

Offshore-from-the-shore WRA in China

VAISALA

Case Study



The client:

Goldwind

Vaisala solution:

WindCube Scan

Analyzing island's influence on surrounding wind field

As wind farms are increasingly built offshore, Tianrun often conducts Wind Resource Assessment (WRA) campaigns using lidars to prove bankability and reduce uncertainty. In this case, a small island off the coast of China could cause disruption in wind patterns and increase the risk of profitability.

Tianrun Xinneng is a subsidiary of Goldwind, founded in 2007, has more than 10 years of professional experience in wind farm development, by the end of 2019, the cumulative installed capacity of 7.02GW (gigawatts), about 1.5 GW under construction projects. Goldwind is a leading wind turbine manufacturer and energy solutions provider with operations around the globe. The organization is working with wind farm developers in China as the country aims to increase its renewable energy capacity.

THE CHALLENGE:

Determine island effect on wind speeds

WRA is a critical first step in wind farm development, as the future success of any wind farm depends on accurate wind measurement. The WRA process itself is often restricted by field conditions such as the terrain and specific wind phenomena.

Tianrun conducted a WRA campaign at a future wind farm located just off the coast of Fujian Province in the southeast of China. The only obstacle: a small, mountainous island in close proximity.

The organization set out to determine whether the island creates a blockage effect for the wind turbines and recommend ideal turbine placements (micro-siting).

"For our offshore project, scanning lidar can reduce the high cost of wind speed measurement. Secondly, it is a multi-point measurement technology which can effectively simulate the impact of the island on the surrounding flow field, provide qualitative judgment in the change of wind conditions, and even detect risks of each wind turbine siting – all of which play an important role in providing real measurement data."

*Xiaobin Li
Senior Expert of Wind Resource Assessment,
Tianrun Xinneng, Goldwind*

THE APPROACH:

Careful analysis from every angle

The organization set up the lidar to measure in Plan Position Indicator (PPI) pattern to scan the area in three scanning modes. They set the scanning speed to 3 degrees per second for a total of 21 scans every 10 minutes to catch the details of wind resources.

Tianrun measured the wind in two directions to analyze the island's influence on the surrounding wind field.

THE RESULTS:

Accurate measurements with low uncertainty

The WindCube Scan provided excellent measurements of the wind field with over 98% data availability. Goldwind and other stakeholders can conveniently see real-time results and adapt all measurement specifications remotely.

The accurate measurements provide very low project uncertainty and risk, giving the wind farm developer confidence that they can pinpoint the right location for all wind turbines, maximizing power generation and bankability.

Why Vaisala?

We are innovators, scientists, and discoverers who are helping fundamentally change how the world is powered. Vaisala elevates wind and solar customers around the globe so they can meet the greatest energy challenges of our time. Our pioneering approach reflects our priorities of thoughtful evolution in a time of change and extending our legacy of leadership.

Vaisala is the only company to offer 360° of weather intelligence for smarter renewable energy, nearly anywhere on the planet. Every solution benefits from our 85+ years of experience, deployments in 170+ countries, and unrivaled thought leadership.

Our innovation story, like the renewable energy story, continues.

