



West Texas Wind Wire



November 2007

Projects expand East, North

Whirlwind, Silver Star, Barton Chapel mark new territories for Texas wind

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Wind energy territories are diversifying as West Texas projects take shape on the South Plains and in the Cross Timbers region.

Significant new projects are in advanced construction stage above the Caprock and flanking the west-

In Eastland and Erath counties, Clipper (www.clipperwind.com) is debuting its 2.5 MW Liberty turbines in the West Texas market. The Silver Star wind energy center will feature 24 of the cutting-edge Clipper Liberty turbines in a 60 MW project.

In Jack County, major component deliveries continue as construction is in full swing for the 120 MW Barton Chapel project southwest of Jacksboro.

The project is a development of Gamesa (www.gamesa.es), the major Spanish wind energy leader.

Barton Chapel will be powered by 60 Gamesa 2.0 MW turbines. Barton Chapel will be operational in early 2008.

Both Barton Chapel and Silver Star are in the ERCOT North region, while Whirlwind is interconnected in the ERCOT West region. All are regulated by the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

Whirlwind rises near Floydada

Courtesy photo



The 2.5 MW Liberty turbines are the largest wind turbines built in the U.S., manufactured at a 330,000 square foot factory in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Groundbreaking for the Stephenville-area project took place in September 2007, and the project will be operational by early 2008.

ern approaches to the Metroplex near Jacksboro and Stephenville.

RES Americas (www.res-america.com) is developer, owner, and construction contractor for Whirlwind, a 60 MW wind energy center in Floyd County, northeast of Lubbock.

Austin Energy, the municipal power company in the state capital, will buy all output from the project under a long-term arrangement. Whirlwind will be powered by 26 Siemens 2.3 MW turbines and will be capable of supplying roughly 28,000 Austin homes.

On the eastern frontiers of West Texas, two milestone projects are rising above the Cross Timbers woodlands.

Silver Star is situated on a mesa in a 54,000-acre site. Clipper estimates that less than one percent of the land area is being occupied by wind turbine activity, leaving the remaining 99 percent free for continued agricultural uses.

Silver Star is 15 percent owned by Clipper and 85 percent owned by BP (formerly known as British Petroleum). Silver Star marks the Texas entry for BP, but the global energy giant has other wind projects in the pipeline, including a Fort Stockton wind site.

Siemens 2.3 MW turbines power Whirlwind on the South Plains — energizing up to 28,000 Austin homes.

Courtesy photo



Global wind ranks

- *Germany — 22 GW*
- *USA — 14 GW*
- *Spain — 12 GW*
- *India — 7 GW*
- *West Texas — 5 GW*
- *Denmark — 3 GW*

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Trent welcomes campus turbine, new wind project

“The School that Wind Built” now has its own wind turbine to power students’ imagination

Trent Independent School District — between Sweetwater and Abilene on Interstate 20 — has just installed a Whisper 200 from Southwest Windpower. The latest addition to the state-of-the-art Trent School will power activities at the Gorilla Outdoor Learning Lab and serve as an early introduction to wind energy technology for Trent students..

Trent School opened in 2005 in the shadow of AEP Wind’s 150 MW Trent Mesa wind energy center. Babcock & Brown has just announced a 101 MW projected named South Trent to adjoin the Trent Mesa site. South

The RC&D rural development groups awarded a \$23,500 grant to enable initial operations of the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium. WTVEC transferred the final \$9,000 of the grant to Trent ISD for purchase and installation of the campus wind turbine.

Trent School is home to the West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair, scheduled for its fourth annual occurrence in July 2008. Both the Trade Fair and the new school began in 2005.

The Whisper 200 is designed to operate in a site with low to medium speed averages of 8 mph, 3.6 m/s, and greater. The 200 provides 200+ kWh per month, 6.8 kWh per day, in a 12 mph average wind.

Kester’s Inverters in Abilene (www.KestersInverters.com) supplied and installed the Trent School turbine.

What: 4th Annual West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair

When: July 8-9-10, 2008

Where: Trent ISD — Exit 261, Interstate 20

Trent will include 44 Siemens 2.3 MW turbines and is scheduled for commercial operation in 2009.

Trent ISD’s purchase of the Whisper 200 was funded in large part by the Big Country Resource Conversation & Development (RC&D) Council, the Chihuahuan Desert RC&D Council, and the Texas Association of RC&D Councils.



Benefits of the wind energy industry to Trent students and landowners have been prominently featured recently on the “NBC Nightly News” and “CBS News Sunday Morning” nationwide.

Ethicon eyes wind power at San Angelo manufacturing site

Johnson & Johnson’s global environmental commitment may soon launch to a new level at the San Angelo manufacturing facility of the Ethicon medical products division.



Ethicon and Johnson & Johnson are undertaking engineering, financial, and wind resource analysis aimed at powering the long-time West Texas high-tech plant with wind energy.

Wind resource assessment began in December 2006 and final corporate reviews are underway. Officials expect to make a decision on the wind generation concept in early 2008.



The wind generator display shown in the photo at left was part of “Celebrating Ethicon” days held this fall. The purpose of the celebration was to display recent projects, community involvement, and future projects for the San Angelo plant. This display, showing a general layout of the proposed turbines, was seen by most of the plant associates over three days covering all shifts, day and night.

The wind energy display won first place by a vote by the associates who saw the displays. There were many insightful questions about the project and interest in how it was going to benefit Ethicon and San Angelo.





Texas competes for new Vestas research center

Texas plays a major role in the wind energy manufacturing supply chain and is poised to compete actively for a wind energy research facility announced Nov. 22 by Vestas.

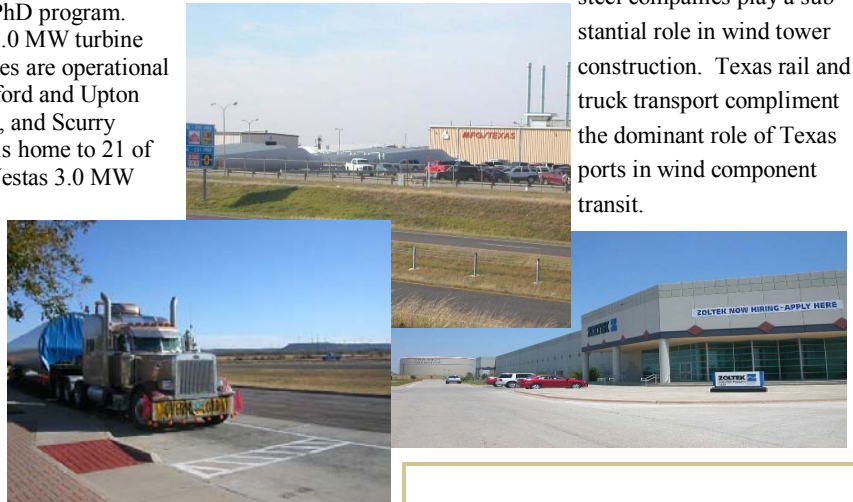
The major Danish wind energy component manufacturer has notified states and wind industry officials that a state-of-the-art research and development center will be operational by 2009 and will directly employ up to 80 workers by 2010. Substantial spin-off business activity can also be anticipated.

No location has been announced for the U.S. facility, and Vestas will “primarily investigate options close to the large and recognized universities,” says Finn Ström Madsen, President of Vestas Technology R&D.

Texas has several major attributes that should make the Lone Star State highly competitive.

West Texas also has the potential to attract the Vestas research center. Texas Tech University has the nation’s only wind energy PhD program. Vestas 3.0 MW turbine prototypes are operational in Hansford and Upton counties, and Scurry County is home to 21 of the 31 Vestas 3.0 MW turbines in the U.S.

Carbon fiber for Vestas blades comes from Zoltek in Abilene. Composite blades are also manufactured in Gainesville, Texas, and in Juarez across the border from El Paso. Texas steel companies play a substantial role in wind tower construction. Texas rail and truck transport compliment the dominant role of Texas ports in wind component transit.



Texas lands wind blade research on shore

With its leadership role in wind energy operations, world-class ports and ground transportation network, and top-tier research universities, Texas is becoming increasingly successful in attracting wind energy research and manufacturing.

Through the efforts of the Lone Star Wind Alliance, Texas has landed an important U.S. Department of Energy wind turbine blade test facility near Corpus Christi.

The site for the Texas large-scale wind turbine and blade testing facility will be just north of Corpus Christi, at Ingleside-on-the-Bay.

Lone Star Wind Alliance

The Texas bid for the test facility was handled by the Lone Star Wind Alliance, a Texas-led coalition of universities, government agencies and corporate partners created to prepare the proposal for submission to the federal government. The Lone Star Wind Alliance includes the University of Houston’s Cullen College of Engineering, The University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, West Texas A&M University, the Houston

Advanced Research Center, Stanford University, Montana State University, New Mexico State University, Old Dominion University, the Texas General Land Office, the State Energy Conservation Office, the Texas Workforce Commission, Governor Rick Perry, Dow Chemical Company, Huntsman and Good Company Associates. Other Texas industries, including Dow Chemical Company and Huntsman also donated toward the effort.

The Port of Corpus Christi provided non-monetary support. The facility will be built through an innovative public-private partnership, organized through the National Renewable Energy Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy. Private wind turbine and blade manufacturers are expected to fully fund the operations of the facility within five years of its construction. The Texas Legislature played a crucial role in securing the facility, pledging \$5 million toward its construction.

Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson has likened the potential impact of the test facility to that of NASA in Houston during the space race in the 1960s.

Upcoming West Texas Wind Energy Consortium Events

December 5, 2007 — TSTC Sweetwater — WTVEC luncheon — 12 noon — featuring Shaw Group senior geologist John Sullivan on environmental permitting issues

February 14-15, 2008 — American Wind Energy Association workshop on project siting — Austin — www.awea.org

March 31-April 3, 2008 — European Wind Energy Association conference — Brussels, Belgium — www.evea.org

June 1-4, 2008 — WindPower '08 — Houston — www.awea.org

June 2008 — Wind Law Institute — Sweetwater — TSTC

July 8-9-10, 2008 — 4th Annual West Texas Wind Energy Trade Fair — Trent

October 4, 2008 — 2nd Annual “Ride the Wind” Bike-a-thon — Sweetwater

October 2008 — 2nd Annual Wind Harvest Festival — Roscoe — www.roscoewind.org



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West Texas Wind Energy Consortium invites you to join in a new era of joint action to capitalize on the value of wind energy to West Texas.

Our region supplies roughly one-third of U.S. wind energy capacity, and only **3** foreign nations produce more wind energy than West Texas. This rapidly expanding industry provides substantial job creation potential and tax base growth for our region, and the outlook is strong into coming decades.

To facilitate a strong West Texas-wide effort to maximize our common economic benefits, leaders throughout the region have formed the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium across the breadth of West Texas, covering roughly 140,000 square miles from the Panhandle to the Rio Grande and Fort Worth to El Paso and already representing more than 1,000,000 West Texans through our members.

West Texas . . . America's energy independence region.



Cyclists speed through the West Texas turbine fields in the 1st Annual "Ride the Wind" event.

Photo by WTVEC intern Leticia Garcia



'Ride the Wind' rolls into 2008

After a successful inaugural outing, the "Ride the Wind" bike event is ready to roll again in 2008.

Riders from across the region cycled through rolling hills, mesa descents, and a flowing lake spillway with endless wind turbine views in Nolan County on Oct. 6, 2007.

The first "Ride the Wind" has so far donated more than \$1,000 to the Children's Miracle Network — with more contributions continuing to arrive. The proceeds went directly to support the regional work of Meek Children's Hospital at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene.



Major sponsors for the 2007 event were West Texas Wind Energy Consortium and New Amsterdam Wind Source LLC, with several other West Texas businesses also jumping in generously.

Substantial pledges have already been received for "Ride the Wind '08".

What: Ride the Wind '08

When: Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008

Where: Nolan County

Why: Benefits the Children's Miracle Network and travels through the West Texas wind region

The 2008 event will roll on Saturday, Oct. 4. The bike-a-thon will feature a variety of routes — 100 miles, 100 kilometers (62 miles), 10 miles, and 5 miles. All routes will cycle through major wind energy fields, including the three largest wind projects in the U.S.

Other West Texas communities are invited to incorporate "Ride the Wind" bike events into their festivals and celebrations, so that riders can earn points in a "Ride the Wind" series.

Ride the Wind was developed by WTVEC intern Lindsey Turner, a senior at Sweetwater High School who will enroll at Baylor University in Fall '08.



For sponsorship opportunities, entry info, and "Ride the Wind" series licensing for 2008, please contact Lindsey Turner at 325-236-9499 or texaswind@wtconnect.com.