

# Fugro to Apply Specialist Geodata Services for Dutch Wind Farm Zone



Fugro has been awarded a further substantial marine site characterisation project off the Dutch coast. This is the largest geotechnical site characterisation programme tendered by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO.nl, part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy) and will be performed in the Hollandse Kust (west) Wind Farm Zone. Other contracts executed by Fugro in the same region since 2015 include geophysical and geotechnical data acquisition and metocean monitoring.

With project preparations underway and a target start date in April, contract finalization is expected soon. The geotechnical programme will continue until September and comprises a seabed investigation and borehole drilling. Fugro will also deliver standard and advanced laboratory testing and an integrated geological/geotechnical soil model which

will be used by future developers of the wind farm to prepare their bids.

## Seabed cone penetration

The fieldwork will utilise Fugro vessels including geotechnical drilling vessel, *Fugro Scout*. Deployment of Fugro's innovative SEACALF MkIV system for seabed cone penetration testing will enhance operational safety as its coiled rod requires no manual handling. The system is also much less weather sensitive than conventional systems, increasing productivity by avoiding downtime.

"For these large offshore projects, the availability of efficient systems and having access to the right resources is crucial; being able to mobilise three dedicated geotechnical vessels for this project has been a major part of the success of this tender," said Sven Plasman, Fugro's Project Director at Fugro. "Our SEACALF MkIV system enables us to acquire high-quality data in a safe manner, and deliver on time to RVO.nl. It is now the geotechnical system of choice in offshore wind farm developments worldwide, from the United States to Taiwan."

Ruud de Bruijne, [RVO.nl](https://www.rvo.nl)'s project manager, said "It's very important that the Netherlands Enterprise Agency prepares the best possible package of site studies for future developers of this offshore wind farm. We are confident that Fugro can enable us to do this, delivering high-quality geodata for the offshore wind energy permit tender."

With a total capacity of 1,400MW, the Hollandse Kust (west) Wind Farm Zone lies in the coastal waters of the province of Zuid-Holland, 51km off the west coast of the Netherlands.