

Press Release
2025-02-18

EEW Group and Sumitomo Corporation Seal Strategic Partnership

Festive Closing Ceremony at EEW SPC in Rostock

Rostock. EEW Group and Sumitomo Corporation have officially sealed their strategic partnership. During a festive closing ceremony at the EEW SPC site in Rostock, Christoph Schorge, Managing Partner of EEW Group, and Hiroyuki Koike, CEO of Sumitomo Corporation Europe, signed the cooperation agreement.

With Sumitomo Corporation, EEW Group now has a strong strategic partner with extensive expertise in the international steel market. The Japanese company has retrospectively acquired a capital stake in EEW Offshore Wind Holding as of July 1, 2024. The majority shares of the company remain with the owner families Schorge and Dietze.

Future collaboration will focus on EEW Group's activities in the offshore wind sector, centering around the EEW SPC facility in Rostock. Since 2008, the company has been manufacturing monopiles at port of Rostock, which serve as foundations for offshore wind turbines. In the production halls, where massive steel pipes with diameters of up to ten meters are produced, Sumitomo Corporation and EEW Offshore Wind Holding celebrated the beginning of their partnership with guests from business and politics.

The shared goal of Sumitomo and EEW is to establish climate-neutral production of monopiles and to further expand sustainable energy generation through offshore wind power by manufacturing high-quality foundations. Both EEW Group and Sumitomo Corporation reaffirmed their commitment to this common goal at the event: "The offshore wind energy sector offers us some promising projects. By joining forces, we will actively drive the

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About EEW Group:

As a globally operating company, EEW Group manufactures large pipes and pipe components for various industries and applications. The corporate headquarters is located in Erndtebrück, Germany. The leading specialist in the production of longitudinally welded pipes employs more than 2,000 people at six locations worldwide.

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expansion of green energy and further strengthen our leading position in the industry,” emphasized Managing Partner Christoph Schorge. Hiroyuki Koike also affirmed Sumitomo's commitment to the partnership and shared objectives: “Innovation thrives through teamwork. We aim to collectively create a green energy cycle and build an emissions-free future.”

The strategic partnership between EEW and Sumitomo was announced in August 2024. Following approval from the relevant EU authorities, the contract was officially signed on January 30, 2025, and came into effect retrospectively. The partnership builds upon years of trusted collaboration in executing large-scale projects, now elevated to a new level, as Robert Dreves, Managing Director of EEW SPC, stressed: “Partnership means working closely together, being committed, and taking responsibility. I know that our colleagues at Sumitomo share this understanding.” Masaki Nakagaki, Corporate Officer, Steel Products Strategic Business Unit of Sumitomo Corporation, also highlighted: “The energy sector is currently facing many challenges, but with combined efforts, we will succeed. Sumitomo and EEW each bring their own strengths, forming a perfect partnership.”

As a symbol of solidarity, Christoph Schorge and Kazuaki Tsuda, Corporate Officer, Deputy General Manager Steel Products Strategic Business Unit of Sumitomo Corporation, exchanged gifts that reflect the unifying values and goals across the different cultures: “True solidarity arises when common goals and values meet trust. The partnership between EEW and Sumitomo shows that sustainable progress is only possible through cooperation and mutual support,” emphasized Kazuaki Tsuda.

EEW SPC can look back on highly successful business years. The company is currently manufacturing foundations for three offshore wind projects: Sofia (UK), Coastal Virginia (USA), and Thor (Denmark), significantly contributing to the energy transition. After completing these projects in early summer this year, work will begin on the Baltica 2 project in Poland and the Nordlicht project in German waters. The latter was recently awarded to the company by Vattenfall, securing good capacity utilization until the end of 2026. This project alone will supply 1.6 million households with green electricity via 112 wind turbines with a capacity of almost 1.7 gigawatts. Since the 2022/2023 financial year, the number of employees in Rostock has doubled from around 500 to more than 1,000, making EEW SPC one of the largest industrial employers in the region of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

Thanks to the strategic partnership, a sustainable foundation has been created for the company to build on these successes. Mecklenburg-Vorpommern State Minister for Economic Affairs, Infrastructure, Tourism and Labor, Dr. Wolfgang Blank, emphasized: “It is a good day for the city of Rostock and the region of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. With this partnership, we are taking an important step toward the future of offshore wind energy in our state. Together, the companies will manufacture innovative generations of monopiles in the future. This will create new, well-paid jobs and strengthen our state's role in the energy transition.” Jochen Schulte, State Secretary for Economic Affairs, Infrastructure, Tourism and Labor, was also pleased with the impact on Rostock as an industrial location: “The investments and technological expertise coming together here not only strengthen EEW but also the entire industrial value chain. This is an important stimulus for the economy in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and proof that our location policy is creating the right framework conditions for entrepreneurial success.”

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EEW Offshore Wind Holding is one of three holding companies within the EEW Group, structuring the company by business segments. It consolidates the monopile business, including the Rostock production site (EEW SPC), associated mechanical engineering activities (AWS Schäfer, Siegen, Germany), and the service company EEW Management Services GmbH.

About Sumitomo Corporation: Headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, Sumitomo Corporation is one of the world's largest integrated trading and investment companies, employing nearly 80,000 people in 63 countries. Sumitomo's official entry into EEW Group follows a long-standing and successful business relationship.

Photos



The Board of Directors of EEW Offshore Wind Holding (from left to right): Taku Hattori, Shinjiro Takemasu, Masaki Nakagaki, Kazuaki Tsuda, Christoph Schorge, Markus Völkel, Andreas Dietze. (source: EEW Group)

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Christoph Schorge for EEW Group and Hiroyuki Koike for Sumitomo Corporation Europe (from left to right) sealed the partnership in the offshore wind sector with their signatures. (source: EEW Group)



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A strong foundation for a strong partnership: Invited guests from politics and business, along with representatives from both companies, gathered in front of a monopile for a group photo. (source: EEW Group)