

Energy Currents

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GIS for Energy

Location Selection for North Sea Wind Parks

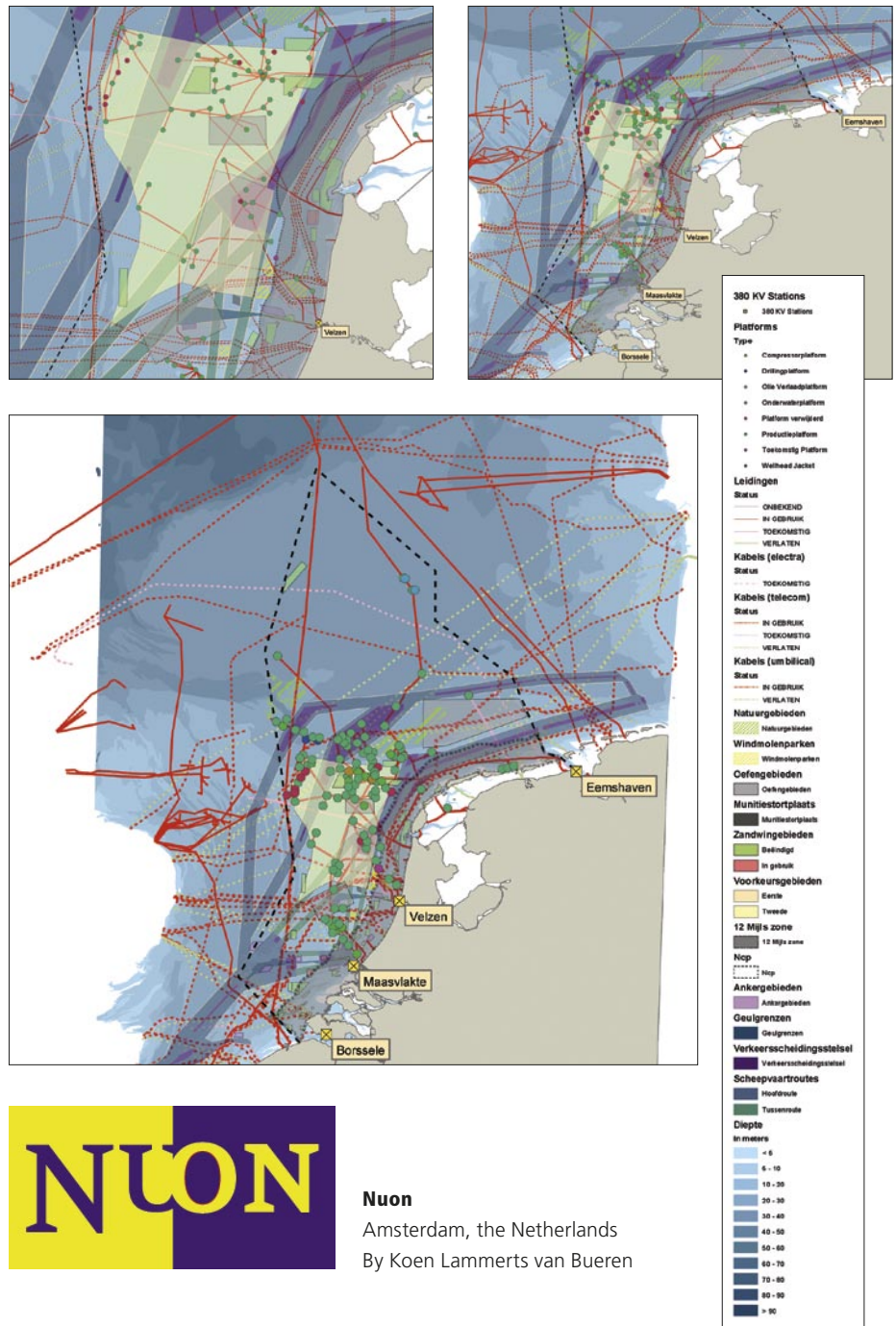
Nuon, one of the largest energy companies in the Netherlands, is planning wind parks on the continental shelf of the Dutch North Sea. A GIS application will assist the company in its quest for suitable locations.

A myriad of factors complicates the actual selection process, ranging from density of shipping traffic and the proximity of drilling rigs to bird migration patterns and military restrictions. Each factor has its own weight in the decision making process. Superimposing the data that has been charted on separate maps helps in the selection of suitable locations. On the new interactive and multilayered map, the weight of each factor can be adjusted and a sensitivity analysis can be executed for all concerned parties.

Without information technology, this would be a time-consuming and erratic process. The support of GIS is an important resource in this process. Nuon Renewable Energy Projects has asked the GIS Competence Center of Nuon Information and Communication Technology to apply its knowledge and expertise of GIS to support the location selection process. For more information, visit www.natuurstroom.nl.



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