

Serious Investors are taking an interest in Wind Power Energy



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Wind power energy is becoming attractive to serious investors and it is very important for Russia, for it has the world's largest wind power potential, told the President of the Russian Association of Wind Power Industry Igor Bryzgunov to RIA Novosti this Tuesday.

"Today we see a trend of serious investors' involvement in wind power industry. It's not surprising, since Russia has the world's largest potential for wind energy development," – said Mr. Bryzgunov.

Wind Day is celebrated in many countries on the 15th of June. It's a new festival that has been celebrated for just a few years. Main events take place in the EU countries, where wind power industry has reached the highest level of development. 29,5 m wind turbine blade, installed in front of the European Commission HQ in Brussels, became the Wind Day symbol in EU.

In Russia, the Wind Day is only celebrated by professionals. "For now we are celebrating among ourselves. Wind energy market is still too small in Russia," - said the President of the Russian Association of Wind Power Industry Igor Bryzgunov.

Wind energy industry is undergoing significant changes today. "Currently, most wind power plants are being constructed in the sea, far off- shore, since the strongest wind can be found there" - noted Renewable Energy Laboratory of Technical University of Denmark.

Technical University of Denmark experts anticipate offshore wind farms market to grow by 71% in 2010 compared with 2009. In order to achieve the EU goal of 20% RES share by 2020, average annual growth of wind power industry should be 28%, calculated the Danish Technical University experts.

Russia has a powerful wind energy potential, estimated at 40 billion kWh of electricity per year, so the implementation of large and small wind power plants in the vast Russian spaces could be

highly efficient. Such areas as Gulf of Ob, Kola Peninsula, most of the coastal strip of the Far East, are the windiest areas according to the world classification. The average wind speed at 50-80 m height, the most common height of wind towers nowadays, is 11-12 meters per second, while the "gold" threshold in wind energy industry is 5 meters per second (linked to payback period of wind power plants).

Despite the favorable natural conditions and attractiveness of wind power there are still no huge wind farms, nor single wind farms around the rural villages and suburban areas in Russia.