

HWG Newsletter 11/2015

A truly exceptional year for Cuxhaven

The 2015 annual review by Lord Mayor Dr Ulrich Getsch



Looking back on 2015, I can say without exaggeration that this year was a truly exceptional one for the town of Cuxhaven – a year with many prominent events that will bring on continuous and positive changes for the town. Numerous projects, to which many players contributed over several years, were successfully implemented in 2015, others were started. This is true for the touristic sector as well as Cuxhaven's urban and economic developments.

Settlement of Siemens Wind Power

Siemens AG's decision of early August 2015 to build a manufacturing facility for multi-megawatt offshore wind turbines in Cuxhaven and thereby create more than 1,000 jobs will make the offshore base Cuxhaven the leading North German location for the energy turnaround.

Our goal to develop Cuxhaven and the region into the North German centre for the offshore wind energy supply chain, which we have pursued for more than ten years, has finally been achieved with the settlement of the worldwide market leader for offshore wind turbines.

Previously, Siemens had screened numerous ports across Europe regarding their suitability as a production and installation location during an intensive selection procedure in 2008. The offshore capabilities of the ports were major selection criteria to enable the planned transshipment of big wind turbines and their installation at sea.

Production, assembly and the subsequent service and maintenance of offshore wind farms and converter platforms offer a very sophisticated value-added chain over multiple decades. And Cuxhaven with its maritime competence cluster is also in prime position to serve the diverse logistic challenges associated with the offshore wind industry.

Cuxhaven's goal is to integrate the resident companies in the value-added chain of Siemens Wind Power's turbine production as well as settling new suppliers. Beyond the direct positive effects of the high number of new jobs and investments, the project is expected to result in a revival of the real estate market, the retail industry and a stabilisation of the population development.

Reinstallation of the Elbe ferry connection Cuxhaven-Brunsbuettel

The reinstallation of the Elbe ferry connection Cuxhaven-Brunsbuettel towards the end of August was able to fulfil the long-awaited dream of the residents of both Cuxhaven and Brunsbuettel. Since then, the Cuxhaven-based Elb-Link GmbH has been connecting the federal states of Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein every two hours. The new ferry ships are able to carry trucks, buses and passenger cars, can significantly relieve the traffic situation surrounding Hamburg and are an interesting seasonal highlight for the tourism regions of Cuxhaven/Cuxland and Dithmarschen.

The UNESCO world heritage Wadden Sea visitors centre

In October, the new UNESCO world heritage Wadden Sea visitors centre Cuxhaven was officially opened. Here, visitors can find informative exhibitions and immerse themselves in the one-of-a-kind natural environment of the Wadden Sea. Thanks to 90 percent external funding, the town of Cuxhaven managed to implement this lighthouse project despite a shortage of communal funds. The extensive permanent exhibition about the Wadden Sea offers adults and children useful information about the world heritage as well as the neighbouring nature reserve Kuestenheide. To personally enjoy an open air experience of the unique nature of the Wadden Sea, the visitors centre also offers guided tours straight into the different habitats right on the doorstep.

Thalasso centre ahoi! In Cuxhaven

With the opening of the newly renovated Thalasso centre, the new beach promenade with barrier-free beach access was also completed. A four kilometre-long strolling promenade has been created, including coloured asphalt and generous beach access areas. From the "Kugelbake", Cuxhaven's wooden navigational aid, the path leads west up to the beach resort of Duhnen. Located there, directly on the beach, the light-flooded Thalasso bathhouse offers visitors various therapies and other treatments supported by the healing power of the sea.

LIPROMAR GmbH starts production line for fish proteins in food quality

LIPROMAR GmbH, a complete subsidiary of Bioceval, opened the gates of its new production plant in Cuxhaven after seven months of construction in 2015, and started its new production line for fish proteins in food quality.

Only 50 percent of a fish caught in the open sea or from aquaculture reaches the consumer's plate. For salmon or tuna, it is only the filets. But by-products like heads, trimmings and backbones are, because of their ingredients, just as precious for the food industry and should be used instead of landing in the bin. So far, these have only been used to extract single-origin fish oils for human consumption, but now, in the new production line, fish proteins are collected as well. These functional proteins act as natural aromas or emulsifying agents to permanently bind water and fat.

Outlook for 2016

Strengthened by this extraordinarily successful 2015, we look forward to the new year with confidence. The successful implementation of the Siemens project and the settling of further

companies will be the priority. The prospering seaport of Cuxhaven will also receive further impulses from this development. The state government of Lower Saxony and NPorts are accordingly working on the extension of the capacities at the Europakai (berth n° 4) as well as on the completion of the offshore terminal II.

HWG Port Business Day in Cuxhaven

Announcement of Cuxhaven Appeal 2.0 met with great approval



On 4 December 2015, the Cuxhaven Port Association (HWG) hosted its annual Port Business Day in the Hapag halls at the Steubenhoeft. 153 guests from the port business community and the offshore industry listened as Dr Thorsten Granzow, project leader at Siemens, presented the planned manufacturing facility for offshore wind turbines, which is being built in Cuxhaven and due to be completed in 2017. Dr Hans-Joachim Stietzel,

Managing Director of the Economic Development Agency of Cuxhaven and member of the HWG board, offered an outlook on the regional economic effects of the Siemens settlement on Cuxhaven.

In his welcoming address, SPD state parliament member Uwe Santjer announced a new initiative under the working title “Cuxhaven Appeal 2.0”. He remarked that the expansion of offshore wind energy should be boosted further over the next few years, especially with regard to the upcoming revision of the Renewable Energy Act (EEG) in 2016. This would especially be supported by the state government and Olaf Lies, Transport Minister for Lower Saxony, said Santjer.

Siemens is also banking on the long-term development of the offshore industry in Germany, as Dr Granzow showed in his presentation. He explained that the new manufacturing facility would not only be used to produce the new turbine generation of the 7 megawatt class, but is also equipped to produce the following generations and products. “The set-up of the offshore wind industry in Germany has been gathering speed – as is shown by the already completed projects and operational wind farms in the North and Baltic Sea as well as the Atlantic. The next task is to maintain this momentum and to further push the switch to renewable energies,” he said.

Subsequently, Dr Stietzel outlined the positive effects and developments of the Siemens settlement for the region, the maritime economy and the local residents. “The production of Siemens wind energy turbines in Cuxhaven will bring further industry settlements, investments and jobs – we look forward to this and are currently doing all we can to prepare and accompany these developments.

The regional economic effects for Cuxhaven and the region do not just include new jobs, but also an improvement of the infrastructure and of the location's image, an increase of the purchasing power, an upturn of the real estate market as well as positive effects in scientific and technological spheres," said Dr Stietzel.

Hans-Peter Zint, chairman of the HWG and managing director of Cuxport GmbH, was pleased with the event: „Public authorities, political representatives and the port businesses closely worked together with a strong long term commitment in order to enable the Siemens settlement. This huge success holds tremendous potential, not only for the regional businesses but also for Cuxhaven's offshore base port. That is why it is important for us to present this significant project to the regional economy as well as to the offshore wind industry.”

Cuxhaveners visit University of Hull

Delegation brings together German and British wind energy and port business developers



HWG chairman Hans-Peter Zint travelled to Hull in November as part of a Lower Saxon delegation under the leadership of Daniela Behrens, State Secretary at the Lower Saxony Ministry of Economic Affairs, Employment and Transport. There, he attended presentations and talks regarding the role of offshore wind energy in the British power supply as well as the significance of ports for the handling of offshore wind energy

projects and their effects for the regional economy. The initial reason for the visit is that the city of Hull – like Cuxhaven – will become a location for a Siemens manufacturing facility for wind energy products. Furthermore, the Humber Region, which includes the cities of Grimsby and Immingham as well as Hull, is already connected to Cuxhaven via a regular DFDS A/S freight ferry line that runs five times a week.

The event at the logistics institute of the University of Hull also offered ample opportunity to network with representatives of the maritime economy, the offshore industry, research and teaching as well as with political representatives. Besides Zint, HWG member Dirk Leibfried, Deputy Branch Manager of Niedersachsen Ports Cuxhaven branch, also took part in the visit.

The event was organised by Mark O'Reilly, CEO and Chariman of Team Humber Marine Alliance, an association of more than 200 companies from the maritime and offshore sectors in the Humber Region, which is centrally located on the English east coast.

“Offshore wind is a truly European cross-border project with the North Sea as its centre. The Humber and Cuxhaven regions share a similar economic history. Dominated for too long by the decline in fishing and other traditional maritime activities offshore wind now brings the chance of sustainable economic development for our regions,” said Zint.

Siemens already announced the construction of an offshore manufacturing facility for rotor blades in Hull back in March 2014. A new logistics and service centre is also planned at Green Port Hull. The port is set to go into operation in 2016. Production start for the rotor blade manufacture is planned for summer 2016. Just as in Cuxhaven, the Siemens settlement means around 1,000 new jobs for Hull.

New chairman for Lower Saxon Port Representation elected

Lower Saxon Port Representation, Seaports of Niedersachsen and the Association of the Lower Saxon Seaports have recast their official bodies



Karsten Dirks, Managing Director of EVAG Emden Verkehrs und Automotive Gesellschaft mbH, was elected as the new chairman of the board for the next two years at the members' meeting of the Lower Saxon Port Representation (NHV). He relieves Dr Andreas Schmidt, Rhenus Midgard GmbH & Co. KG, who will remain a member of the board. Uwe Jacob, Lower Saxon Ministry for Economy, Employment and Transport, John Niemann,

Wilhelmshavener Hafenwirtschaftsvereinigung e. V., and Hans-Peter Zint, HWG, also were confirmed as board members.

Additionally, Dirks takes over the position of Chairman of the Supervisory Board at Seaports of Niedersachsen GmbH. The NHV also confirmed Jan Müller, J. Müller AG, for the seaport of Brake and Herwig Friedrichs, municipal utilities of Leer, for the communal seaports of Leer, Oldenburg and Papenburg in their positions in the Supervisory Board of Seaports of Niedersachsen GmbH.

Dirks also relieved Dr Schmidt as speaker of the Association of Lower Saxon Seaports (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Niedersächsischer Seehäfen). The Association represents the political arm of the Lower Saxon seaports. It advocates the political interests of the privately operated Lower Saxon seaterminals towards the state, the federal government and the EU on a shared platform of the Lower Saxon coastal Chambers of Industry and Commerce (IHKs) in Emden, Oldenburg and Stade.

A port tour for the next generation

NPorts organises student visit to Port of Cuxhaven



Maritime and port-associated professions are especially sought-after in Cuxhaven. So it is not surprising that the students of the Lichtenberg high school in Cuxhaven wished to take a closer look at this potential workplace. In November, the port operator NPorts received the ninth grade classes of the school at its local subsidiary in Cuxhaven, where the port as well as the different professions surrounding it were introduced.

“Training young professionals has a high priority at NPorts – so we are very happy about the school’s interest,” said Dirk Leibfried, Deputy Branch Manager of Niedersachsen Ports Cuxhaven branch.

As part of the vocational preparation, training officer Günther Herbertz gave a short introduction and overview of the different professions that the Cuxhaven branch offers as apprenticeships.

18-year-old Tom Spregnether, who is himself an apprentice at NPorts, explained the daily tasks and responsibilities at the port to the students. He also answered questions about his profession as an electrician for energy and building technology, for example the requirements and special skills you need for the job.

Knut Kokkelink, chief engineer in Cuxhaven, oversees the massive port construction projects and was able to show the visitors the duties in the engineering department, such as the challenges of constructing a port surface and many metres of quay wall into sea water, or the planning and machinery of technical plants.

The student trip was rounded off by a presentation of the port’s history, a visit to the sea lock, the workshop and concluded by a tour of the Port of Cuxhaven.

HWG introduces her members: Muetzfeldtwerft GmbH & Co. KG



Profile

Company name:	Muetzfeldtwerft GmbH & Co. KG
Year founded:	1895
Industry:	shipyard (Repair, new build, renovation, service for the offshore industry)
Locations:	Cuxhaven
Portfolio:	The Muetzelwfeldtwerft is equipped with a 135 m long floating dock with more than 7,000 t of lift capacity, various pier and mobile cranes of up to 8 t of load capacity, a pontoon crane with up to 100 t of lift capacity, around 400 m of quay surface and 3,000 m ² of hall space. All necessary tools and facilities for new build or repair work are available locally on the shipyard. We offer 24/7 service and technics.

Interview with Thorsten Rönner, Managing Director



Question 1 – How would you describe your company?

The MFW is a company with long tradition in Cuxhaven. The deep roots of the company in the town and with our employees can be felt everywhere. Operating in the ship repair business, our company prides itself on the high flexibility and devotion of our employees.

Question 2 – Why are you a member of the HWG?

A strong network and close partnerships with companies at the location Cuxhaven are important to us. This way, the local companies can support each other and profit from another.

Question 3 – What are your personal wishes for your company?

An expansion of the dock capacity in order to serve even more customers at the location Cuxhaven.

Further information about the company: www.muetzelfeldtwerft-nord-gmbh.de

This message has been sent to you by the Cuxhaven Port Business Community (Hafenwirtschaftsgemeinschaft Cuxhaven e.V.).

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