



Mr Offshore Wind changes track

Kaj Lindvig is resigning from A2SEA to become a consultant for other wind sector players

One of the offshore wind sector's great profiles is changing track. Senior Advisor Kaj Lindvig, who has been Sales Director and CEO of the shipping and installation company A2SEA, has decided to resign from the company and act as an independent consultant, where A2SEA will be one of his customers.

Kaj Lindvig changes track after having turned 60 this summer and has decided to resign from his position with one of the offshore sector's large players and work instead as a consultant for small and upcoming companies.

Kaj Lindvig says:

"The offshore wind sector is an exciting business, and it's been thrilling to be in the game from the very beginning. The sector keeps growing, and many companies still have unexploited potential, while new markets are emerging. I'm keen to be a part of that, so my resignation from A2SEA doesn't mean I'm leaving the sector for good; it's the end of a chapter, but a new one will soon begin."

He adds:

"I've never felt comfortable when I've

been with very large companies. I prefer to be an important wheel in a small company rather than a small wheel in a big company. I hope I can make use of the experience I've gained from being with A2SEA and in the sector through the past 12 years when I start working for other companies, and I hope I can create value for those companies."

Exciting field of work

It was a nascent and pioneering sector that Kaj Lindvig entered when he became director of the newly founded A2SEA in 2001, a company that was going to offer transport and installation of offshore wind turbines by means of 2 converted container-feeder vessels.

A2SEA succeeded in securing the order of erecting the first 80 offshore wind turbines in the world at Horns Rev off Esbjerg in 2002 – the rest is history.

"We struck it lucky when we won the Horns Rev assignment, and in a few years' time, we overcame our teething troubles. People began to believe in the future of the sector, and long-term investments in offshore wind turbines were made. Later also Britain joined in the game, which meant we had to bid for several assignments at the same time, and many new players entered the sector. More types of turbines and a growing number of turbine manufacturers emerged instead of just Vestas and Siemens. And more companies emerged that could supply foundations, not to mention a range of new suppliers of everything from cable-laying through to installation. In only 10-12 years, the offshore wind sector has evolved from being a pioneering sector into becoming an entirely professional sector," observes Kaj Lindvig.

A2SEA today has a workforce of 500 people and a large fleet of installation and crew vessels and the company has been involved in various installation assignments at 60-70 % of all offshore wind farms in northern Europe.

This means that Kaj Lindvig has accomplished his mission and, by the end of August this year, he will have left his position as a director and embarked on his job as a consultant through his new company, Lindvig Consulting. He has decided also to step down from Offshoreenergy.dk's board and from the board of the industry association Danish Wind Association.

Apart from acting as a special advisor to A2SEA, Kaj Lindvig is going to specialise in consultancy in relation to small offshore companies, and he is currently working for companies such as Steel Team in Hammelev, SubC Partner in Esbjerg and K2Management in Århus. He will be doing this in the belief that the offshore sector will be enjoying a tailwind also in the years ahead, although he is aware that the future will bring challenges as well.

"The future of the offshore wind sector is determined by whether we can keep up momentum, and I'm sometimes sceptical about that. The great activity we've seen in recent years has depended on the sector being able to think long-term in several countries. The sector as a whole strives to reduce cost of energy and it has so far proven that this is possible but, if in future we simply use this cost reduction to place larger turbines farther away from coasts and in deeper waters, we'll lose what we've gained in shallow waters with small turbines, and then we'll be back to square one," says Kaj Lindvig.