Challenge

RWE Innogy UK Ltd, a leading wind farm operator with 32 UK-wide sites, realised that access to accurate weather information was essential to maintain efficiency, save money, and ensure the safety of staff and contractors. The company needed a system that was powerful enough to provide comprehensive information about both real-time and forecast weather elements, such as rain, wind and lightning. It was also important that thresholds could be set for each of these elements at individual sites in order to prompt timely warnings should thresholds be passed. The challenge was to find a way to identify clear weather windows and thus make it easier to plan maintenance work.

Solution

RWE Innogy chose the Met Office’s web-based monitoring, alert and planning solution, VisualEyes™. Utilising the millions of Met Office daily data readings, VisualEyes™ makes it easy to visualise and map both real-time and forecast weather conditions, element by element; issue alerts when set thresholds for weather elements are crossed; and produce precise planning charts. All of the wind farm sites can be monitored from the one central system, giving managers detailed, up-to-date, site-specific information round the clock. All weather information is presented in a clear visual display that is easy and quick to interpret. As alerts are issued, sites that are likely to experience adverse weather conditions are highlighted.

Benefits

The Met Office’s VisualEyes™ system has given RWE Innogy the ability to visualise complex weather information on an easy-to-understand online platform and anticipate weather conditions at all of its individual wind farm sites. Accurate and easily accessible weather data makes it possible to plan repairs and maintenance intelligently and efficiently, thereby minimising downtime, reducing costs, and ensuring that staff and contractors are able to work safely across the whole of the company’s extensive wind farm operation.

“Access to accurate weather data for individual wind farm sites is essential. VisualEyes™ helps us ensure that our operations are efficient and cost-effective, and that our staff are not put at risk in hazardous weather conditions. We intend to extend the system to our operations in Europe.”

Jim Marshall, Operations Performance Manager, RWE Innogy UK Ltd

Keeping a safe watch on our wind farms with VisualEyes™