

ENERCON – contributing to the Taiwanese Net-Zero goal

ENERCON is the market leader of wind turbine development in Germany and Taiwan, installing over 235 wind turbines in the Taiwan market over the past decades. The company gained a competitive edge through their broad knowledge in onshore wind technology and years of experience. Today, ENERCON takes a vital role in fulfilling the climate ambitions of the Taiwanese government, namely, achieving a carbon neutral economy by 2050. According to Bart Linssen, Managing Director of ENERCON Taiwan, Taiwan faces many challenges regarding these ambitions, especially in the development and implementation of renewable energy such as wind turbines. Some of these challenges and possible strategies for solutions were identified and discussed by Mr. Linssen in our interview.



About Bart Linssen:

- Arrived in Taiwan in 1992, and lives here with his Taiwanese wife and daughter
- Works for ENERCON since 2008
- Sees only opportunities in Taiwan and enjoys the very convenient and comfortable way-of-life
- Enjoys hiking and testing out his favourite Taiwanese foods: beef noodle soup and dumplings

GTO: How long has ENERCON been in Taiwan and how do you see the development over the years?

B. Linssen: The first wind turbines were already installed in Taiwan in 2002; however, the “real business” started in 2007 when the first onshore wind farms were built. Back then there was a peak in the development of onshore wind farms and in the following four years ENERCON installed more than 150 wind turbines. After this surge, business became less busy as it wasn’t as easy anymore to develop new facilities. From 2012 onwards, we have built 5-10 turbines per year, and the number of project inquiries is increasing again as local developers are becoming more and more interested in developing onshore wind power. Taiwan has set itself the target to achieve net-zero emissions until 2050, making it an obligation for local companies to find renewable sources. Sometimes individual corporations ask us to build a wind farm for their own facility as this infrastructure guarantees renewable electricity for 20 years at a fixed cost. ENERCON’s wind farms are a great opportunity for affordable green energy supplies for many companies.

GTO: Are parts of the turbines manufactured with local Taiwanese companies?

B. Linssen: Local production is not our primary focus. We have a global procurement department here which is actively looking for Taiwanese suppliers for our production, but it is hard to identify suitable suppliers and convince them to invest in developing products for wind turbines.

GTO: How difficult is it to find talents in Taiwan?

B. Linssen: It is not easy, and it gets especially difficult to find talented electrical technicians in Taiwan. In effect, everyone with this background has a good chance to work for us, but of course the semiconductor industry already attracts a lot of the young talents. To raise our chances, we cooperate closely with different universities to hire graduates and train them in our in-house training center here in Taiwan, basically we “teach them from scratch”.

GTO: How to support Taiwan to maintain grid stability?

B. Linssen: Maintaining grid stability gets increasingly important as the amount of renewable energy reaches 30-40%



of the total energy consumption. You will need special technology in your turbines that help to keep the grid stable. At ENERCON we are proud to provide this technology.

GTO: How is the onshore development in Asia doing?

B. Linssen: Onshore development especially in Vietnam and Japan is going well for ENERCON. Both countries are aggressively expanding their renewables. For example, in the last two years alone, ENERCON installed nearly 900 MW in Vietnam and about 50 to 100 turbines in Japan per year. In Taiwan in 2022, we installed 8 new turbines and for 2023, we have planned 12 turbines so far, building up to our target for 2024, to build 20 to 30 new wind turbines.

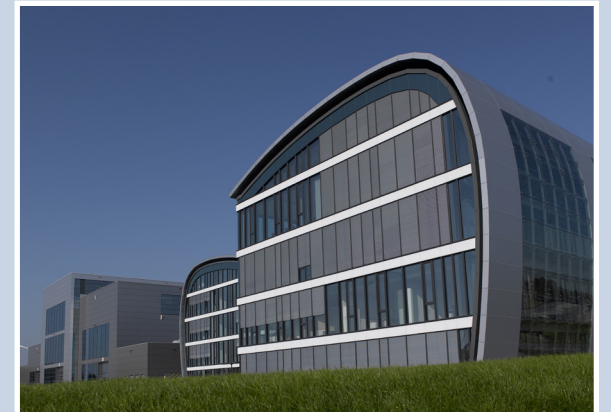
GTO: What do you think about Taiwan’s net zero goal by 2050? What could there be done to reach this goal?

B. Linssen: With the current level of ambition, I have some doubts that this goal can be reached by 2050. I think Taiwan should not exclude any technologies but be open and supportive to all approaches to achieve this goal. For example, to reach the 2050 target, Taiwan should actively encourage the development of windparks in zones like harbours and industrial parks.

GTO: What is your vision for ENERCON’s business in Taiwan for the next years? How do you see the business developing and what does the government need to do to keep it developing?

B. Linssen: I think ENERCON has a specific role to play for smaller and medium-sized enterprises in the way that we can support them to receive their 100% Renewable Energy goal. Industry in Taiwan is already actively looking for possibilities to develop onshore wind farms. Here we gained much experience already in the Netherlands where our turbines get built in harbors, highways and industrial parks. To conclude, I think there are still great opportunities for sustainable development for Taiwan and we are here to try to also get the government interested in our mission.

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ENERCON Innovation Center in Germany



ENERCON Taichung Office



ENERCON turbine near the harbor