

## **US anticipates over 2700 MW new Wind Power Generating Capacity in 2006**

The US wind energy industry is on track to install a record 2750 MW of generating capacity in 2006, the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) said on 25 October in its Third Quarter Market Report.

In other record-breaking news, one of the projects completed this quarter, FPL Energy's 735 MW Horse Hollow Wind Energy Center in Texas, has shattered all previous records for the country's and world's largest wind farm.

US-based wind turbine manufacturer Clipper Windpower recently entered into an agreement with FPL Energy for the sale of Clipper's 100 MW Endeavor Wind Project, including the supply of the 40 2.5 MW Clipper turbines which will be used in project.

In addition, Clipper has announced that FPL has taken out options on another 950 MW of turbines to be supplied 2007 - 2010. FPL also has a final option to purchase a 50 MW Clipper wind farm in Maryland.

Altogether the deal could involve up to 440 of Clipper's 2.5 MW Liberty turbines over the next four years. The Endeavor wind farm is due to be completed by the middle of 2007, and the next delivery of 200 MW of turbines to FPL could take in the same year, with a further 250 MW each year thereafter.

"To strengthen our energy independence we need safe, domestic, and inexhaustible energy, and wind power provides just that," said AWEA executive director Randall Swisher.

"The US wind energy industry is working all-out to meet current demand for new wind farms. But the nation needs a timely and long-term extension of the wind energy production tax credit to allow companies to plan beyond 2007 and continue to build a strong and secure energy future," added Swisher.

The federal production tax credit, which was extended for two years in the Energy Policy Act, will expire in December 2007. Intermittent, short-term extensions of the tax credit create boom-and-bust cycles that hobble the global wind industry.

America's wind farms currently save over 14 millions cubic meters (half a billion cubic feet) of natural gas per day and help reduce the supply pressure that is driving up natural gas imports.

Greater use of wind power will increase the resiliency of electricity supply, help stabilize electricity costs, and strengthen America's energy security, according to AWEA, which has filed comments with the US Department of Energy on the

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need for national interest transmission corridors to unlock the vast wind resources of the American heartland.

Recent polls show the public now viewing energy independence as the top national security issue. 'Every megawatt-hour of domestic, inexhaustible wind energy from our heartland is a megawatt-hour that doesn't burn fuel and that strengthens our energy security, protects our environment, and creates good jobs,' commented Swisher.

A total of 1,345 MW has been already completed this year, according to AWEA's quarterly report, bringing total installed wind energy capacity in the US to 10,492 MW.

Construction is also proceeding on an additional 1,500 MW of wind farms to be completed this year. AWEA had previously estimated that about 3000 MW would be installed this year, but it is now clear that a few projects originally slated for completion in 2006 will not be finalized until 2007 because of various delays.

Wind power is expected in 2006 to provide 18% - 20% of the new power generating capacity installed in the country, making it the second-largest source of new power generation after new natural gas plants according to the Energy Information Administration.

For 2007, AWEA currently estimates that installations will exceed those of 2006 and range from 3000 MW to 3500 MW.