

The Swiss Wind Energy R&D Network Annual Report 2023

Authored by the Management Board

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1. Introduction

The Swiss Wind R&D Network was founded with the founding meeting on 06.02.2020. The Articles of Association can be found attached. Following the introduction of membership fees, the number of active members was reduced from 201 at the end of 2022 to 37 at the end of 2023.

The current members of the Management Board are: Sarah Barber, OST (president); Laurin Hilfiker, OST; Elena Martinez, Alpiq; Ursula Dubois, Sociolution GmbH; Andrew Clifton, enviConnect.

The current members of the Advisory Board are: Henrik Nordborg, OST; Imad Abdallah, ETHZ; Anastasios Vassilopoulos, EPFL; Karen Mulleners, EPFL; Bernhard Brodbeck, Winji AG; Alexander Oudalov, Hitachi Power Grids; Angela Mayer, BFH; Nicole Vermeulen, Green Energy Venture AG; Kartik Venkatraman, Von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics.

The activities of the Swiss Wind R&D Network are split into the following areas:

1. Organisation
2. Events

The activities and achievements within each of these areas in 2023 are described in the next section. This is followed by a summary of the accounts in Section 3.

2. Activities

The activities and achievements of the association within the above-mentioned areas are described in this section.

2.1 Organisation

This area involves general administration and coordination of the network. The following achievements were made in 2023:

- **01.04.2023:** Membership fees introduced.
- **01.04.2023:** Website split from WeDoWind.
- **20.11.2023:** Decision of Management Board to step down.

Membership fees

At the AGM 2023, we decided to introduce membership fees. We did this by transferring all existing members to “passive members” and asking them to sign up as an “active member” on a new form on the website¹. The membership fees were structured as shown in Figure 1. The corresponding benefits are shown in Figure 2. Following the introduction of membership fees, the number of active members was reduced from 201 at the end of 2022 to 37 at the end of 2023.

Membership type	Cost (CHF/year)
Active – company or university research group	250
Active – start-up / SME	100
Active – individual	50
Active – student	0
Inactive	0

Figure 1. Summary of membership fees.

What we offer all our members (active and inactive):

- Monthly newsletter.

What we offer our active members:

- Voting rights at the Annual General Meeting.
- Access to the members' directory.
- Free access to recordings of our webinars.
- Access to exclusive members' only webinars.
- Reduced price at events: 10% of membership fee per event.
- Logo on “Swiss wind energy innovation landscape” graphic on website.
- Logo on homepage.

Figure 2. Summary of membership benefits.

Website

On 01.04.2023, we switched the website from www.wedowind.ch to www.windenergynetwork.ch. This was due to the increasing popularity of a different project founded by Sarah Barber at OST, called WeDoWind. As well as this, we restructured and updated the website, and introduced a “members only space”. This space includes access to the members' directory, the “Getting started in wind energy” guide, and the webinar recordings.

Management Board stepping down

On 20.11.2023, the President and Management Board announced their decision to step down and give other motivated people the chance to lead and steer the future of the Swiss Wind Energy R&D Network. We are convinced that the Swiss Wind Energy R&D Network has a high

¹ <https://windenergynetwork.ch/join-us>

potential in the future; however, we have chosen to invest our energy in other activities for the time being. Passive and active members were asked to contact the Management Board before 31.01.2024 if they are interested in becoming a candidate for a position as President or Management Board member.

2.2 Events

This area involves working group coordinates events. The following achievements were made in 2023:

- **09.03.2023:** “Wind Goes Digital” event
- **20.03.2023:** "Wind energy basics for offshore wind energy in Brazil" workshop
- **08.05.2023:** "Digital Twins, Drone Inspections and Data Sharing" webinar
- **05.07.2023:** "Wind energy research and innovation insights #1" members webinar
- **26.09.2023:** “Networking Series Event 2023”
- **02.11.2023:** “Wind energy research and innovation insights #2” members webinar

“Wind Goes Digital” event

This was a very successful hybrid event carried out in Zurich, with 20 attendees in person and 20 attendees online, and 15 different speakers. It was sponsored by the Swiss company WinJi AG, and we received very positive feedback. More information can be found in our blog article². Some impressions are given in Figure 3.



Figure 3. Impressions of the “Wind Goes Digital” event.

"Wind energy basics for offshore wind energy in Brazil" workshop

This was another very successful online event consisting of one full week of lectures and workshops, with eight different lecturers from Brazil. There were about 20 attendees, mainly from Brazil. More information, including the recordings, can be found in our blog article³. Some impressions are shown in Figure 4.

² <https://windenergynetwork.ch/blog/digitalisation-event-2023>

³ <https://windenergynetwork.ch/blog/brazil-2023>



	Monday March 20th	Tuesday March 21st	Wednesday March 22nd	Thursday March 23rd	Friday March 24th
	Basics	Blades	Electrical systems	Wind farms	Operation
	Ingrid Silveira	Marina Cavalli	Victor Mendes	Yoshiaki Sakagami	Carlos Eduardo de Souza
09:00 BRT / 13:00 CET	Overview of Brazilian wind energy market	Loads and blade design	Energy conversion systems	Wind resource and measurements	Condition monitoring challenges
10:00 BRT / 14:00 CET	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop
	Sarah Barber	Heloise Mendonca and Wilson Netto	Victor Mendes	Rafael Valotta Rodrigues	All
11:00 BRT / 15:00 CET	Overview of wind energy basics	Composite materials	Grid integration	Layout and wakes	Panel discussion
12:00 BRT / 16:00 CET	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop

Figure 4. Impressions of the "Wind energy basics for offshore wind energy in Brazil" workshop.

"Digital Twins, Drone Inspections and Data Sharing" webinar

This webinar, organised by Switzerland Global Enterprise and the US Offshore Business Hub, showcased the business opportunities for Swiss companies along the entire U.S. offshore wind supply chain while putting a spotlight on New Jersey which is investing heavily in building out the supply chain on East Coast. Swiss companies had the chance to ask experts about how specifically they can benefit from the numerous offshore wind projects currently under development along the East Coast. Unfortunately, there was no real interest from Swiss organisations, with only 4 or 5 attendees.

"Wind energy research and innovation insights #1" members webinar

The aim to this webinar series is to report the most recent research and innovation trends from the global market. It will typically involve reports from events or workshops that we or our partners have attended, or international collaborative projects that we have been involved in. In this first webinar, after summarising current technology trends and costs, we talked about some of the hot topics at the Wind Europe Annual Event 2023 (data platforms and creating value from data, offshore wind, floating wind), at the Wind Energy Science Conference 2023 (smart measurement technology, digital twins, data sharing and open science) and at the American Clean Power Expo 2023 (handling extreme weather, workforce of the future and community relations). Unfortunately, we only had 4 or 5 attendees again.

"Networking Series Event 2023"

We decided to cancel this event, planned for September 2023, due to a low number of registrations.

"Wind energy research and innovation insights #2" members webinar

We decided to cancel this event, planned for November 2023, due to a low number of registrations.

3. Accounts

The accounts summary for 2023 is shown in Table 1. It should be noted that the CHF 29'063 came from Innosuisse for running the “Networking Series Event 2023”, which was cancelled. Innosuisse will make a decision about what to do with this money at the end of 2024, when our contract with them finishes.

Table 1. Summary of accounts for 2023.

AKTIVEN	31.12.2023	%
Kontokorrent	34'800.98	100.0%
TOTAL AKTIVEN	34'800.98	

PASSIVEN	31.12.2023	%
Eigenkapital	5'737.98	16.5%
Gewinn	29'063.00	83.5%
TOTAL PASSIVEN	34'800.98	

AUFWAND	2023	%
Internet	17.00	36.2%
Bankspesen	30.00	63.8%
TOTAL AUFWAND	47.00	

ERTRAG	2023	%
Mitgliedbeiträge	2'000.00	6.9%
Projektunterstützungen	27'110.00	93.1%
TOTAL ERTRAG	29'110.00	
TOTAL AUFWAND	47.00	
Gewinn	29'063.00	99.8%

4. Summary and outlook

Sarah Barber and the Management Board would like to thank all passive and active members for their engagement, and we hope to find someone to take over the running of the Network in the future!