Fugro Kicks Off Cable Route Site Investigation for Sofia Offshore Wind Farm

Fugro's multipurpose vessel *Fugro Pioneer* left the Port of Sunderland in the UK earlier this month to kick off a six-month offshore site investigation and survey campaign for innogy's Sofia offshore wind farm. With a consented capacity of 1.4GW, Sofia will be one of the world's biggest offshore wind farms. Fugro will provide geophysical and geotechnical services over the project's 220km export cable corridor, in what is believed to be one of the longest cable route surveys ever performed for an offshore wind farm, as well as further works on the wind farm array.

Subsurface Conditions

The objective of Fugro's site investigation is to comprehensively characterize subsurface conditions along the cable route corridor to better understand the benthic ecology and offshore archaeology of the site, and to enable detailed design for the proposed wind farm, which is located 195km off the coast of north-east England.

The site investigation will include surveys performed from five state-of-the-art vessels and will be complemented with a full suite of conventional and advanced laboratory testing. As well as *Fugro Pioneer*, geophysical survey data will be acquired using the *Fugro Frontier* and *Fugro Seeker*; two of Fugro's geotechnical vessels will then follow to provide drilling, and seabed sampling and in situ testing. Once the geodata is acquired, Fugro will produce a ground model for innogy that will provide standardized datasets and interpretation in a 'clearly identifiable and easy-to-access format'.

"For Fugro, this project is an opportunity for multiple vessels and multidisciplinary project teams to work together to provide a service to innogy and support the Sofia team in achieving its objectives from the outset," said Sally Dalrymple, senior project manager for Fugro.