



WIND POWER TAKES THE TRAIN

ENERCON Tri-Modal

Marco Polo can make things happen. That at least is the experience of German wind turbine manufacturer, ENERCON. "As soon as it was announced that we had received Marco Polo funding, this had a positive effect on our partners," says Ursula Vogt, Assistant to ENERCON's Managing Director. "In Portugal, for example, the local government began pushing the construction of a new railway line to our Portuguese production site. Other partners and governments are also more aware of our activities, and there has been positive feedback from all sides to our objective of shifting freight from road to rail and ship."

The project involves using rail and ship to move components and parts from Germany to Viana do Castelo in Portugal, as well as to installation sites throughout Europe. Smaller parts go in containers. The novelty is that ENERCON is using rail for over-size shipments, i.e. rotor blades, the electrical equipment modules and tower sections of wind turbines. "Some people have had reservations about using rail for this, but participating in Marco Polo means it is taken more seriously. It adds prestige to our plans and helps us convince our partners to cooperate with us."

As a high-technology company in the field of renewable energy, ENERCON feels it is natural that it should take a lead in promoting sustainable transport, but the project is also being driven by practicalities. "We, like others," Vogt notes, "are encountering increasing resistance from local, regional and national authorities to moving exceptional loads by road. This translates into extended lead times and increased administrative costs."

However, ENERCON is confident that its modal shift is justified on its merits. "European energy policy and the current discussion of escape routes from the latest climate change scenarios can only increase the trend toward more modal shift, so we are confident of long-term economic benefits," Vogt concludes.

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URSULA VOGT,
ASSISTANT TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
OF ENERCON



— new route
— old route

Project name:
ENERCON Tri-Modal

Size of Marco Polo grant:
€1 268 577

Duration of project grant:
July 2009 to June 2012

Lead partner:
ENERCON, Aurich (Germany)

Other partner:
ENEOP 3 Desenvolvimento de Projecto Industrial (Portugal)

Volume of goods shifted off the road:
663m m tonne-kilometres
(three-year estimate)

Estimated environmental benefit:
13.6m (over three years)

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