

Forside Nyheder Vejledninger Personaletilbud Helpdesk LAM HR Jura og Udbud Intern Service Om os Telefonbog

Forside > Nyheder > Alle nyheder > Turbine Tema: Help from abroad - fixing the generator

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Titel Turbine Tema: Help from abroad - fixing the generator

Brødtekst

Help from abroad - fixing the generator

Craig Clarke's job as an HV technician in London isn't necessarily considered the most international of occupations, but since his first trip to Denmark in the summer of 2017, he's been here five more times. You see, Craig is one the guys who specializes in fixing the types of generators that Vestforbrænding uses. After the break-down of the generator on Plant 5, Craig and the rest of the team have had to make the trip across the North Sea several times.

An urgent phone call

It all started with a phone call. "The machine is making some unusual noises and has tripped on vibration. A sort of clattering sound can be heard around the exciter..." Theis from Vestforbrænding was on the other end and he was pretty sure that something was wrong. Very wrong. So the Brits packed their bags and made their way to Scandinavia. And Theis turned out to be right; the generator was now in serious need of thorough fixing.

There are about 20 magnets that make up the PMG rotor, mounted on the main rotor shaft. The bolts keeping the magnets in place had snapped and as the rotor turns with a force of 1500 RPM, the snapped bolts smashed in and around the PMG and exciter stator. "There are many possible causes for the bolts failing; they could be fatigued, but it's not for me to say. As soon as we arrived and looked inside, the amount of damage was clear," says Craig.

Trusted collaborators

The required reparations were many and also quite complex, so the British team has had to pay us several visits. And luckily, Craig quite likes working here at Vestforbrænding. "Compared to England there is a very clear difference in the work environment. There's a lot more trust as Vestforbrænding is confident in our skills and capabilities. You guys let us do our thing."

The trust and freedom doesn't only make Vestforbrænding a more relaxed and enjoyable environment to be in, but it also helps make the entire reparations-project more effective. "This approach to employee management seems to facilitate more effectiveness. We simply seem to get more done as opposed to when someone is standing over us and watching our every move," Craig explains and continues, "Work-wise, it's a great place to be. Theis and the others are always ready to help if we need it and we've just had a very good working relationship with the Danes in general," Craig says smiling.

Craig and the others hope to have the project completed by the end of this week and then the generator living in Plant 5 should be up and running once again!



Udløber 01-01-2100

Afsender [Energi og Distribution](#); [Kommunikation](#)

Skrevet 09-05-2018

Oprettet kl. 09-05-2018 09:41 af [Line Andree Keller \(LIA\)](#)
Sidst ændret kl. 09-05-2018 10:59 af [Line Andree Keller \(LIA\)](#)

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Samarbejdsudvalg

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