

GLOBAL WIND DAY

Sarriguren (Navarra), 15 June 2011.- Today, Wednesday the 15th of June, is Global Wind Day. The wind is the energy source that generated the most electricity in the month of March in Spain, with a production of 4,738 GWh (according to data from the Spanish Electricity Grid - RE), which represented 21% of the demand.

In 2010, our country, for the first time in its history, became the first European producer with 42,976 GWh, compared with the 36,500 GWh of Germany. But, in agreement with the data provided by the Eurobserv'ER Barometer (the renewable energy observatory of the European Commission), the Germans still surpass us in installed power (27,214.7 MW compared with the Spanish 20,676 MW).

These data are undoubtedly the best way to corroborate that renewable technologies are developing efficiently and that they have great expansion potential. The public and private investment made over these past years in R&D have definitely had an influence on this, and here CENER has contributed as a national research centre, providing testing and approval services, as well as launching new infrastructures that it has placed at the sector's disposal, which are continuously updated with new services. A clear example of this is the Wind Turbine Test Laboratory, where, over the last few months, it has been possible to carry out multipoint and biaxial fatigue tests in the case of blades, or voltage dip tests on electrical equipment of the wind turbine, whose main objective is to adjust the internal software of the machine and thus avoid problems when short-circuits occur in the electricity grid.

One of these new infrastructures, which CENER has recently started up, is an experimental farm which will permit testing up to six 5 MW prototypes simultaneously. It will also contribute to accelerating the launch of new developments in the wind sector onto the market.

In agreement with data provided by the European Wind Energy Association – EGEA, the driving force behind the Wind Day, a total of 29 countries, distributed all around the globe, will participate this year with different activities. In our country, the institution that coordinates all the activities is the Wind Business Association (AEE).

More information: www.cener.com / www.aeelica.org