



## David Molenaar

David Molenaar was born in 1971 in Middelie. Originally, he devoted his talents to engineering sciences and he gained the degree of Master of Science on the subject of control systems for wind turbines at Delft University of Technology in 1996.

Later, he continued in this field with a PhD thesis on cost-effective design and operation of variable speed wind turbines. He continues by closing the gap between the control engineering and the wind engineering communities. He is already stepping beyond boundaries of his specialisation.

Already in his days at TU Delft, David has started on an impressive track. Everything to do with wind in the broadest sense, has his interest.

Where the issue is maintenance and safe working at offshore wind farms, he is the co-inventor of a motion compensated gangway to enable safe transfer of people between independently moving platforms. The Ampelmann has proven its value in the harsh North Sea environment.

During his PhD research, David became acquainted with Siemens. Siemens (nowadays Siemens Gamesa) is a key player in the offshore wind industry with activities in concept development, realisation, and maintenance. This was his opportunity to pick up a new challenge!

David saw that the emerging offshore wind technology was going to require a veritable army of highly trained personnel. David started working with people from other organisations to set up initiatives for cooperation between administration, education, businesses training and education in general.

At Siemens he continuous to work on challenging projects. The Gemini wind park for instance where the party delivering the turbines had folded and David captained the winning proposal with a turbine still under development at Siemens. A high-risk project that Siemens normally would not have taken on.

Westermeerwind is another example, where David takes on a different challenge. Westermeerwind is a nearshore wind park wherein the challenge lay in bringing all the stakeholders to the water. It took over 10 years of uphill teamwork to bring it about.

Borssele 1 and 2 were ground-breaking projects, leading the way to the world's first unsubsidised wind energy project.

Besides successfully managing nearly impossible projects, David is also active in setting up networks, such as the quarterly 'Q-meetings'. These are well attended meetings where the wind industry comes together.

David leads and participates in research and product innovation programs in the industry, programmes ranging from scaling up wind turbines and improving their behaviour in rigorous environmental conditions, to the storage of energy.

David has played an active role in education. He has enabled more than 80 master theses and PhD programmes at Siemens Gamesa. Siemens Gamesa plays a facilitating role in the training course for offshore wind logistics at Groningen University. Fearing a shortage of offshore wind experts, together with TU Delft, David started Siemens Wind power in the Hague. This centre of excellence evolved into

the main design office for the support structures of offshore wind farms of SiemensGamesa. At the same time cooperative partnerships with vocational training institutes and universities of applied science have been initiated.

Outside the direct field of offshore wind, David was material in making Siemens a partner of KNRM, the Royal Netherlands Society for Saving life at Sea.

Internationally, David is member of the ECN/TNO Wind Energy Industrial Board.

In summary, where the jury considers the laureate's ability and prowess as a designer, constructor, scientist, research worker and entrepreneur, David meets all of these. But what is more, where we hope to see today's engineer as a participant in society, not only achieving in the technical sense but also in the broad societal impact of our technological prowess, David has succeeded in bringing this together in a virtually unprecedented way.

More than today's laureate, he is the engineer par example for today and tomorrow!