

Wind Component Manufacturing

03.2011

Enjoy a Whirlwind of Success in Arkansas

As Americans continue to seek various alternative energy sources, the demand for wind energy has grown rapidly in recent years. With that national growth, Arkansas has developed a significant cluster of wind component manufacturers in the state. These companies, which make a variety of wind blade and turbine components, have found that Arkansas offers a highly skilled manufacturing workforce, a low cost of doing business, and a location that is convenient to many of the states that have the climate to generate wind energy.

Danish company LM Wind Power was the first wind component manufacturer to announce a new location in Arkansas and currently manufactures wind turbine blades at a facility located at the Port of Little Rock. In addition to LM Wind Power, Nordex USA manufactures wind turbines in Jonesboro. Mitsubishi Power Systems has recently broken ground on a Fort Smith facility that will manufacture wind turbines, and Beckmann Volmer will soon begin producing turbine mainframes in Osceola. These companies have invested more than \$360 million in Arkansas facilities in the last three years.

About Arkansas

Arkansas's economy is strong and offers excellent opportunities for additional wind component manufacturers to grow and succeed in the state. The Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway metropolitan area was named the fourth strongest metro economy in the U.S. by *Business Week* magazine in late 2009. CNN Money also ranked the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers metropolitan area the 13th best midsize metro in the U.S. to launch a new business.

FAST FACT:

Wind component manufacturers have invested more than
\$360 MILLION
IN ARKANSAS FACILITIES IN JUST
3 YEARS

Arkansas is home to eight companies on *Fortune* magazine's list of the largest 1,000 companies in the United States, based on annual revenue. Several of the Fortune 1000 companies based in Arkansas are also among the leading employers in the state. While the top 25 largest employers in Arkansas represent a wide variety of industries, many of those employers are manufacturers, resulting in 12 percent of the state's workforce being employed in manufacturing.





FAST FACT:

Arkansas provides easy access to

6 NEARBY STATES
that have **untapped wind energy.**

One reason six leaders in the wind manufacturing sector have chosen to locate in Arkansas is the state's central location and extensive transportation infrastructure. Arkansas is strategically located near six of the top 20 states for untapped wind energy, including Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. In fact, Texas, Arkansas's neighbor to the southwest, is currently considered to be the largest potential market for wind energy in the United States.

To help these companies get products to market, Arkansas's transportation infrastructure offers a variety of efficient options. Interstate 40, the nation's major east-west thoroughfare reaching from North Carolina to California, runs through Arkansas. Interstate 55 links eastern Arkansas to St. Louis and Chicago to the north and New Orleans to the south, while Interstate 30 connects Arkansas with markets to the Southwest, including Texas and Mexico.

Arkansas's railroad infrastructure includes three Class I systems and 22 smaller railroads operating over its more than 2,700 miles of track. The state offers water transportation along the Arkansas River, with ports in Little Rock, North Little Rock, Pine Bluff, and Fort Smith, in addition to Mississippi River terminals in Osceola, West Memphis, and McGehee.

Arkansas's manufacturing workforce offers wind component manufacturers access to a well-qualified and affordable workforce. In addition to those workers already trained for jobs in the renewable energy sector, Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock and Northwest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville are each establishing Centers of Excellence in Green Technology to provide job training for green jobs in energy efficiency. Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas is also creating a Center of Excellence in Renewable Energy Technology.

The state's business climate and incentives also offer wind component manufacturers opportunities to operate very successfully. In the CNBC Top States for Business 2010, Arkansas ranked second best for cost of doing business and third best for cost of living. The state of Arkansas also offers an array of competitive incentives, including income tax credits, sales and use tax credits and refunds, and payroll rebates and cash grants for new and expanding companies.

FAST FACT:

Arkansas is
1 OF 4 STATES in the U.S.
to enter fiscal year
2011
WITHOUT OFFICIAL DEBT.

