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U.S. Wind Turbine Manufacturing: Federal Support for an Emerging Industry

Michaela D. Platzer
Congressional Research Service

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Abstract
[Excerpt] This report discusses the U.S. wind turbine manufacturing industry, its supply chain, employment and international trade trends, major federal policy efforts aimed at supporting the industry, and issues affecting its future. The wind industry’s national trade group, the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), reported that an estimated 20,000 Americans were employed directly and indirectly in wind turbine manufacturing in 2010, compared to 2,500 in 2004. Another 55,000 U.S. workers reportedly were employed in other parts of the wind industry in 2010, including construction and services. The U.S. wind turbine market has grown in size from an estimated $2.7 billion in 2005 to $12.5 billion in 2009. Following an unprecedented period of growth in the U.S. wind power market between 2005 and 2009, about half as many new wind turbines were installed in 2010 (some 3,000) as in 2009.

Keywords
wind turbine, manufacturing, employment, industry

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U.S. Wind Turbine Manufacturing: Federal Support for an Emerging Industry

Michaela D. Platzer
Specialist in Industrial Organization and Business

September 23, 2011
Summary

Increasing U.S. energy supply diversity has been the goal of many Presidents and Congresses. This commitment has been prompted by concerns about national security, the environment, and the U.S. balance of payments. More recently, investments in new energy sources have been seen as a way to expand domestic manufacturing. For all of these reasons, the federal government has a variety of policies to promote wind power.

Expanding the use of wind energy requires installation of wind turbines. These are complex machines composed of some 8,000 components, created from basic industrial materials such as steel, aluminum, concrete, and fiberglass. Major components in a wind turbine include the rotor blades, a nacelle and controls (the heart and brain of a wind turbine), a tower, and other parts such as large bearings, transformers, gearboxes, and generators. Turbine manufacturing involves an extensive supply chain. Until recently, Europe has been the hub for turbine production, supported by national renewable energy deployment policies in countries such as Denmark, Germany, and Spain. Competitive wind turbine manufacturing sectors are also located in India and Japan and are emerging in China and South Korea.

U.S. and foreign manufacturers have expanded their capacity in the United States to assemble and produce wind turbines and components. Nearly 400 U.S. manufacturing facilities produced wind turbines and components in 2010, up from as few as 30 in 2004. An estimated 20,000 U.S. workers were employed in the manufacturing of wind turbines in 2010. Because turbine blades, towers, and certain other components are large and difficult to transport, manufacturing clusters have developed in certain states, notably Colorado, Iowa, and Texas, which offer proximity to the best locations for wind energy production. The U.S. wind turbine manufacturing industry also depends on imports, with the majority coming from European countries, where the technical ability to produce large wind turbines was developed. Although turbine manufacturers’ supply chains are global, recent investments are estimated to have raised the share of parts manufactured in the United States to 50-60%, up from 25% in 2005.

The outlook for wind turbine manufacturing in the United States is partially dependent upon federal and state policies. A variety of federal laws and policies have encouraged both wind energy production and the use of U.S.-made equipment to generate that energy. Some of these policies are subject to change at the end of 2011, and others are scheduled to expire in 2012. Future decisions about these policies will affect the extent to which wind turbine manufacturing becomes an important industrial sector in the United States.
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Introduction

This report discusses the U.S. wind turbine manufacturing industry, its supply chain, employment and international trade trends, major federal policy efforts aimed at supporting the industry, and issues affecting its future. The wind industry’s national trade group, the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), reported that an estimated 20,000 Americans were employed directly and indirectly in wind turbine manufacturing in 2010, compared to 2,500 in 2004. Another 55,000 U.S. workers reportedly were employed in other parts of the wind industry in 2010, including construction and services.1 The U.S. wind turbine market has grown in size from an estimated $2.7 billion in 2005 to $12.5 billion in 2009.2 Following an unprecedented period of growth in the U.S. wind power market between 2005 and 2009, about half as many new wind turbines were installed in 2010 (some 3,000) as in 2009.

Aside from GE Energy and Clipper Windpower, most of the manufacturers that sell, assemble, or manufacture turbines and wind-related components in the U.S. market are headquartered outside the United States. Vestas, Gamesa, and Siemens are among the European manufacturers that have responded to government regulations that mandate the use of renewables including wind power. Other firms manufacturing wind turbines for the U.S. wind market include Japanese and Indian companies such as Mitsubishi and Suzlon. Manufacturers from South Korea and China are also expanding production capacity and entering the U.S. market.

Federal interest in the U.S. wind turbine manufacturing industry is based on: (1) increasing the role of clean energy technology in energy production; (2) encouraging advanced manufacturing and the creation of skilled manufacturing jobs; and, (3) enhancing the diversity of U.S. energy sources.3 In 2009, the Obama Administration stated that it has the goal of:

doubling U.S. renewable energy generation capacity from wind, solar, and geothermal by 2012. This was a bold goal—to install as much renewables in the next three years as the U.S. had in the previous thirty. In addition, President Obama set the goal of doubling U.S. renewable manufacturing capacity, so that the U.S. can gain leadership in manufacturing these technologies as well.4

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1 Employment data for the U.S. wind energy sector is currently only reported by the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA). Recent statistics can be found in AWEA's annual report, U.S. Wind Industry Annual Market Report Year Ending 2010, p. 36. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is in the process of collecting data on “green jobs,” including wind-related employment, with data publication planned for 2012 and annually thereafter. More information on the BLS Green Jobs Initiative can be found at, http://www.bls.gov/green/.

2 The U.S. International Trade Commission’s (USITC) estimate of the size of the U.S. wind turbine market was calculated by multiplying the number of megawatts (MW) supplied by each original equipment manufacturer (OEM) by the average price per MW of wind turbines for that OEM. For a discussion of this methodology see, Andrew David, Impact of Wind Energy Installations on Domestic Manufacturing and Trade, U.S. International Trade Commission, July 2010, p. 19, http://www.usitc.gov/publications/332/working_papers/ID-25.pdf.

3 The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports wind energy represented 2.3% of net electricity generation and 2.5% of national electricity consumption in the United States in 2010.

Wind energy, like many energy technologies, benefits from government incentives. Without them, it does not appear likely that there would be a U.S. wind turbine industry. To a large extent, the federal government sets the framework and influences the pace of domestic wind power development.

One of the main federal policy tools to encourage wind generation is a tax credit, known as the production tax credit (PTC), which is slated to expire at the end of 2012. Other policy drivers include state renewable portfolio standards, which have been adopted by more than half the states to mandate production of electricity from “clean” sources. No nationwide renewable electricity standard currently exists, but the Obama Administration and some members of Congress have endorsed the concept. These policies do not directly address manufacturing, but greater wind power adoption supports the development of a U.S. wind energy manufacturing base. In addition, the federal government and some state governments have maintained programs that provide financial incentives for manufacturing of wind power equipment.

Many international wind turbine manufacturers and component suppliers have opened manufacturing facilities in the United States since 2005. In 2010, there were nearly 400 U.S.-based wind turbine manufacturing facilities—a ten-fold increase in five years—ranging from wind turbine assembly plants to factories producing various wind-related components including large bearings, castings, electrical wiring, fasteners, hydraulics, and power electronics. Given the interest in wind power around the world, manufacturers with U.S. production facilities may be able to increase exports of advanced wind-energy components. Less than $150 million in fully assembled wind turbines were exported from the United States in 2010.

The industry’s future in the absence of government support, however, is open to question. While the cost of electricity from land-based wind turbines is less than the cost of power from other alternative sources, such as concentrated solar plants and geothermal installations, it is still, in general, somewhat higher than the cost of power from new gas-fired generators. This means that without government support, electricity suppliers’ demand for wind turbines would be relatively limited. It is possible that, if existing policy tools are allowed to expire at the end of 2012, wind industry manufacturing will face a difficult future. On the other hand, it is imaginable that technological improvements in wind generation and higher costs for construction of fossil-fuel power plants could at some point make wind cost-competitive with coal and gas as a source of electricity, creating a bright outlook for wind turbine manufacturing.

**Wind Turbine Manufacturing**

Wind turbine manufacturing is at the core of the multifaceted wind power industry. Because of the use of castings, forgings, and machining, turbine manufacturing is a significant contributor to

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U.S. heavy manufacturing. By the end of 2010, over 35,600 wind turbines were installed in the United States.9 Procurement of wind turbines accounts for an estimated 60% to 70% of overall expenses for wind energy developers.10

The market potential of offshore wind power is not covered in this report. No offshore projects have been installed in the United States to date, and the industry faces difficulties with permitting, financing, and infrastructure availability.11 So far, Cape Wind, off the coast of Nantucket in Massachusetts, is the only project that has a commercial wind energy development lease from the U.S. government. Also, this report does not cover small wind turbine manufacturing, which AWEA defines as turbines with rated capacities of 100 kilowatts (kW) or less. This segment of the wind turbine market appears to be growing, with 95 manufacturers of small wind turbines based in the United States in 2009, up from 66 in 2008.12

Historical Overview

The use of a wind turbine to generate electricity is an American invention of the late 19th century.13 The development of U.S. commercial wind turbine manufacturing can be traced back to the 1970s, when the U.S. government advanced the technology in response to the oil crises of 1973 and 1979 as an alternative to power generation from fossil fuels.

The first U.S. wind farms were developed in California, and the state dominated worldwide wind development in the early 1980s.14 This created a market for wind turbine manufacturers. Enertech, U.S. Windpower (renamed Kenetech in 1988), and Zond were among the American suppliers. Other U.S. manufacturers included technology and aerospace firms such as Westinghouse and Boeing. In 1986, 60 U.S. firms produced turbines for the California market.15 Foreign suppliers from Denmark, Germany, Japan, and the Netherlands, among other countries, also sold their wind turbines in California.16 The California “wind rush” became the training

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10 Worldwatch Institute, Made in China, or Made by China? Chinese Wind Turbine Manufacturers Struggle to Enter Own Market, http://www.worldwatch.org/node/3931.
13 Charles F. Brush, an American inventor, constructed the first modern wind turbine in 1888, in Cleveland, OH, for the purpose of electricity generation. He used it to power his home. Thereafter, other Americans such as Palmer C. Putman built wind turbine generators, mostly for farm use, at a time when electricity distribution systems had not yet been installed. U.S. manufacturers of early wind turbine generators included Jacobs Wind and Parris-Dunn. The rural electrification project of 1936 effectively killed the wind-generated power market in the United States until the early 1970s. For more information, see Windsector, The First Wind Turbine in the United States, April 17, 2011. http://windsector.tumblr.com/post/4711554356/the-first-wind-turbine-in-america.
14 Janet Swain, "The Role of Government in the Development and Diffusion of Renewable Energy Technologies: Wind Power in the United States, California, Denmark, and Germany," (Ph.D. dissertation, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, 2001), pp. 200-203. This dissertation notes that by 1991 77% of the world’s wind capacity was installed in California.
ground for several firms, including the Danish manufacturer Vestas, now the world’s largest manufacturer of utility-scale wind turbines.\(^{17}\)

However, a drop in oil prices, along with reductions in government tax credits, caused a near total collapse of this market in the mid-1980s.\(^ {18}\) In 1986, Congress eliminated the investment tax credit for wind.\(^ {19}\) By the end of the decade, many wind turbine manufacturers went bankrupt as the industry adjusted to a much smaller market.

For the next two decades fuel prices were low and U.S. incentives spotty. In the United States, annual installed wind power capacity slowed from 1987 to 2000. The entire U.S. wind fleet exceeded 1,000 megawatts (MW) for the first time in 1986, but then took 13 years to reach approximately 2,400 MW.\(^ {20}\)

In the 1990s a more sustained market for wind power and wind turbine manufacturing evolved overseas. Strong, consistent government incentives and policies, which have included a policy mix of direct government investment, tax breaks, loans, regulations and laws that cap or tax emissions, supported the development of manufacturers abroad, particularly in Europe.\(^ {21}\) This allowed wind turbine manufacturers to establish themselves in countries such as Denmark, Spain, and Germany, where many wind turbine manufacturers are now based.\(^ {22}\)

### Demand for Wind Turbines and Components

Demand for wind turbines and components is driven by growth in wind power capacity. More consistent U.S. policies have resulted in a substantial increase in cumulative utility-scale wind power capacity, growing from 9,000 MW in 2005 to more than 40,000 MW in 2010.\(^ {23}\) The United States was second to China in cumulative and new installed wind power capacity in 2010.\(^ {24}\) China

\(^{17}\) Large wind turbines are often called utility-scale because they generate enough power for utilities, or electric companies, to sell.\


\(^{21}\) An overview of policy instruments used by various governments to promote renewables, including wind power, can be found on the Renewable Energy Policy Network website at http://www.ren21.net/RenewablesPolicy/PolicyInstruments/tuid/5608/Default.aspx.\

\(^{22}\) The wind turbine industry advanced in Europe, specifically in Denmark, beginning in the early 20th century based largely on the wind turbines constructed by Poul la Cour. For background, see Jens Vestergaard, Lotte Brandstrup, and Robert Goddard, “*A Brief History of the Wind Turbine Industries in Denmark and the United States,*” (Academy of International Business, 2004), http://www.hha.dk/man/cmsdocs/publications/windmill_paper1.pdf.\

\(^{23}\) AWEA, *U.S. Wind Industry Annual Market Report 2010*, p. 4. Utility-scale wind turbines as defined by AWEA are large turbines with generating capacity of 100 kW and larger.\

\(^{24}\) China faces major challenges with grid connection of installed wind turbines, as some projects in China have to wait several months before being connected to the national grid. Thus, the United States continues to exceed China in grid connected wind power capacity. China issues two figures when it reports its wind power data. In 2010, China reported that it installed 44.7 gigawatts (GW) of onshore wind power, but only 31 GW was operational and connected to the grid. In other markets, it is common practice to count all turbines as soon as they are grid connected and producing (continued...)
and the United States accounted for over 40% of total installed worldwide wind power capacity at the end of 2010. The size of the U.S. market, notwithstanding the sharp decrease in new installed capacity in 2010, has made the United States an attractive investment location for wind turbine and wind component manufacturers.

Major customers for wind turbine manufacturers are large independent power producers (IPPs) and utilities such as Iberdrola Renewables, NextEra Energy Resources, Horizon-EDPR, Terra-Gen, Duke Energy, or Xcel Energy, which purchase wind turbines for commercial electricity generation. Other wind turbine customers include universities and military bases, but these customers account for a very small share of the market.

Commercial utility-scale onshore wind turbines are installed at wind farms, which are clusters of wind turbines grouped together to produce large amounts of electricity. Currently, there are more than 800 wind farms in the United States. The largest wind projects are located in Texas (see Table 1), which is by far the leading state in wind energy output with over 10,000 MW of total installed capacity by year-end 2010. Other large wind-power projects are in Indiana, Oregon, and Colorado. Several large U.S. wind farms are owned and managed by overseas companies. For example, the world’s largest wind farm, in Roscoe, TX, is owned and operated by Germany-based E.ON Climate and Renewables. It consists of more than 600 wind turbines purchased from three different manufacturers: Mitsubishi, General Electric (GE), and Siemens.

(...continued)

26 The United States saw a sharp decline in new installations in 2010 measured by wind power capacity, which dropped nearly 50% to 5,100 MW in 2010 from a record 10,000 MW installed in 2009.
27 Independent power producers are companies that produce power that they sell to electric utilities.
28 A list of the more than 800 wind farms in the United States can be accessed at Windpower’s wind turbine and wind farms database, http://www.thewindpower.net/country-datasheet-windfarms-4-usa.php.
29 If Texas was a country, it would rank 6th in the world in total installed capacity, behind India but ahead of several European countries including Italy, France, and the United Kingdom. AWEA, U.S. Wind Industry Annual Market Report 2010, p. 9.
Table 1. Largest U.S. Wind Power Projects
Top 5 Projects by Installed Capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Installed Capacity (MW)</th>
<th>Year Online</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Turbines/Manufacturers/Turbine Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roscoe</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>781.5</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>E.On Climate &amp; Renewables</td>
<td>406 Mitsubishi 1 MW WT; 55 Siemens 2.3 MW WT; 166 GE 1.5 MW WT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse Hollow</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>735.5</td>
<td>2006, 2006</td>
<td>NextEra Energy Resources</td>
<td>291 GE 1.5 MW; 130 Siemens 2.3 MW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capricorn Ridge</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>662.5</td>
<td>2007, 2008</td>
<td>NextEra Energy Resources</td>
<td>342 GE 1.5 MW; 62 Siemens 2.3 MW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweetwater</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>585.3</td>
<td>2003, 2005, 2007</td>
<td>Babcock &amp; Brown Wind, Catamount</td>
<td>135 Mitsubishi 1 MW; 46 Siemens 2.3 MW WT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo Gap</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>523.3</td>
<td>2005, 2007, 2008</td>
<td>AES</td>
<td>67 Vestas 1.8 MW; 155 GE, 1.5 MW; 74 Siemens 2.3 MW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: American Wind Energy Association (AWEA)*

**Wind Turbine Suppliers**

**International Manufacturers Dominate Wind Turbine Manufacturing**

In 2010, ten wind turbine manufacturers accounted for more than three-quarters of the global market measured by newly installed capacity. The three largest manufacturers were:

- Vestas at 14.8% (Denmark);
- Sinovel at 11.1% (China); and,
- GE at 9.6% (U.S.).

Other leading manufacturers are listed in Appendix A. These firms are headquartered in Europe, the United States, India, and China. GE Energy32 and UTC/Clipper Windpower33 are the only U.S.-headquartered utility-scale wind turbine manufacturers.

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32 Zond was purchased by Enron Wind in 1997, which was the only surviving U.S.-headquartered manufacturer of utility-scale wind turbines by 2002. GE’s embrace of wind began with the bankruptcy of Houston’s Enron Corporation. In 2002, GE, which had long produced turbines for power generation, acquired Enron Wind’s fully integrated wind power capacity including its line of wind turbine generators positioning its business unit, GE Wind Energy, to become a major player in the wind power industry.

33 Clipper Windpower does not rank among the top ten global wind turbine manufacturers and it has found itself squeezed in the United States, its main market, by larger competitors such as GE, Vestas, and Siemens. In December 2010, United Technologies Corporation (UTC) purchased all of the stock in Clipper. Clipper manufactures one of the (continued...)
Some manufacturers, including Gamesa, Vestas, and Suzlon, focus exclusively on wind turbines. Others are part of larger diversified companies. All pursue a global business strategy, which means selling outside their home markets. Many operate manufacturing facilities throughout the world, including the United States, Europe, and China.

Recently, several Chinese companies have begun producing wind turbines, selling mainly in the large and growing China market.\(^{34}\) China, which had virtually no wind turbine manufacturing capabilities in 2005, is now home to over 270 producers,\(^{35}\) some of them capable of producing complete wind turbine systems with locally made products.\(^{36}\) Four of the top ten manufacturers worldwide in 2010 were headquartered in China (see Appendix A), where, by some estimates, turbines can be manufactured for 30% less than in Europe, the United States, or Japan.\(^{37}\) Some Chinese firms apparently are looking for overseas markets,\(^{38}\) but concerns about the quality of Chinese turbines are one factor that might limit foreign sales since Chinese-made turbines are not yet seen as being as high in quality as European and American ones.\(^{39}\)

South Korean companies are also making huge investments in wind turbine production. Two large South Korean shipbuilders, Hyundai Heavy Industries and Samsung Heavy Industries, have announced their intention to manufacture wind turbines. Additionally, South Korean wind turbine component manufacturers like Doosan, Hanjin, Taewoong, Hyosung, CS Wind, and Korea Tech are becoming important suppliers of towers, blades, generators, transformers, gearboxes, nacelle control systems, and cables.

**U.S. Market Attracts More Foreign Wind Turbine Manufacturers**

The leading manufacturers of utility-scale wind turbines in the United States are shown in Table 2. In 2005, six wind turbine manufacturers (GE Energy, Vestas, Gamesa, Suzlon, Mitsubishi, and Clipper) installed about 1,600 new utility-scale turbines in the United States which produced nearly 2,400 MW of new wind capacity. In 2010, 18 wind turbine manufacturers—a three-fold increase in five years—installed nearly 3,000 new turbines nationwide generating 5,100 MW of new capacity. This was down from the 2009 peak when some 5,700 new wind turbines were installed, adding nearly 10,000 MW of new utility-scale wind capacity.\(^{40}\) AWEA data indicate

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\(^{34}\) GWEC reports China’s wind market doubled every year between 2006 and 2009, and it has been the largest annual market by installed capacity in the world since 2009.


that more new capacity will be installed in 2011 than in 2010.41 To install these turbines, thousands of blades, tower sections, and bolts, among many other components, are needed, which in turn creates demand for wind-related products.42

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM)/Assembler</th>
<th>Location of Headquarters</th>
<th>2005 (# of Turbines)</th>
<th>2009 (# of Turbines)</th>
<th>2010 (# of Turbines)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GE Energy</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>954</td>
<td>2,663</td>
<td>1,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siemens</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gamesa</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suzlonb</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitsubishi</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vestas</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acciona WP</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repower</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTC/Clipper c</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daewoo CTC/DeWind d</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Others</td>
<td></td>
<td>33</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1,614</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,765</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,942</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Notes:**

a. A wind turbine OEM designs the full turbine, it typically assembles the nacelle, and sells the completed turbine to developers.

b. Suzlon wind turbine installations would total 235 if REpower’s 34 turbines were added to Suzlon’s turbines. Full control of REpower by Suzlon is expected to be approved at the next Annual General Meeting of REpower presumably to take place in September 2011.

c. Clipper was acquired by United Technologies Corporation in 2010.

d. CTC/DeWind was acquired by the South Korean company Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering Company (DSME) in 2009 and is now a wholly-owned subsidiary.

---

41 AWEA’s 2nd Quarter 2011 Market Report found that total installations through the first half of 2011 reached 2,151 MW compared to 1,250 for the same period in 2010.

42 According to AWEA, the installation of over 5,700 turbines in the United States in 2009 required industrial manufacturers to supply 17,000 blades and tower sections, approximately 3.2 million bolts, 36,000 miles of rebar, and 1.7 million cubic yards of concrete. AWEA, Anatomy of a Wind Turbine, http://www.awea.org/issues/supply_chain/Anatomy-of-a-Wind-Turbine.cfm.
In 2010, GE continued to lead in the number of new wind turbine installations at nearly 60% of the U.S. market. Of foreign-owned wind turbine manufacturers, European companies represent a significant share each year. In 2010, Siemens, Gamesa, and Vestas comprised over three-quarters of new wind turbine installations in the United States. While U.S. and European manufacturers install the overwhelming majority of wind turbines in the United States, the U.S. market is becoming more diverse. In 2009, for the first time, a Chinese manufacturer installed wind turbines in the United States at the Uilk wind farm project in Pipestone, MN. South Korean manufacturers are new to the U.S. market and have installed about a dozen wind turbines in the United States.43

Wind Turbine Components, Raw Materials, Global Supply Chain, and U.S. Manufacturing Capacity

Wind Turbine Components

A wind turbine is a collection of operating systems that convert energy from wind to produce electricity. Utility-scale wind turbines are massive, complex pieces of machinery which come in many sizes and configurations.45 Wind turbine blades range in size from 34 to 55 meters, the hub can weigh 8 to 10 tons, and towers are usually 80-100 meters tall and weigh 55 to 70 tons.46

In simple terms, as shown in **Figure 1**, the major components in a wind turbine consist of:

- a rotor comprising four principal components—the blade, the blade extender, the hub, and the pitch drive system;
- a nacelle, the external shell or structure resting atop the tower containing and housing the controller, gearbox, generator, large bearings, connecting shafts, and electronic components that allow the turbine to monitor changes in wind speed and direction;
- a tower, normally made of rolled steel tube sections that are bolted together to provide the support system for the blades and nacelle; and,
- other components, including transformers, circuit breakers, fiber optic cables, and ground-mounted electrical equipment.47

Beyond the major components, there are many subcomponents in a wind turbine. The percentages shown in **Figure 2** indicate the costs of the components relative to the overall cost of a turbine. The tower, for example, is over 26% of the total cost of a wind turbine, rotor blades 22%, the gearbox 13%, and the other components 5% or less.

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**Figure 2. Wind Turbine Components**

Contribution of main parts as a percentage of overall costs based on a REpower MM92 Turbine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tower</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotor blades</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotor hub</td>
<td>1.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotor bearings</td>
<td>1.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main shaft</td>
<td>1.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main frame</td>
<td>2.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cables</td>
<td>0.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gearbox</td>
<td>12.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generator</td>
<td>3.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yaw system</td>
<td>1.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pitch system</td>
<td>2.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power converter</td>
<td>5.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transformer</td>
<td>3.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brake system</td>
<td>1.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nacelle housing</td>
<td>1.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screws</td>
<td>1.04%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


- **Tower**: Range in height from 40 metres up to more than 100 m. Usually manufactured in sections from rolled steel; a lattice structure or concrete are cheaper options.
- **Rotor blades**: Varying in length up to more than 60 metres, blades are manufactured in specially designed moulds from composite materials, usually a combination of glass fibre and epoxy resin. Options include polyester instead of epoxy and the addition of carbon fibre to add strength and stiffness.
- **Rotor hub**: Made from cast iron, the hub holds the blades in position as they turn.
- **Rotor bearings**: Some of the many different bearings in a turbine, these have to withstand the varying forces and loads generated by the wind.
- **Main shaft**: Transfers the rotational force of the rotor to the gearbox.
- **Main frame**: Made from steel, must be strong enough to support the entire turbine drive train, but not too heavy.
- **Cables**: Link individual turbines in a wind farm to an electricity sub-station.
- **Gearbox**: Gears increase the low rotational speed of the rotor shaft in several stages to the high speed needed to drive the generator.
- **Generator**: Converts mechanical energy into electrical energy. Both synchronous and asynchronous generators are used.
- **Yaw system**: Mechanism that rotates the nacelle to face the changing wind direction.
- **Pitch system**: Adjusts the angle of the blades to make best use of the prevailing wind.
- **Power converter**: Converts direct current from the generator into alternating current to be exported to the grid network.
- **Transformer**: Converts the electricity from the turbine to higher voltage required by the grid.
- **Brake system**: Disc brakes bring the turbine to a halt when required.
- **Nacelle housing**: Lightweight glass fibre box covers the turbine’s drive train.
- **Screws**: Hold the main components in place, must be designed for extreme loads.
Wind turbines vary greatly in size and are getting larger as technology advances. They have grown from dozens of kilowatts in the early 1980s to as large as 7 MW. The German manufacturer Enercon has built the world’s largest turbine model to date, the Enercon E-126, which can generate up to 7 MW of power. Most land-based wind turbines are in the 1.5 to 3 MW range. Components also change as technology improves. Research and development (R&D) is critical to the long-term competitiveness of the wind turbine industry. Manufacturers strive to make their turbines more powerful, efficient, and reliable without significantly increasing costs. European and U.S. wind turbine manufacturers have invested heavily over the decades in developing their respective turbine technologies, leading to improvements in the efficiency of wind blades and turbines and longer turbine life. New wind turbine manufacturers, especially from China, are not yet globally competitive. According to recent research, they generally lack state-of-the-art technology, focus mainly on producing smaller turbines, and experience significant quality control problems.

Availability and changing commodity prices of raw materials used in wind turbines affect wind turbine manufacturers’ production costs. A typical wind turbine is made primarily of steel (about 90% by weight) (see Table 3). Aluminum and other light-weight composites are also important, particularly for blade manufacturing. Other core materials include pre-stressed concrete, copper, and fiberglass. Turbines also utilize permanent magnets, cast iron, carbon fiber, rubber, wood epoxy, ferrite, brass, ceramics, and teflon.

### Table 3. Raw Materials Requirements for Wind Turbines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Weight %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steel</td>
<td>89.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fiberglass</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>copper</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>concrete</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adhesive</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aluminum</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>core materials</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Global Wind Turbine Assembly Supply Chain

Wind turbines are manufactured by original equipment manufacturers, or OEMs, which design, assemble, and brand their products. Similar to automobile assemblers that make a car or truck, OEMs are mostly system integrators. Assemblers must bring together an estimated 8,000 precision parts and components to produce a wind turbine. One supplier might roll large plates...
of steel into the towers that support the turbine. A second company might make the turbine blades from special carbon fiber materials, and a third might manufacture the electronic computerized control systems. Each of these components might be produced domestically, might be assembled domestically from imported inputs, or might be imported as an assembled product.  

**Tier 1 and Tier 2 Wind Turbine Component Suppliers**

Many suppliers and specialty firms are part of this complex global supply chain. Tier 1 suppliers make large components such as towers, hubs, blades, or gearboxes. They include firms such as LM Wind (blades), SKF (bearings), and Winergy (gearboxes). Tier 2 suppliers produce subassemblies such as ladders, fiberglass, control systems, hydraulics, power electronics, fasteners, resin, machine parts, or motors. They include companies such as American Roller Bearings (power transmission bearings), Cardinal Fasteners (structural fasteners), and Timken (power transmission bearings).

**Manufacturing Strategies**

A wind turbine is a significant investment. One source reports commercial scale turbines, which on average are 2 MW in size, cost about $3.5 million installed. Researchers at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory reported that wind turbine transaction price quotes can range from as low as $900/kilowatt (kW) to a high of $1,400/kW.

Each wind turbine assembler uses different sourcing strategies and levels of vertical integration. Some produce almost all major components internally or through subsidiaries, while others outsource many of their critical components. For instance, some manufacturers produce blades, generators, or gearboxes in-house, while others opt for outside suppliers. Hundreds of smaller companies make specialized parts such as clutches, rotor bearings, fasteners, sensors, and gears for the wind industry. Illustrative examples of some of the thousands of components in a modern wind turbine are shown in Table 4.

Very high levels of expertise and specialization are required of wind turbine suppliers, with the level of precision similar to that of the aerospace industry. Turbine manufacturers often establish

(...continued)
relationships with suppliers in the interest of quality, as a failure in a turbine part can be very expensive to fix. Wind turbines are expected to survive largely unattended in extreme climactic conditions for a design life of as much as 20 years.\textsuperscript{59} Product quality is also of concern to wind farm operators, as a malfunctioning turbine can reduce operating revenue.\textsuperscript{60}

### Table 4. Selected Wind Turbine Components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Towers:</th>
<th>Nacelle:</th>
<th>Foundation:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Towers</td>
<td>Nacelle Cover</td>
<td>Rebar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladders</td>
<td>Nacelle Base</td>
<td>Concrete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifts</td>
<td>Heat exchanger</td>
<td>Casings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotor:</td>
<td>Controllers</td>
<td>Other:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hub</td>
<td>Generator</td>
<td>Transformers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nose Cone</td>
<td>Power Electronics</td>
<td>Bolts/Fasteners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blades</td>
<td>Lubricants</td>
<td>Wire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pitch Mechanisms</td>
<td>Filtration</td>
<td>Paints and Coatings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drives</td>
<td>Insulation</td>
<td>Lighting Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bakes</td>
<td>Gearbox</td>
<td>Steelworking/Machining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotary Union</td>
<td>Pump</td>
<td>Communication Devices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drivetrain</td>
<td>Control and Condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ceramics</td>
<td>Monitoring Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shaft</td>
<td>Electrical Interface and Connections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Batteries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bearings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Brakes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


\textsuperscript{60} Manufacturers like Suzlon have experienced recent failures of their turbines. Reliability and performance are critical factors affecting shareholder value, the reputation, and future growth of any wind OEM.
U.S. Wind Turbine Manufacturing Facilities

At the end of 2010, the American Wind Energy Association reported that 395 wind turbine manufacturing facilities were located in the United States, up substantially from the 30-40 wind-related manufacturing facilities nationwide in 2004. Over that period, the number of tower plants increased from 6 to 22; the number of blade facilities rose from 4 to 11; and the number of nacelle assembly facilities grew from 3 to 12. The others were Tier 2 manufacturing facilities, which include factories manufacturing critical components such as bearings, castings, fasteners, gearboxes, and generators. Total investment in facilities to manufacture for the wind industry in the United States has exceeded $1.5 billion.

Greater demand for wind turbines, cost savings related to transportation, and concern about the risks associated with currency fluctuations are among the reasons wind turbine and component manufacturers have opened new production facilities in the United States since 2005. Even with increased domestic production capacity, wind turbine assemblers source parts and components on a worldwide basis reflecting the industry’s global supply chain. Many wind manufacturers with production facilities in the United States also produce elsewhere, typically in Europe and Asia.

Towers and Blades

Towers and blades were among the first wind products manufactured in the United States because they are large, expensive, and difficult to transport. Thus, manufacturers find it easier and less costly to fabricate near their installation point. Many tower manufacturers in the United States are American companies and include firms such as Ameron, Trinity Structural Towers, DMI Industries, and Tower Tech Systems. Foreign manufacturers with production facilities in the United States also produce elsewhere, typically in Europe and Asia.

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61 In some of its publications AWEA reports that there were over 400 wind-related manufacturing facilities. This larger number includes small wind production and R&D facilities.
63 AWEA provided these statistics to CRS via email on August 29, 2011.
66 Transporting wind turbines, which requires special trucks, railroad carriages, and cranes, is difficult because of their unusual weight, length, and shape. For example, a typical nacelle weighs between 50 and 70 tons. Blades can run from 110 feet to 145 feet. Towers can weigh 70 tons. According to some estimates, transportation costs can account for up to 20% of the installed cost of a wind turbine. Estimates from AWEA suggest that per-turbine transportation and logistics costs range from $100,000 to $150,000. For more information see, The Logistics of Transporting Wind Turbines: Reducing Inefficiencies, Costs, and Community Impact by Streamlining the Supply Chain, CN White Paper 2009, http://www.cn.ca/documents/WhitePapers/Transporting-Wind-Turbines-White-Paper-en.pdf.
located tower manufacturing facilities in the United States. Similarly, suppliers of blades have increased their U.S. manufacturing capacity, with nearly three times as many facilities in 2010 as in 2005. For example, LM Wind Power, headquartered in Denmark, is the largest supplier of blades in the world; it now produces blades at two U.S. manufacturing facilities, in addition to a plant in Canada and production facilities in Europe, India, and China. Other blade manufacturers with U.S. production facilities include two American companies, TPI Composites and Molded Fiberglass. Both make blades for GE.

**Turbine Nacelle Assembly**

European OEMs—Gamesa, Acciona, Nordex, Siemens, and Vestas—have opened nacelle assembly plants in the United States in recent years. Some, like Vestas, started investing in the United States heavily after the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5) passed in 2009. Siemens and Nordex also opened their first U.S. nacelle assembly facilities in 2009. GE has three nacelle assembly facilities in the United States, all established prior to 2005, and also operates turbine component plants in China, Vietnam, and Europe. With the exception of DeWind, which was a German-owned manufacturer acquired by South Korea’s Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering Company in 2009, Asian manufacturers lag behind in establishing a U.S. nacelle manufacturing presence. For instance, Japanese-headquartered Mitsubishi expects to open its first U.S. nacelle assembly plant in 2012, although the plant may sit idle until GE and Mitsubishi resolve a lengthy patent dispute. If the Mitsubishi plant comes online, it is expected to manufacture up to 250 wind turbine nacelles, 250 wind generating sets, and 750 nacelle components each year for the U.S. market and export. Appendix B provides an overview of the varied investment strategies pursued by wind turbine assemblers from Europe, as well as India and Japan, in the United States.

**Other Wind Turbine Components**

A more robust domestic manufacturing base for wind turbine components such as bearings, gearboxes, and power transmissions is also being established in the United States, albeit more slowly than for towers, blades, and nacelle assembly. Gearboxes and bearings are among the most critical components for any wind turbine manufacturer because failures in either of these parts mean the wind turbine will fail. Bearings for wind turbines are made by a few manufacturers such as German-headquartered FAG and U.S.-headquartered Timken. Both have production

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69 The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The $787 billion economic stimulus package contains spending and tax cuts for the energy sector, including energy grants, loans, and tax credits.
72 FAG, a unit of the Schaeffler Group, is one of the world’s largest manufacturers of rolling bearings. It has been producing bearings for wind turbines for over 30 years. It has a U.S. production facility in Joplin, MO. See FAG, “Expertise in Bearing Technology and Service for Wind Turbines,” March 2010, http://www.schaeffler.com/remotemedien/media_shared_media/library/schaeffler_2/brochure/downloads_1/pwe_de_en.pdf.
73 Timken, headquartered in Ohio, is a global supplier of bearings with a full line for the wind industry. Timken has one (continued...)
capacity in the United States and operate factories in Europe and Asia. Gearboxes are also made by a relatively small number of companies such as Winergy (now part of Siemens), which established U.S. production capacity in Illinois in 2009. Winergy also makes gearboxes in Europe, China, and India. Suppliers of power transmissions to wind manufacturers, such as ABB, Beckmann Volmer, and Vest-Fiber, have announced that they intend to open U.S. plants.

**Outlook**

So far, there is little evidence that the financial crisis and recession of 2008 and 2009 has substantially diminished the interest by manufacturers in establishing wind-related production facilities in the United States. Arguably, some of the provisions in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) have helped to sustain this sector. In 2010, 40 manufacturers, including Alstom (turbines), Schuff Steel (towers), and ZF (gearboxes) announced plans to build manufacturing facilities in the United States. A Chinese OEM, A-Power, also announced plans to construct a U.S. turbine nacelle assembly facility in Nevada. Over 450 wind-related manufacturing facilities are expected to locate production in the United States in coming years, assuming that economic conditions justify the investment.

**An Emerging U.S. Wind Manufacturing Corridor**

A concentration of tower, blade, and nacelle assembly plants is found in the central part of the United States, as shown in Figure 3. Texas, Iowa, Colorado, Arkansas, and Kansas are positioned near sites that are favorable for wind power generation, enabling manufacturers there to minimize transportation challenges and costs. In addition, wind turbine assemblers and tower and blade manufacturers have been attracted to these states by incentive packages including property tax abatements, sales tax reductions, low-interest loans, and support for worker training. Other wind-related manufacturing facilities are located in Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Ohio, where the decline of automotive and heavy industrial manufacturing has left behind a workforce with prior experience with steel, assembly lines, robotics, and other aspects of heavy manufacturing.

(...continued)


Figure 3. Wind Turbine Manufacturing Facilities in the United States
By Tower, Blade and Turbine Nacelle Assembly, 2010

Source: CRS based on data from AWEA. The map shows the 45 online tower, blade, and turbine nacelle assembly facilities at year-end 2010. It does not show almost 350 facilities that produce wind components such as power transmissions, generators, gearboxes, or bearings.

Note: The five highlighted states are the top states in U.S. wind power capacity installations.
U.S. Wind Turbine Manufacturing Employment

In 2010, the wind turbine manufacturing sector supported an estimated 20,000 manufacturing jobs nationwide. This was only about one-fourth of U.S. employment related to wind energy manufacturing. The majority (some 60%) of the 75,000 full-time workers employed directly and indirectly in the wind power industry at the end of 2010 worked in finance and consulting services, contracting and engineering services, and transportation and logistics. About 3,500 jobs were in construction and 4,000 were in operations and maintenance. The number of manufacturing jobs has been relatively flat over the past three years, even as total employment in wind energy declined, according to figures from AWEA (see Figure 4).

Wind turbine manufacturing is responsible for a very small share of the 11.5 million domestic manufacturing jobs in 2010, well under 1%. It seems unlikely, even given a substantial increase in U.S. manufacturing capacity, that wind turbine manufacturing will become a major source of manufacturing employment. In 2008, the U.S. Department of Energy forecast that if wind power were to provide 20% of the nation’s electrical supply in 2030, U.S. turbine assembly and component plants could support roughly 32,000 full-time manufacturing workers in 2026. AWEA’s more optimistic projection is that the wind industry could support three to four times as many manufacturing workers as at present if a long-term stable policy environment were in place, which implies a total of 80,000 jobs. Further employment growth in the sector is likely to depend not only upon future demand for wind energy, but also on corporate decisions about where to produce towers, blades, nacelles, and their most sophisticated components, such as gearboxes, bearings, and generators.

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80 AWEA employment data were provided to CRS via email on August 29, 2011 and are based on surveys and modeling.
81 AWEA, U.S. Wind Industry Annual Market Report, 2010, 2010, p. 36. AWEA is the only source of nationwide employment statistics, as the U.S. government does not currently track employment in the wind industry. Measurement of employment in wind turbine manufacturing is complicated by the fact that no industry codes exist to isolate wind power establishments or wind turbine and wind components establishments. The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) places wind turbine manufacturers within the Turbine and Turbine Generator Set Units manufacturing industry (NAICS 333611), which comprises “establishments primarily engaged in manufacturing turbines (except aircraft) and complete turbine generator set units, such as steam, hydraulic, gas, and wind.” The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports 26,800 total jobs in this industry in 2010, with employment increasing every year since 2005, when it had 19,300 employees. AWEA estimates imply that the overwhelming majority of jobs in NAICS 333611 are wind turbine related, but the accuracy of this assumption is uncertain.
Figure 4. Wind Energy Employment Trends
2007-2010


Note: Other jobs include financial and consultant services, developers and development services, contracting and engineering services, and transportation and logistics.
Wind Turbine Equipment Trade

U.S. Imports

As part of their global business strategies, wind turbine manufacturers continue to source a significant share of components outside the United States. Imports of wind-powered generating sets, the main wind category covering fully assembled wind turbines and including other components such as blades and hubs when they are imported with the nacelle, grew from $482.5 million in 2005 to a peak of $2.5 billion in 2008. In 2009 and 2010, imports of wind-powered generating sets dropped to $2.3 billion and then fell by another 46% to $1.2 billion (see Figure 5). An analysis of U.S. wind equipment trade by the U.S. International Trade Commission identified several explanations for the recent decline in U.S. imports of wind-powered generating sets, which include: fewer wind turbine installations; decreasing prices; and the opening of new production facilities in the United States.

The majority of imported wind-powered generating sets comes from Europe. In 2010, Denmark was the leading source of wind-powered generating sets, accounting for over half (57%) of all imports into the United States. Italy, Spain, and Germany combined accounted for another 18% (see Figure 5). India was another primary supplier at 21%. Japan, South Korea and China accounted for very small shares of U.S. imports.

It appears that South Korean wind turbine manufacturers like Samsung, Hyosung, and Unison have ambitions to become leading exporters to the U.S. market and other global markets. China has exported only a small number of wind turbines, just 13 worldwide in 2010. However, Chinese manufacturers such as Sany, Mingyang, and Sinovel are expected to increase their exports of turbines to the United States and other markets. Also, European turbine assemblers

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85 Precisely tracking trade flows in the wind industry is complicated because the standard Harmonized Commodity Coding and Classification System (HS) does not have separate harmonized trade categories for all wind turbines and their components. Wind turbines and components are classified under several HS codes. Wind-powered generating sets (HS 8502.31) is the main category, which includes fully assembled wind turbines, but may also cover components such as blades and hubs when they are imported with the nacelle. However, when imported separately other individual turbine components (e.g., generators (HS 8501.64), towers (7308.20), and blades and other components (8412.90 and 8503.00) may be traded under other HS headings. Importantly, goods that are not used in wind turbines are also included in these categories. But, the ITC reports, wind accounts for a significant portion of trade in each dual use category and appears to be a major driver of import growth in those HS headings. For a complete discussion see, USITC, “Wind Turbines: Industry and Trade Summary,” by Andrew David, June 2009.
(continued...)
such as Vestas are now looking to open plants in China to supply the Chinese market, and possibly global markets. Concerns about the quality of Chinese-made turbines and parts has prevented more rapid adoption of Chinese components. This may change as Chinese wind turbine products improve and as more foreign manufacturers establish operations in China.

![Figure 5. U.S. Imports of Wind-Powered Generating Sets, Select Countries (2005-2010)](image)

**Source:** Global Trade Atlas. These statistics only cover wind-powered generating sets (HS 8502.31), not other wind-related components such as blades, towers, or other components if they are imported separately.

**Notes:** The import statistics are shown on a domestic consumption basis.

Increasingly, China’s efforts to foster wind turbine manufacturing are becoming an irritant in the bilateral relationship. The United Steelworkers (USW) filed a claim in September 2010 that China’s green technology policies are direct violations of China’s World Trade Organization (WTO) obligations. In June 2011, after the World Trade Organization panel upheld a U.S. complaint, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) announced that China will end a program of wind power equipment grants that required Chinese wind turbine manufacturers that received them to use domestic parts and components instead of foreign-made parts and components. In addition, the USW has raised other issues concerning Chinese government policies affecting trade and investment in “green technology” industries.

(...continued)


U.S. imports of other wind-related equipment, such as towers and blades, followed a similar pattern to wind-powered generating sets, with increases from 2005 to 2008 followed by a drop in 2009 and again in 2010. But although more of these large components are being produced domestically, imports remain significant. Canada, Mexico, China, Vietnam, and South Korea were the main sources of imported towers and lattice masts in 2010. Brazil and Mexico led in blade imports in 2010, thanks to shipments from Tecsis in Brazil and VienTek in Mexico. Some turbine components, such as bearings and gearboxes, are relatively easier to transport, and wind turbine assemblers might be more likely to continue to use global sourcing strategies for these less bulky components.

**Domestic Content**

Estimates by various analysts indicate that U.S. content accounts for 50% to 60% of the value of the average wind turbine installed in the United States. In a July 2010 report, the ITC found that based strictly on the main three components of wind turbines, wind-powered generating sets, blades, and towers, imports dropped from 64% of the U.S. market in 2006 to 32% in 2009. AWEA reports the share of parts manufactured domestically has doubled from around 25% at the end of 2004 and beginning of 2005 to approximately 50% by 2009.

Public statements by major wind turbine assemblers appear to support the view that U.S.-made turbines will have increasing domestic content. For example, Gamesa reports that its domestic content on U.S.-made wind turbines is nearly 60%. Vestas has stated that it expects that 80% to 90% of the content of its turbines will be manufactured domestically, including components from suppliers. Analysts at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory concluded that because of the increase in U.S.-based wind turbine and component manufacturing, among other reasons, “the share of domestically manufactured wind turbines and components has grown in recent years, while the import share has witnessed a corresponding drop.” These researchers found that the

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93 Wind towers are classified under towers and lattice masts (HS 7308.20). Not all the towers in this category are wind towers.

94 Wind blades are classified under the tariff lines for parts of other engines and motor (HS 8412.90) and parts of generators (HS 8503.00). Not all shipments in this category are wind-related.

95 VienTek is a joint venture between Mitsubishi and TPI Composites with two wind blade manufacturing plants located in Mexico. For more information see, http://www.mpshq.com/facilities/vientek.html.

96 Precisely how many wind turbine components are made in the United States and how many are imported is a debatable issue. U.S. content need only be disclosed on a few products, namely automobiles, textiles, wool, and fur products. For most other products, no law requires disclosure of domestic content. In the case of automobiles, the American Automobile Labeling Act (AALA) requires automobile assemblers to include labels that specify the percentage value of the U.S./Canadian parts content of each vehicle sold in the United States.


overall import fraction declined from 65% in 2005-2006 to 40% in 2009-2010. They state that the size and stability of the U.S. wind power market in the future will determine whether this trend continues.\textsuperscript{102}

### U.S. Exports

Future growth of the U.S. wind turbine industry also depends on foreign markets. A goal of the Obama Administration is to demonstrably increase renewable energy and energy efficiency exports like wind turbines over the next five years.\textsuperscript{103} Exports of wind-powered generating sets from the United States to the world remain relatively small at only $142.1 million in 2010, up from $3.6 million in 2005, according to figures compiled by the USITC.\textsuperscript{104}

The U.S. production base for wind turbine equipment does not yet allow for significant exports because most of the existing capacity is focused on fulfilling domestic demand. But if domestic production capacity continues to expand, the possibility of supplying foreign markets increases.

The Western Hemisphere may be especially attractive to U.S.-based exporters of wind turbine equipment. While the Latin American markets are currently small, they are expected to grow. AWEA reports that U.S.-based manufacturers can be competitive in exporting nacelles and wind subcomponents to Brazil and other markets in the region.\textsuperscript{105} A counter-trend is that wind turbine assemblers also are localizing production in the potentially large Brazilian market, including manufacturers like GE and Gamesa. This might limit exports from the United States to Central and South America.

If U.S. manufacturers begin to export more wind turbine equipment to foreign markets, they will have to contend with import tariffs, non-tariff barriers, and domestic industry subsidies. Tariff rates in some major markets are disproportionately higher than U.S. tariffs. For instance, the U.S. duty rate for wind-powered generating sets is 2.5%, compared to 8% in China and South Korea, 7.5% in India, and, 2.7% in the European Union.\textsuperscript{106} Subsidies and non-tariff barriers in major overseas markets like China are another potential constraint on U.S. exports.\textsuperscript{107}

Several U.S. government programs are designed to encourage the export of renewable energy products, such as direct loans provided to wind manufacturers by the Export-Import Bank of the

\textsuperscript{102} Ibid, p. 28.
\textsuperscript{106} World Trade Organization, Tariff Analysis Online, http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tariffs_e/tariff_data_e.htm. If the proposed free trade agreement between the United States and South Korea were approved their respective tariffs on wind-powered generating sets would be eliminated immediately upon implementation of the agreement.
\textsuperscript{107} Clean energy policies in China, Japan, and South Korea are detailed in a November 2009 study by the Breakthrough Institute and the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation, “\textit{Rising Tigers Sleeping Giant: Asian Nations Set to Dominate the Clean Energy Race by Out-Investing the United States}”. http://thebreakthrough.org/blog/Rising_Tigers.pdf.
United States. For example, Clipper Windpower exported 27 wind turbines to Mexico in 2010 and Gamesa will export 51 wind turbines to Honduras in 2011 backed by direct loans from the Ex-Im Bank of $80.7 million and $159 million, respectively.

Federal Support for the U.S. Wind Power Industry

Worldwide the wind power industry is driven by various types of government support, which range from tax credits to incentive policies like feed-in tariffs. These incentives have been much larger in several foreign countries than in the United States, which has helped to spur the manufacturing of wind turbines in Europe and Asia.

In Europe, feed-in tariffs are among the policy tools that have been used to promote wind power, and have been credited by industry advocates like the European Wind Energy Association with driving renewable energy growth particularly in Denmark, Spain, and Germany. However, faced with current fiscal realities, including a global recession and large budget deficits, some European countries have reduced their wind power feed-in tariffs and are taking a more critical look at their renewable energy policies. For instance, in 2010, Spain announced it would reduce its wind subsidies by 35% from January 1, 2011 to January 1, 2013. What these changes might mean for European manufacturers, and their overseas production strategies, remains to be seen. As many of the largest European manufacturers are already export oriented and rank among the largest and most competitive manufacturers in the world the impact might be limited.

111 A comprehensive overview of policy instruments used by various governments to promote renewables, including wind power, can be found on the Renewable Energy Policy Network site at http://www.ren21.net/RenewablesPolicy/PolicyInstruments/tabid/5608/Default.aspx.
112 A feed-in tariff, or FIT, is a renewable energy policy that typically offers a guarantee of payments to project owners for the total amount of renewable energy they produce; access to the grid; and stable, long-term contracts (15-20 years). For more information see workshop presentation, Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariffs: An Analytical View, by Toby Couture, May 28, 2009. http://www.energy.ca.gov/2009_energypolicy/documents/2009-05-28_workshop/presentations/01_Couture_Feed-in_Tariff_Wkshop_May_28_09.pdf.
114 At least three studies have raised questions about the costs associated with Europe’s support of its renewable energy sectors. A report by a Spanish academician, Dr. Gabriel Calzada, Study of the Effects on Employment of Public Aid to Renewable Energy Sources, argued that Spain’s policies were an economic failure and cost many jobs. Another report by a Danish think tank, CEPOS, Wind Energy: The Cost for Denmark, also pointed to the costs of subsidizing Denmark’s wind power industry. A third report by the German think tank, Rheinisch-Westfälisches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (RWI), Economic Impacts from the Promotion of Renewable Energies: The German Experience, argues that aid by the German government for wind power is now three times the cost of conventional electricity.
China’s Renewable Energy Law, which took effect in 2006, is one measure that has driven growth in the domestic market.\(^{116}\) China introduced a feed-in tariff for wind power generation in 2009.\(^{117}\) The Chinese government also implemented various policies to encourage the development of local manufacturing and technology development.\(^{118}\)

In the United States, various federal policies also have been instrumental in the development of a domestically-based wind power sector, including:

- the production tax credit (PTC)/Investment Tax Credit (ITC), which will expire at the end of 2012;
- an advanced energy manufacturing tax credit (MTC), which reached its funding cap in 2010 (no additional funds were allocated to continue with the MTC);
- the Section 1603 Treasury Cash Grant Program, which requires that wind projects begin construction by December 31, 2011 and be placed in service by December 31, 2012; and
- the Section 1705 Loan Guarantee Program for commercial projects, which includes manufacturing facilities that employ “new or significantly improved” technologies.

The wind industry asserts that a national renewable electricity standard (RES) is needed to create long-term stability and to continue to attract investment in new turbine production facilities. Table 5 provides an overview of selected federal programs affecting the U.S. wind power industry.

**Table 5. Selected Energy Programs Affecting the U.S. Wind Industry**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Expiration Deadlines for Wind Generation/Manufacturing Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Production Tax Credit</td>
<td>December 31, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Tax Credit(^{a})</td>
<td>December 31, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Manufacturing Tax Credit(^{b})</td>
<td>Capped at $2.3 billion; 100% Allocated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1603 Cash Grant in Lieu of Tax Credit(^{c})</td>
<td>December 31, 2011 (begin construction)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December 31, 2012 (placed in service)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1705 Loan Guarantee Program</td>
<td>September 30, 2011 (commence construction)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Depreciation Schedule</td>
<td>December 31, 2011 for 100% first-year bonus depreciation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December 31, 2012 for 50% bonus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


a. The taxpayer who presumably is the owner of the relevant wind power project placed in service prior to December 31, 2012 can opt for a 30% ITC in lieu of the PTC. The 30% ITC for small commercial wind energy property extends through December 31, 2016.

b. The taxpayer owning the relevant wind power project can opt for a 30% cash grant from the U.S. Department of Treasury instead of a PTC, then select a one-time cash grant instead of tax credits.

Production Tax Credit (PTC)/Investment Tax Credit (ITC)

The PTC, the main policy tool in the deployment of U.S. wind power, was first adopted during the administration of President George H.W. Bush as part of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (P.L. 102-486). It has been a significant driver of the recent growth of the U.S. wind industry. In each of the years during which the PTC lapsed (2000, 2002, and 2004), meaning that it expired prior to being renewed, the level of additional deployed wind capacity slowed or collapsed when compared to the previous year’s total: 93% in 2000, 73% in 2002, and 77% in 2004 (see Figure 6).\(^{119}\) Yet, when the PTC incentive was extended in 2004, 2007, and 2009, the industry responded positively, increasing wind power capacity compared to the previous year. 2010 was an exception to this trend with a drop in wind capacity of nearly 50% from 2009, even with the PTC in place.

![Figure 6. History of the Production Tax Credit](http://www.awea.org/_cs_upload/issues/federal_policy/7785_1.pdf)

Source: AWEA, Production Tax Credit, What is the Production Tax Credit?

Congress provided a three-year extension of the PTC through December 31, 2012, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The PTC provides an inflation-adjusted per kilowatt-hour (kWh) income tax benefit over the first ten years of a wind project’s operations, which in 2010 was 2.2 cents per kWh, and is a critical factor in financing new wind farms. In order to qualify, a wind farm must be completed and start generating power while the credit is in place, which would be by the end of 2012.\(^{120}\) The stimulus bill also allows wind project developers to

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120 Ibid.
select to receive a 30% investment tax credit (IRC §48) in place of the PTC if the projects are placed in service prior to the end of 2012.121

AWEA advocates for a long-term extension of the PTC to encourage long-term investment in the industry, which it claims would allow for continued growth of domestic turbine manufacturing. The Governors’ Wind Energy Coalition has called for a seven-year extension of the PTC.122

Given the uncertainty about the continuation of the PTC beyond 2012, along with other tax benefits, some in the industry have begun to refer to 2013 as “the valley of death.”123 They worry that industry support programs will end without any replacement policies.

Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credit (MTC)

The Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credit, also referred to as Section 48C of the Internal Revenue Code, was authorized in Section 1302 of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.124

The MTC provided a 30% credit for companies for investments in new, expanded, or reequipped clean energy domestic manufacturing facilities built in the United States. Wind, solar panels, and electric vehicle batteries were among the 183 projects funded through the MTC before reaching its cap of $2.3 billion in 2010. The Obama Administration has requested another $5 billion for the 48C tax program. An extension of the MTC has been proposed through the Security in Energy and Manufacturing Act of 2011 (S. 591), or SEAM Act. It includes one significant change from the original MTC; higher priority would be given to facilities that manufacture—rather than assemble—goods and components in the United States.125

Fifty-two wind manufacturing projects were awarded $364 million in tax credits under the MTC program.126 Beneficiaries included many manufacturers that were already active, or that had announced that they intend to open new facilities, in the United States. Selected manufacturers of wind turbines, blades, towers, and gears that received tax credits under the 48C program are listed in Appendix C.

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Other Wind-Related Programs

Tax benefits for wind projects include accelerated tax depreciation and bonus depreciation; the latter allowed wind farm owners to write off more than 50% of the capital costs of building a wind farm in 2008, 2009, and 2010. The 2010 Tax Act\(^\text{127}\) increased the first-year bonus depreciation to 100% for new qualified property acquired and placed in service between September 8, 2010 and December 31, 2011, rather than 50% for the qualifying property. Bonus depreciation drops to the lower 50% rate in 2012.\(^\text{128}\)

Another ARRA incentive is a grant system administered by the U.S. Treasury Department. In lieu of tax credits, wind projects can receive a cash payment of up to 30% of the qualified capital costs. The Section 1603 Treasury cash grant program allows developers to opt for a cash payment instead of a tax break. To qualify, construction must begin by December 31, 2011.\(^\text{129}\) Wind projects under construction by year-end 2011 must be placed in service by December 31, 2012. Many in the wind industry are crediting the grants for keeping the sector healthy during the 2008 and 2009 recession.\(^\text{130}\) A detailed discussion of the Section 1603 program can be found in CRS Report R41635, *ARRA Section 1603 Grants in Lieu of Tax Credits for Renewable Energy: Overview, Analysis, and Policy Options*, by Phillip Brown and Molly F. Sherlock.

The Section 1705 loan program, a temporary ARRA program, administered by the Department of Energy is another financing program which authorizes loan guarantees for certain renewable energy projects, including wind projects. The program expires on September 30, 2011. So far, 32 projects have been completed or received conditional commitments; five were wind generation or wind manufacturing projects. The combined wind commitments totaled $1.6 billion, comprising 9% of the $18.8 billion in 1705 program funding.\(^\text{131}\) The Caithness Shepherds Flat wind generation project, which upon completion will be the largest onshore wind farm in the world, received a $1.3 billion loan.\(^\text{132}\) GE will manufacture the wind turbines. Loan guarantees were also extended to three other wind generation projects: Kahuku Wind Power, Granite Reliable, and Record Hill Wind.(see *Table 6*). One wind manufacturing project—an expansion of the Nordic Windpower assembly plant in Idaho—received a conditional commitment of $16 million in 2009. Nordic planned to design and manufacture an innovative two-bladed utility-scale wind turbine at the Idaho facility, but in late 2010, Nordic Windpower announced that it would relocate its production facilities to Kansas City, MO, to be closer to its market.\(^\text{133}\) To receive the loan guarantee the project must be under construction by September 30, 2011.

\(^{127}\) The Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-312) was signed by President Obama on December 17, 2010. 


\(^{129}\) Criteria for the start of construction are detailed in a U.S. Treasury guidance document, which can found on the Treasury Department’s 1603 Grant Program website at http://www.treasury.gov/initiatives/recovery/Pages/1603.aspx.


\(^{131}\) Solar generation or solar manufacturing comprised the overwhelming majority (85%) of the 1705 loan guarantee projects funded at $15.9 billion by the Department of Energy. A list of the 1705 Loan Program projects can be found at https://lpo.energy.gov/?page_id=45.


\(^{133}\) According to the Department of Energy, Nordic’s wind turbine, which uses two blades, represents a significantly (continued...)

*Congressional Research Service*
Table 6. 1705 Loan Guarantees for Wind Generation and Manufacturing Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Loan Guarantee Amount</th>
<th>Date of Agreement</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nordic Windpower USA, Inc.</td>
<td>Wind Manufacturing</td>
<td>$16 million</td>
<td>July 2009</td>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Conditional Commitment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caithness Shepherds Flat Wind</td>
<td>Wind Generation</td>
<td>$1.3 billion</td>
<td>October 2010</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granite Reliable Wind Generation</td>
<td>Wind Generation</td>
<td>$135.8 million</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
<td>NH</td>
<td>Conditional Commitment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kahuku Wind Power, LLC. Wind</td>
<td>Wind Generation</td>
<td>$117 million</td>
<td>July 2010</td>
<td>HI</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Record Hill Wind Wind Generation</td>
<td>Wind Generation</td>
<td>$102 million</td>
<td>August 2011</td>
<td>ME</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Notes: The 1705 loan guarantee program expires on September 30, 2011.

State Renewable Portfolio Standards

State renewable portfolio standards (RPS) are also credited with encouraging the growth of the U.S. wind energy industry. As of June 2011, mandatory RPS programs existed in 29 states and the District of Columbia.\(^\text{134}\) A portfolio standard creates demand for renewable energy by requiring companies that sell electricity to retail customers to obtain a specified share of their electricity from renewable generation.\(^\text{135}\) The U.S. wind industry has long called for a national standard to increase investor confidence in the sector’s long-term prospects. No such measure has passed Congress, although national renewable standards have been passed by the Senate on three occasions and by the House of Representatives once.\(^\text{136}\)

Conclusion

The expansion of U.S. wind power generation will depend, at least in part, on government policy decisions. If state and federal governments continue to support wind generation, manufacturing of wind generating equipment in the United States is likely to increase. The production costs of U.S. plants that make turbine components appear to be competitive with those in other countries, and improved technology that would be more reliable and less costly to manufacture, install, operate, and maintain than competing systems.


\(^\text{136}\) To read more about the debate over a National Renewable Electricity Standard see CRS Report R41493, Options for a Federal Renewable Electricity Standard, by Richard J. Campbell.
the difficulty and expense of transporting very bulky products over long distances serves as an obstacle to import competition.

Nonetheless, there are several obstacles that may impede the expansion of wind energy manufacturing in the United States. One is the history of policy-induced boom-and-bust cycles in wind energy investment, which may lead wind turbine manufacturers and component suppliers to conclude that future U.S. demand for their products is too uncertain. Another significant challenge affecting the sector’s future is the availability of adequate transmission for power generated by wind farms. Most wind farms are located at a distance from the urban areas where most electricity is consumed, and a shortage of transmission capacity could hamper wind farm creation or expansion. Congress may wish to evaluate the seriousness of transmission issues in the context of other federal efforts to support wind generation.

The structure of the wind manufacturing industry is also likely to undergo significant change. As is typical in budding industries, a large number of companies now compete in wind manufacturing. Mergers and failures are likely to lead to consolidation as the sector matures. As this report describes, competition in the wind turbine sector from new Asian entrants will likely become more significant in future years, but it is unclear whether many of these companies have the technological abilities and financial resources to become significant players in the market.
## Appendix A. Global Wind Turbine Manufacturers

### Table A-1. Global Wind Turbine Manufacturers by Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs)


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Location of Headquarters</th>
<th>2008 Manufacturer Location of Headquarters</th>
<th>2009 Manufacturer Location of Headquarters</th>
<th>2010 Manufacturer Location of Headquarters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vestas</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>17.8% Vestas Denmark</td>
<td>12.5% Vestas Denmark</td>
<td>14.8% Vestas Denmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE</td>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>16.7 GE U.S.</td>
<td>12.4 Sinovel China</td>
<td>11.1 Sinovel China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gamesa</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>10.8 Sinovel China</td>
<td>9.2 GE U.S.</td>
<td>9.6 GE U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enercon</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>9 Enercon Germany</td>
<td>8.5 Goldwind China</td>
<td>9.5 Goldwind China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suzlon</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>8.1 Goldwind China</td>
<td>7.2 Enercon Germany</td>
<td>7.2 Enercon Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siemens</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>6.2 Gamesa Spain</td>
<td>6.7 Suzlon India</td>
<td>6.9 Suzlon India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinovel</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>4.5 Dongfang China</td>
<td>6.5 Dongfang China</td>
<td>6.7 Dongfang China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acciona</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>4.1 Suzlon Spain</td>
<td>6.4 Gamesa Spain</td>
<td>6.6 Gamesa Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goldwind</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>3.6 Siemens Germany</td>
<td>5.9 Siemens Germany</td>
<td>5.9 Siemens Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nordex</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>3.4 Repower Germany</td>
<td>3.4 United Power China</td>
<td>4.2 United Power China</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Notes:** Market share data is reported in MW terms and is based on installations in the year in question, not on turbine shipments or orders.
## Appendix B. Selected Examples of U.S. Wind Turbine Production Facilities

### Table B-1. Examples: U.S. Turbine Production Facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wind Turbine Manufacturer/Headquarters</th>
<th>U.S. Location</th>
<th>Wind Turbine Production Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gamesa (Spain)</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Gamesa, the first foreign-based wind turbine manufacturer to set up full production facilities in the United States, opened a plant at a former U.S. Steel factory in Ebensburg, PA in 2005. Gamesa also operates a nacelle manufacturing plant in Fairless Hills, PA. It invested over $175 million in these plants and received $15 million in state subsidies and tax credits. U.S. employment exceeds 800.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suzlon (India)</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>Suzlon opened a rotor blade manufacturing facility in Pipestone, MN in 2006, with an investment of $8.5 million, its first manufacturing facility outside India. That plant, which once employed over 500 workers, was idled in 2010 and most of its workers have been laid off. Suzlon is in the process of acquiring the German manufacturer REpower.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siemens (Germany)</td>
<td>Iowa/Kansas</td>
<td>Siemens operates a wind turbine blade manufacturing facility in Fort Madison, IA, which it opened in 2007. In 2010, Siemens invested $50 million in a new nacelle production facility in Hutchinson, KS, where it expects to employ 400 workers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vestas (Denmark)</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>Vestas opened a blade production plant in Windsor, CO and an R&amp;D center in Louisville, CO in 2010. By the end of 2011, Vestas expects to open another blade manufacturing plant in Brighten, CO. Total employment is expected to reach 2,500 workers. Vestas received an incentive package of approximately $4 million to invest in Colorado from various state and local agencies, including grants, tax rebates, and job-training funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nordex (Germany)</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>Nordex opened a nacelle production assembly plant in 2010, which represented a $40 million investment. It expects to open a blade manufacturing plant in 2012 in Jonesboro, AR. Nordex states U.S. employment could potentially reach 1,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acciona (Germany)</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>Acciona opened a $30 million nacelle assembly plant in 2007 in West Branch, IA. In 2009, Acciona reduced its workforce at the plant by nearly 60 workers.¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitsubishi (Japan)</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>Mitsubishi expects to open its first nacelle assembly facility in Fort Smith, AR in 2012, with an investment of approximately $100 million. It expects to employ 400 workers. This would be its first nacelle manufacturing assembly facility outside Japan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Compiled by CRS from various sources including company annual reports, press releases, news reports, and information from AWEA.


## Appendix C. 48C Manufacturing Tax Credit

### Table C-1. Selected Wind Manufacturers Receiving Section 48C Manufacturing Tax Credit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Tax Credit Requested</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Siemens</td>
<td>$28,328,379</td>
<td>IL</td>
<td>Siemens will manufacture the mechanical drives, gears, pinions, and other components for gearboxes for wind turbines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nordex</td>
<td>$22,153,500</td>
<td>AR</td>
<td>Nordex built its first facility for wind turbines in 2010.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merrill Technologies Group</td>
<td>$22,021,500</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>Merrill Technologies will invest $73 million in advanced manufacturing equipment to support the production of nacelles for Northern Power’s new 2.2 MW utility-scale wind turbine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vestas</td>
<td>$21,600,000</td>
<td>CO</td>
<td>Vestas Towers will produce tubular wind towers that support wind turbines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vela Gear Systems</td>
<td>$11,604,440</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>Vela Gear will build a plant to produce advanced wind turbine parts with improved technology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vestas</td>
<td>$8,580,600</td>
<td>CO</td>
<td>Vestas Blades will produce blades for wind turbines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TPI Composites</td>
<td>$5,135,241</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>TPI will operate a new manufacturing facility to produce the next generation wind turbine blades made by combining reinforcing fibers from glass or carbon, resin, foam, and balsa wood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hexcel Corporation</td>
<td>$8,139,510</td>
<td>CO</td>
<td>Hexcel Corporation will establish a technologically advanced manufacturing facility to produce high-performance epoxy, glass, and carbon fiber composite materials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brevini</td>
<td>$12,750,000</td>
<td>IN</td>
<td>Brevini Wind will establish a new manufacturing facility that will produce main drive gearboxes for wind turbine manufacturers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winergy</td>
<td>$12,786,000</td>
<td>IL</td>
<td>Winergy will build a new facility to manufacture power transmission equipment and gearboxes for wind turbines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vela Gear Systems</td>
<td>$16,750,500</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>Tindall Corporation will build a facility to manufacture concrete tower bases and concrete towers for wind turbines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitsubishi Power Systems</td>
<td>$5,100,000</td>
<td>AR</td>
<td>Mitsubishi will create a new facility that will manufacture nacelles for 2.4MW wind turbines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant</td>
<td>Tax Credit Requested</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Project Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siemens</td>
<td>$4,331,700</td>
<td>KS</td>
<td>Siemens will expand a wind turbine blade manufacturing facility. The expanded facility will be capable of producing both 45 meter and 49 meter blades for the Siemens SWT-2.3mw wind turbine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TPI Composites</td>
<td>$3,902,921</td>
<td>IA</td>
<td>TPI is expanding its manufacturing facility in order to fill the anticipated greater demand for composite wind turbine blades from its customer General Electric and GE's wind farm customers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siemens</td>
<td>$3,450,900</td>
<td>IA</td>
<td>Siemens will build a new manufacturing plant for assembly of wind turbine nacelles and hubs for Siemens wind turbines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nordic Windpower</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Nordic Windpower will establish manufacturing operations for an innovative wind turbine that uses two blades and a patented teeter-hub technology that dampens loads. Nordic moved its production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alstom</td>
<td>$2,725,800</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>The factory will produce and assemble the complete nacelle for wind turbines (including hub, gearbox, frames, generator, electrical convertor, etc.) for its 60Hz North American product line.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Notes:** A tax credit is a “dollar for dollar” reduction in tax liability. As an example, if a manufacturer earns $10 million and owes $3.5 million in taxes, then a $1 million tax credit would reduce the company's tax liability from $3.5 million to $2.5 million.
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