

Research note

By MAKE Consulting

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With the acquisition of Scanwind, GE plans offshore re-entry and potential technology shift

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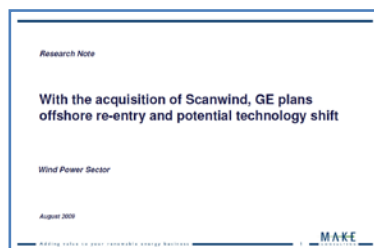
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GE has acquired Norwegian-based WTG manufacturer, Scanwind, from Morpnic Technologies (81.55%) and Nord-Trøndelag Elektrisitetsverk Holding (18.45%). The total price amounts to EUR 15m.

Scanwind has developed a 3.5 MW WTG with a 90.6m rotor. The technology is based on direct drive with permanent magnets. Scanwind's track record includes 15 installed WTGs onshore in a project in Norway developed by Nord-Trøndelag Elektrisitetsverk (NTE).

The acquisition is primarily technology driven. With Scanwind's experience with direct drive technology, GE follows Siemens in pursuing a potential technology shift from conventional drive train towards direct drive.

The acquisition is also market driven. Although Scanwind's technology has not yet been tested offshore, the WTG is developed for offshore purpose. GE's only offshore experience is based on seven 3.6 MW WTGs installed in 2003 in Ireland, and GE has not been active in the offshore segment since. With the acquisition of Scanwind, GE is expected to re-enter the offshore market and will most likely start marketing and quoting WTGs for the European offshore market by the end of 2010.



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