

GWO trained workforce exceeds 100,000 while growth of training continues in North America

- Wind industry on track to establish global standards for safety training
- The volume of GWO safety training increased year-over-year by 30% in North America
- 10 additional training centers opened during 2020 in North America

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PRESS RELEASE – March 3, 2021 – The world’s largest wind energy employers are on track to achieve a globally standardized system of safety and technical training for hundreds of thousands of workers, according to the 2020 annual report of the Global Wind Organisation (GWO).

GWO, which strives to create an injury free working environment across the wind industry, reported a 12% growth of the GWO trained workforce worldwide, reaching a total of 100,052 compared with 88,030 in 2019. The total number of training courses for 2020 exceeded 200,000 for the first time at 219,749 – 10% higher than the prior year.

The GWO trained workforce in North America expanded by 46% in 2020 – growing to 4,818 up from 3,308 the year earlier.

“In North America, we see continued growth of GWO training as the industry expands onshore and the added opportunities of the offshore sector,” says Wesley Witt, Chair of the GWO North America committee and Head of Quality Management and Health, Safety and Environment (HSE), Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy. “This expansion continues even with the Pandemic as the backdrop. I thank all our training providers who adapted to provide training safely to frontline technicians.”

The total number of training courses in North America was 10,902 in 2020 for an increase of 30% over 2019. Ten additional training centers opened contributing to a jump in the number of courses completed in the USA by 32% to 9,773. In Canada, training volumes grew 13% with 1,129 modules completed.

“I can see the number of completed training modules doubling in the year ahead,” Witt says, “As the demand for renewable energy continues and then adding offshore wind power, growth of standardized safety training accelerates as more and more wind technicians are needed. What this also means is that there will be the need for more GWO certified training providers and certification auditors.”

Jakob Lau Holst, CEO of Global Wind Organisation, notes, “The results of this annual report demonstrate the resilience and adaptability of our network, while underlining the value of a global standard. With workers classified as essential by most governments, we have worked together with our members and the network creating innovative new ways to train people, blending digital solutions with traditional instruction and making sure a good standard of safety is always upheld.”

PRESS RELEASE

Editors' Notes:

About GWO

[GWO](#) is a non-profit group of wind turbine owners and wind turbine manufacturers, committed to the creation and adoption of standardized safety training and emergency procedures.

GWO, which represents 17 global wind turbine manufacturers and owner operators, strives to create an injury free working environment across the industry by ensuring workers receive a standardized, basic minimum level of training, wherever they are in the world.

Independent training providers deliver GWO-certified training to technicians and students worldwide. There are currently nine GWO training standards, containing a total of 24 modules. For more information on GWO standards, [visit this page](#).

Training records are created when a GWO standard course is passed and completed by a person. These records are uploaded and stored in the [GWO WINDA database](#), allowing workers to transfer their skills to new employers, reducing costs and eliminating retraining of basic skills.

[GWO member companies](#)

Acciona Energia, Avangrid, CGN Wind Power, Cubico Sustainable Investments, ENERCON, Envision, Equinor, GE Renewable Energy, Goldwind, Innogy, Iberdrola, The Nordex Group, Ørsted, RWE Renewables, Shanghai Electric, Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy, SSE, Vattenfall and Vestas.

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Disclaimer:

All data contained in the GWO Annual Report 2020 is correct as of January 12, 2021. Calculations of total records uploaded, and workforce statistics may fluctuate from time to time. This is owing to occasional instances of incorrect uploads by training providers which may require re-upload and revocation of original records.