

With 300 tons against wind and waves – research station leaves Cuxport bound for high seas

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A highly complicated transport assignment, and one that depended heavily on the weather conditions, has started successfully from Cuxhaven. The research platform “FINO 3” has been transported from its berth, Cuxport’s Europakai, to its new location. A floating crane transported the research station, which was built in the harbour, out into the North Sea. On 28 June, the platform was manoeuvred onto the transition piece in the sea. Once installation has been completed, “FINO 3” will investigate the effects of wind turbines on the seabed and marine environment.

After months of waiting for calm weather, “FINO 3” could now embark on its journey to its future place of installation, 45 sea miles west of the island of Sylt. Firmly fastened to the floating crane “Samson”, the heavy platform weighing some 300 tons and measuring some 60 metres high, was transported to its foundations that had already been constructed the previous year. The platform has been designed and built entirely by the company Züblin on-site at Cuxport’s deep-water terminal. To this end, Cuxport had made suitable areas available in its deep ocean-going vessel waters, which also involved using the heavy load berth. Once the installation has been completed, “FINO 3” will have the task of researching the effects of wind turbines on the seabed and marine environment. The platform has also been designed, however, for wind and wave research purposes. Both its loading as well as its transportation through the North Sea had to be constantly postponed, due to adverse weather conditions.

Cuxport is an ideal location for offshore activities in the Baltic and North Sea regions, thanks to the Offshore Base Cuxhaven which opened in March 2009. This is heavy load platform, on which – as in the case of “FINO 3” – loads weighing up to 90 t/sqm can be shipped. But a heavy load quay with an area of 1,600 sqm for the transshipment (on the seaward side) of loads with an overall weight of up to 1,500 tons is also located in Cuxport. As a result, Cuxhaven has developed into a leading European location in the offshore

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wind energy sector. Thanks to the ideal conditions Cuxport offers for the wind turbine market, a number of companies active in offshore business have moved to the immediate vicinity of the terminal. These companies either manufacture or assemble components for wind turbines such as foundations, towers and rotor blades.

About Cuxport

Cuxport GmbH operates a multi-functional transshipment terminal in the deep-water port of Cuxhaven. In addition to extensive roll-on/roll-off handling facilities, Cuxport is strategically located in terms of its geography for all types of maritime traffic, and benefits from excellent connections to the hinterland. The company is a joint venture, in which the company Rhenus AG & Co. KG holds a 74.9% share and the company HHLA Container Terminals GmbH holds a 25.1% share. Generating an annual turnover of some EUR 3.3 billion, the Rhenus Group ranks amongst Europe's leading logistics service providers. Employing a 15,000 strong workforce, Rhenus is represented at 230 locations. The company Hamburger Hafen und Logistik AG (HHLA) is one of the leading port logistics corporations in the European north range of ports.

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