 m^3$

DC Compact Switchgear

Required volume compared to an air insulated approach

reduced by 90%



Diode Rectifier Unit (DRU) The new core grid access component

- Nominal power: 200 MW
- Nominal voltage AC: 66 kV
- Nominal voltage DC: 106,7 kV
- Size fits for transport by road and ship
- Bio degradable and flame retardant ester insulation





The resulting reductions in weight (topside)



1) AC platforms installed/under construction, 2) Current BOR3, 3) GA-New Solution

The new DC platform



The new WTG control concept



Old vs. new WTG control concept

Old

Load flow is controlled by WTG phase angle

New

Load flow is controlled by WTG voltage magnitude

Simulated NGA System with HVDC+ Station (Distance 200 km to Onshore Grid Connection Point)



Example: Energization of one out of the 18 wind turbine strings (with 12 WTGs)



Fast ramp up of active power in connection with delayed umbilical cable disconnection => worst case scenario for system stability!

Benefits of the new DC grid access solution











- Encapsulated, rugged equipment
- Simple and robust power electronics
- Low flammable, biodegradable insulation liquid
- Easy transport and installation
- High reliability, minimal maintenance
- No offshore DC converter as single point of failure
- Shorter delivery times
- Stepwise offshore installation feasible
- Fast commissioning of WTG auxiliary power
- Up to 1200MW DC

Major reductions in CapEx and OpEx

AC vs. DC Break Even Distance for 1200MW



- For smaller power ratings AC is more beneficial.
- For small *and* distant farms there is no costeffective grid access technology existing