

# NORCOWE's future

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The Norwegian Centre for Offshore Wind Energy (NORCOWE) was officially inaugurated in October 2009. At that time, people were very interested and optimistic on behalf of offshore wind energy. Offshore wind was considered a new business opportunity for companies in the oil and gas supply chain. Then the oil prices increased significantly and most of the Norwegian oil and gas supply chain lost their interest in offshore wind energy. Today the oil prices are low and there is an increased interest in offshore wind on the south-west coast of Norway. Many companies now include offshore wind energy in their strategy.

During NORCOWE's lifetime, there has been a huge growth in the installed offshore wind capacity in the North Sea, and the offshore wind industry has demonstrated its importance for the shift towards a low carbon society.

Back in 2009, NORCOWE's research partners had no specific experience from offshore wind energy with the exception of Aalborg University. User partner Statoil installed Hywind Demo in September of that year, the first full scale floating offshore wind turbine. Statoil and Statkraft had not yet started the installation of turbines in their first offshore wind farm Sheringham Shoal.

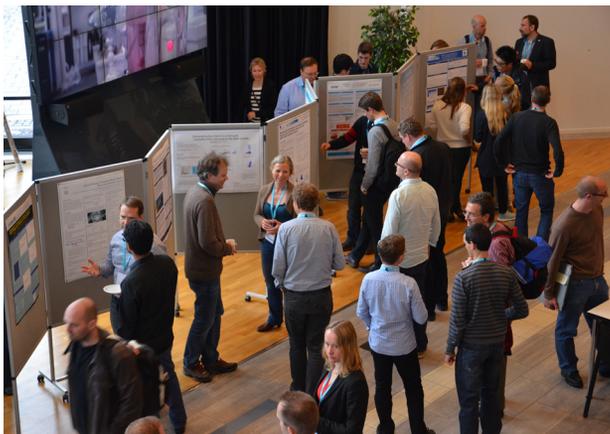


easy to state the major challenges for the industry, it is more difficult to figure out the best way to address them!

Impact is about people. It has been my main concern as centre director to maximize NORCOWE's impact by developing a strong culture for cooperation and joint efforts. NORCOWE should be more than the individual partners. It should be a centre where we draw on the competence of the partners in order to make successful projects. The NORCOWE Reference Wind Farm and the OBLEX-F1 measurement campaign are examples of joint projects between NORCOWE partners.

I am pleased to see that we have developed a culture for cooperation during the lifetime of NORCOWE, and that we have strengthened the cooperation between R&D partners and between R&D partners and the user partners. Strong links between research and industry are important when it comes to funding of new projects, but is even more important when it comes to the impact of NORCOWE.

The FME centres get funding from the Research Council of Norway for eight years. In NORCOWE's case, the centre as such will end 31st of March 2017. A new application for an offshore wind centre (COWIND) has been submitted. COWIND has partners from NORCOWE and NOWITECH, and we will know if the centre will be financed on the 26th of May 2016.



It has been years with a steep learning curve for the many NORCOWE partners. We had to learn how to apply the scientific knowledge to a new research area and to understand in depth the major challenges for the offshore wind industry. Even though it is very

## The legacy of NORCOWE

NORCOWE has given the R&D partners an opportunity to build competence and a track record in offshore wind energy research. In addition, equipment has been purchased funded by infrastructure projects like OBLO and RCN's call for infrastructure for the FME centres. A legacy of NORCOWE is also large data sets to be used for many years, e.g. as part of Horizon 2020 projects.

The annual conferences Science Meets Industry in Stavanger and Bergen have established themselves as important to the offshore wind community in Norway. These conferences are organized together with organizations like Greater Stavanger and Bergen Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The conferences will continue in cooperation with private and public organizations after NORCOWE is finished.

SFI Offshore Mechatronics hosted by University of Agder was inaugurated last year. The centre has a strong link to NORCOWE and the Norwegian Motion Lab. In my opinion, there should be 2-3 applications in the next SFI call (most likely in 2017) partly based on the legacy from NORCOWE.

It is impossible to measure the full impact of NORCOWE and other FME centres now. Much of the impact of the centre will appear after the centre is formally finished. In many cases NORCOWE is just one of many sources for a new product, method or research project. If so, I think NORCOWE has been successful and achieved its main goals.

