ENERGY CURRENT
News for the Business of Energy

SPONSORED BY C&C BOATS INC.

EMERGING ENERGY NEWS
Wind and Wave

Register now for the EnergyCurrent News Digest and customized News Alerts, or Log In if you are already registered.

	Latest	Previous	Change
ICE WTI Crude	$144.55	$145.08	-0.53
ICE Brent Crude	$144.42	$144.49	-0.07
ICE UK Gas	69.20p	69.02p	0.18

ICE TRADE THE WORLD™ © ICE: Data delayed

Search

Home
Offshore Oil & Gas News
- North America/Mexico
- Central/South America
- Europe/Mediterranean
- Africa
- Middle East
- Asia
- Australia/Oceania

Emerging Energy News
- LNG
- BioFuels
- Wind and Wave
- Solar

News Feed
Energy Wiki
Events Calendar
Industry Links
Career Center

NASA maps reveal ocean wind power hotspots

By Billy Youngson
Filed from Aberdeen
7/11/2008 11:31:32 AM GMT

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA: The world's most promising regions for offshore wind power have been revealed in satellite images from NASA. The northern U.S, Canada, UK, Japan and Eastern Russia have the most potential in the Northern Winter, while southern Australia, South Africa, New Zealand and Argentina benefit from the most consistent and powerful winds in the Northern Summer.

Scientists have created these maps using nearly a decade of data from NASA's QuikScat satellite that reveals ocean areas where winds could produce energy. The research, published in Geophysical Research Letters, was funded by NASA's Earth Science Division, which works to advance the frontiers of scientific discovery about Earth, its climate and its future.

QuikScat, launched in 1999, tracks the speed, direction and power of winds near the ocean surface. Data from QuikScat, collected continuously by a specialized microwave radar instrument named SeaWinds, is also used to predict storms and enhance the accuracy of weather forecasts.

Wind energy has the potential to provide 10 to 15 percent of future world energy requirements, according to Paul Dimotakis, chief technologist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. If ocean areas with high winds were tapped for wind energy, they could potentially harvest up to 500 to 800 watts of wind power per square meter, according to NASA's research.

Dimotakis notes that while this is slightly less than peak solar power, which is about 1,000 watts per square meter on Earth's surface when the sky is clear and the sun is overhead at equatorial locations, the average solar power at Earth's mid-latitudes under clear-sky conditions is less than a third of that.

Another advantage is that wind power can be converted to electricity more efficiently than solar power and at a lower cost per watt of electricity produced.

Options
Printable Version
Tell a friend
Add to:

Related Stories
02/29/08 Congressman challenges Houston to lead on...

Featured Jobs from Around the World

Welders and Fitters	USA
Welders	Houston
Database Developer (SQL) - Aberdeen	Aberdeen
Market Analyst - Aberdeen	Aberdeen
Reporter (Renewables) - Aberdeen	Aberdeen
Software Engineer (GUI Development) - Aberdeen	Aberdeen
Marine Editor (Aberdeen)	Aberdeen
News Reporter (Energy Current)	Aberdeen
Sales Account Manager - Aberdeen	Aberdeen
Software Engineer (Web Development) - Aberdeen	Aberdeen

More Jobs

Google Translate
Select Language

Gadgets powered by Google

Most Popular Stories of the Day

NASA maps reveal ocean wind power hotspots
Maersk extends Deep Venture deal
Floaters to remain in short supply
U.S. LNG imports continue to sag
STC starts growing jatropha in Indonesia, Surinam
Mid-water semi day rates jump to new high

Copyright © 2008, ODS-Petrodata Inc.