

# Larger rotors could increase output at constrained projects – expert

New onshore turbine models with larger rotors could help developers increase output at wind farms constrained by permitting, grids and land availability, according to a wind industry expert.

by Orlando Jenkinson | 5 October 2026



An artist's impression of what Vestas' V182-7.2MW turbines might look like (pic credit: Vestas)

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Danish wind turbine manufacturer Vestas and its German rival Nordex both recently announced new onshore wind turbine models with larger rotor diameters aimed at improving efficiency and output.

Vestas launched the [V-182 7.2MW](#) with a 182-metre rotor diameter on 21 September, one day before Nordex announced its [N193/7.X](#), which features an even larger 193-metre rotor diameter.

Speaking on an upcoming episode of the [Wind Power Podcast](#), Sorcha Versteeg, the commercial director at consulting firm Natural Power, pointed out that with these newly announced turbines, OEMs did not necessarily include larger capacity sizes than existing models, but rather focused on increasing rotor sizes to improve efficiency. She argued that this meant developers working on existing projects could theoretically boost their planned output despite existing constraints such as land use and grid connections.

“It’s significant for developers and investors, because many projects are now being constrained by factors other than basic availability of the turbine technology. We know land is constrained, permitting is increasingly difficult, grid connections are scarce and gaining consent for additional turbines can take many years,” she said.

“A larger rotor could allow a developer to increase total output from an already-consented or grid-constrained project without proportionately increasing turbine numbers or contracted connection capacity. It creates the possibility of getting more value for a limited site envelope.”



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## Logistical challenges

However, Versteeg also pointed out that increased rotor sizes in these larger designs create additional challenges, such as the logistics of transporting and installing larger blades. The commercial case for using them would therefore need to be evaluated on a site-by-site basis, she said.

“There are still questions over the commercial case, and this needs to be proven site by site, because a larger sweep area may improve the gross energy production, but it can introduce new additional challenges, such as transport, foundations redesign, wake [effect], noise, visual and construction [as well as] maintenance considerations. Developers and investors need to be asking not only how much more energy will it produce, but what’s the risk-adjusted improvement in the lifetime of the project after permitting and transport are considered. Manufacturer claims are necessarily based on defined assumptions and on-site conditions,” Versteeg said.

Vestas, for its part claims, that it is already addressing such challenges.

Speaking at the recent WindEnergy Hamburg conference in Germany, Jens Kück, the company’s head of sales in northern and central Europe, told Windpower Monthly that the company was investing in “everything” around the new turbine designs to ease their introduction to the

market.

“We’re investing in our transport tools. We’re investing in installation tools, everything around the construction side. We’re also innovating, together with our strong supplier base. So yes, there are limits [with the logistical challenges of ever-larger turbines], but we try to push them further and further,” he said.

“Before launching the V182, transportability was a key design criterion. We’ve already done feasibility studies during the development of that machine. Specifically in Germany, transporting larger blades has become increasingly challenging, but we are very confident about the transportability of that product because we’ve already tested it on reference sites in Germany with our transport supplier partners, and we got really positive results,” Kück added.

Nordex similarly argues that it has taken additional logistics into account regarding its N193/7.X turbine, stating that customers could expect “proven production, logistics and installation processes for the turbine, and claiming that it has been “further optimised” from previous models “to meet evolving market requirements”.



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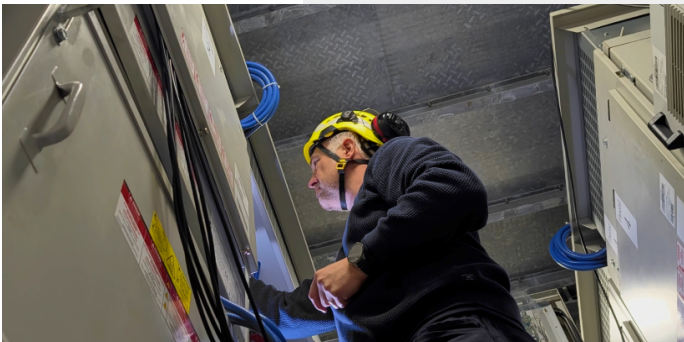




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