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Haizea Bilbao to double its factory in the Port of Bilbao and to create 350 new jobs

- It is set to double its production capacity after winning the biggest contract in its history with one of the market leaders in offshore wind, the Danish company Ørsted.
- To be able to undertake this work, Haizea Bilbao will expand its plant by 48,800 square metres to over 100,000 square metres and will generate some 350 direct jobs in the port of Bilbao, which will be added to the nearly 400 current jobs.
- With this contract, Haizea Bilbao adds a workload in Bilbao of over 700 million euros for the next 4 years and it represents an important milestone in the recognition of its technological and production capacities.
- Expansion work will begin before the summer and the contract will start in 2025.

Bilbao – Haizea Wind Group, a world leader in the manufacture of wind towers, has reached an agreement with Ørsted, one of the leading companies in the offshore wind market, for Haizea Bilbao to supply monopiles from its facilities in the Port of Bilbao. This is the largest contract in the history of Haizea Bilbao and, in order to execute it, the company will expand its facilities and double its production capacity.

Currently, the Group's plant in the Port of Bilbao, Haizea Bilbao, has 48,800 square metres and 400 workers. Following the agreement reached with Ørsted, Haizea will grow by 56,000 square metres to over 100,000 square metres. The expansion will take place on the current site and will also require the extension of the existing concession by the Port Authority. To the existing 3 bays, Haizea Bilbao will add two more, and a new additional storage area to accommodate the monopiles before they are delivered to the vessels contracted by Ørsted. In addition, the agreement will mean the creation of some 350 direct jobs at Haizea Bilbao.

The expansion will require a significant investment, even greater than the one made to build the existing factory. With this contract, Haizea Bilbao completes a workload in Bilbao that exceeds 700 million euros for the next 4 years and represents an important recognition of its technological and production capabilities.

EUROPE'S LEADING MANUFACTURER

Monopiles are large steel structures, which serve to fix wind turbines to the seabed. They are the most competitive type of foundation, being present in approximately 80% of the offshore wind farms in operation.

Currently, for 10-12MW offshore wind turbines, monopiles have a diameter of 8-9 metres, a length of 80-90 metres and a weight of around 1500 tonnes. Haizea Bilbao is the only manufacturer in Spain capable of producing parts with these dimensions. In the future, with wind turbines of up to 20MW, it is projected that the monopiles will be up to 14-15 metres in diameter, up to 130 metres long and weighing up to 3500 tonnes. With the planned investments, the new plant in Bilbao will be sized to manufacture parts of this size in serial production and will become the reference factory in Europe for monopiles of such large dimensions.

Haizea Bilbao will be in charge of the procurement of materials, engineering of the manufacturing process and the manufacture of the monopiles. This contract and the expansion of Haizea's capacity in the Port of Bilbao are aligned with Haizea Wind Group's strategic growth plan, which includes the objective of becoming one of the most important players in the offshore wind energy value chain and, more specifically, achieving a relevant position within the foundation supply and manufacturing companies.

Reaching this agreement with such an important company in offshore wind confirms the soundness of the plan developed by Haizea Bilbao in recent years to position itself as one of the leading manufacturers of structures (towers and foundations) in offshore wind, and consolidates the group's commitment to become one of the world's leading suppliers to the wind industry. The Port of Bilbao will also see its position as one of the most important offshore wind hubs in Southern Europe strengthened by the investment.

The new contract is an important endorsement for the company, which is currently the leading manufacturer of large offshore wind towers in Europe and has executed major projects in East Anglia (UK), Borselle (Netherlands), Hornsea (UK), Seamade (Belgium), Formosa (Taiwan), St. Nazaire (France), Hywind (Norway) among others. Haizea is currently manufacturing wind towers for the main European offshore projects, such as Dogger Bank (the largest wind farm in the world, located in the United Kingdom) and HKZ (Netherlands).

For its part, Ørsted is one of the world's leading offshore wind operators and has one of the industry's most ambitious plans to become carbon neutral by 2025.

ABOUT HAIZEA WIND GROUP

Haizea Wind Group is a Group that was established in 2017, based on two existing companies (Grupo WEC and Tecnoaranda). In 2018 Haizea opened Haizea Sica, its wind tower factory in Santa Fe (Argentina). Also in 2018, production started in the offshore tower factory in the Port of Bilbao, Haizea Bilbao, with the help of a group of highly experienced professionals and with the aim of becoming the reference in offshore wind manufacturing in the European market.

Haizea Wind Group currently has three business units: wind towers, offshore foundations and large castings for wind turbines.

The Group currently employs around 1,200 people and the turnover in 2022 is expected to exceed 270 million euros.

