



Safety discussions to follow Hamburg conference success

ESTA has been invited to raise its concerns about safety during the construction of on-shore wind farms at a meeting with VDMA Power Systems in April.

The meeting follows the success of the experts' safety summit organized last month in Hamburg by ESTA and the Mobile Crane Product Group of FEM, the European Materials Handling Federation.

Over 130 delegates heard speakers discuss common problems such as site road and crane pad requirements, the need for cross-industry standards and how increasing hub heights in creating major challenges for crane users and manufacturers alike. VDMA Power Systems – who formally supported the event – represents the German manufacturers of power plant technology, including the wind turbine manufacturers.

One of the aims of the summit was to improve lines of communication between different companies in the supply chain and the agenda included contributions from VDMA members Siemens, Vestas and GE Renewable Energy.

The event was well-received by those present, with a survey of delegates giving speakers an overall approval rating of almost 90 per cent, and 47 per cent giving the speakers top marks.

But ESTA Director Søren Jansen warned that the summit must be seen as a first step, and not an end in itself.

"It was an excellent event, with some top presentations and debate, and most importantly started discussions with the turbine manufacturers and energy companies.

"The important thing now is that those discussions are followed up, if we are to have a real impact and reduce the number of accidents in this sector."

New challenges in on-shore wind farm construction – safety, productivity and the supply chain was sponsored by Liebherr, Nooteboom, Terex, Tii Group, Blokcam and GHHL.

Copies of the presentations are available in the **Summit** section of the ESTA website.