Growing Iowa’s Green Economy

The boom in clean energy development, especially wind power, presents a tremendous opportunity for economic growth in Iowa and the Midwest. This boom is creating new construction jobs, long-term operations and maintenance positions, and positive indirect economic benefits from payroll spending, property tax revenue and land leases. Some of the best long-term economic opportunities are coming directly from the manufacturing of wind machine components.

As the Midwest wind industry continues to grow, more wind turbine suppliers are creating jobs here. There are positive economic benefits to the region, and manufacturers also benefit through simplified construction logistics.

Iowa Governor Chet Culver and the Iowa Department of Economic Development have made a strong, targeted effort to attract wind power component manufacturing businesses that is paying off as these firms create jobs in Iowa. Some of the largest are profiled below. The next step in Iowa’s wind manufacturing success is to align these businesses with other manufacturers in the state that can provide components along the supply chain.

**Clipper Windpower, Cedar Rapids:**
Clipper Windpower builds the large 2.5 megawatt Liberty turbine at a renovated manufacturing facility in Cedar Rapids. Clipper employs 140 people at the plant and is sourcing components for the turbines from other manufacturers throughout the Midwest.

**Siemens, Fort Madison:**

**Trinity Structural Towers, Newton:**
Trinity has announced plans to build a new tower manufacturing plant in Newton, scheduled to open in early 2009. This plant will will employ 140 workers.

**TPI Composites, Newton:**
TPI Composites is building a 300,000 square foot blade fabrication plant in Newton, which will primarily fill orders from a long-term agreement with GE Wind. This TPI plant will eventually employ 500 workers in a town that used to be one of the nation’s appliance manufacturing centers.

**Acciona, West Branch:**
Acciona, a Spanish energy and construction conglomerate, is building its first U.S. turbine manufacturing plant on a refurbished manufacturing site in West Branch. The plant is expected to employ 100 workers when it opens later this year.