Africa’s first wind turbine plant in Tangier fuels Morocco’s clean energy and socio-economic growth

Madrid / 7 October 2021

Tangier, Morocco makes an excellent case study on how wind power brings more than just clean energy to a region. The city is home to the Middle East and Africa’s first rotor blade plant, set up by Siemens Gamesa in 2017. Four years hence, the plant is driving positive change – creating a pool of local talent, adding jobs and growth, giving back to the community, and powering a sustainable future.

Communication Department

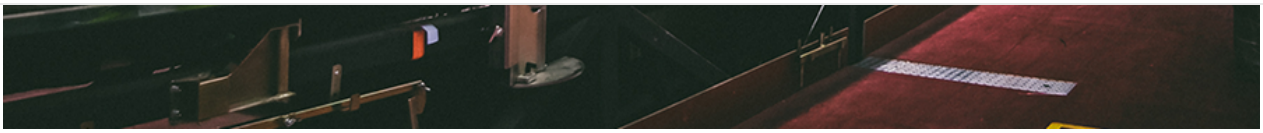
Rajaa Hatim

Rajaa.Hatim@siemensgamesa.com

+212 668 939 917

Profile

"I was lucky enough to witness the birth of the blade factory in Tangier, the first of its kind in Africa and the Middle East, and to lead, in collaboration with the site managers, the recruitment of our local workforce. I was able to observe firsthand, the pride of the aspirants and their eagerness to be part of this unique project. For all of us, joining this venture has meant an incredible opportunity to directly impact green energy production and environmental protection," reminisces Lahmidi Hanane, HR Head – Morocco, Siemens Gamesa.



New sector, new skills and jobs

With this project, Siemens Gamesa introduced a new industry in Morocco, creating more than 650 jobs and 500 indirect jobs. Partnering with ANAPEC (The National Agency for Employment and Competence Promotion) and OFPPT (Professional Training and Employment Promotion Institution), Siemens Gamesa created a training center of 3,500 square meters, to facilitate knowledge transfer from Denmark and Spain to Tangier. Local talent was provided access to essential manufacturing technical and process skills.

"This dedicated training center established at the outset of the project offered specialized training and successfully forged a workforce that is not only passionate about what we do but is also proud to belong to our organization. Despite the various challenges and issues along the way, our team remains committed to our mission, and our goal to being a top performer in the region," she adds.

Touching the lives of local communities

"Our blade factory has added value to the people, to the city, to Morocco and to Africa as a whole. Anyone who joins this project immediately adopts the culture we live by and this unique feeling of pride that pushes all of us to contribute daily to a higher purpose, and make a real difference," notes Hanane.

With each and every employee passionate about giving back to vulnerable communities, Siemens Gamesa has undertaken numerous projects that have delivered meaningful impact. These include the donation of containers and lockers to frontline COVID-19 personnel, blood donation for hospitals in need, water and sanitation access to schools, supplying food bags during Ramadan to families in need, tree planting activities and donating school bags to underprivileged children.

A sustainable future for Morocco, and for the world

Major wind projects have made Morocco Africa's third largest wind market in the recent years. For instance, the 140-MW Tangier wind farm brings clean energy to local businesses, avoiding up to 280,000 carbon emissions annually. The Haouma wind farm, north of Morocco, supplies clean electricity to the region's logistics and industrial operators. These farms are part of the country's overall vision of sustainable development using clean energy.

By 2030, Morocco aims to produce up to 52% of its electricity from renewable sources, with wind contributing 20% to the overall energy mix. The Tangier plant plays a big role in enabling this, having supplied blades to the 200-MW Aftissat and 180-MW Midelt wind farms in Morocco's south, with the last two relying on "100% made in Morocco" blades. The plant is also currently supporting the 300 MW Boujdour project, also part of the 850-MW integrated wind project being developed by Siemens Gamesa, Nareva and ENEL Green Power.

"As soon as Siemens Gamesa set up its presence in Tangier Automotive City, an area operated by Tangier Med Zones, the region developed. Together, we forged strong partnerships with the local authorities, and the National Motorway Company of Morocco (ADM). Large-scale infrastructure such as additional facilities for exceptional passages at the entrance to the Tangier East highway, at the exit of Tangier Med Port, were created. The roads were adapted to suit convoys transporting the 65-meter blades," explains, Tangier Mediterranean Special Agency.

Under an agreement, Siemens Gamesa is allowed to use the motorway infrastructure between the Tangier Automotive City and Tangier Med Port to route the blades to markets in Europe, USA and Africa. Tangier Med Port serves as a key logistics partner, supporting the storage of blades before loading them on a vessel and shipping them to the chosen destination. Till date, the port has helped transport over 1,400 wind turbine blades over a significant number of ship calls, that are powering seven wind farms in the Netherlands, France, Norway, Poland, Spain, Russia, and the United States.

"Wind power is great for Morocco's progress – promoting knowledge, creating jobs and infrastructure, developing local subcontractors, supporting the community, and delivering clean energy both locally and globally," concludes Hanane.

Journal

The future is bright and green

The future is bright and green

Our world has changed so much in the last two years. One thing is clear: there is a growing realization that post-pandemic economic recovery, and the fight to tackle climate change, needn't be mutually exclusive. Three experts from the wind energy sector tell us what they think of the future.

Read More →

Journal

"Hanging off a blade with 10 m/s winds sounds like the perfect place to have lunch"

"Hanging off a blade with 10 m/s winds sounds like the perfect place to have lunch"

Offshore wind service technicians often refer to their jobs of keeping enormous wind turbines running like clockwork as being as challenging as it is fulfilling. Putting safety first, colleagues from Siemens Gamesa scale impressive heights and quite literally put their lives on the line every day

Read More →

Journal

Teamwork and a no-rush culture: Building Germany’s largest offshore wind project

Teamwork and a no-rush culture: Building Germany’s largest offshore wind project

For nearly a decade, German utility EnBW has been transitioning to make renewables a mainstay in its energy mix. Its first offshore project - Baltic 1 - was also the country’s first offshore commercial wind power plant.

Read More →

Contact Siemens Gamesa

You can contact us calling to our offices or filling the hereunder contact form:

Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy

Parque Tecnológico de Bizkaia, Edificio 222
48170, Zamudio, Vizcaya
Spain

+34 944 03 73 52 (International)
902 734 949 (Spain)

Contact us