

Iowa's torrid pace in wind generation

Now 2nd in the nation

Iowa has blown past California to second place in wind generation of electricity.

The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) reports that the electricity output of Iowa wind turbines totaled 2,790 MW at the close of 2008, capacity that is second only to Texas and followed by California, Minnesota and Washington. At the close of the previous year, Iowa ranked third and California was second.

From 2006 to 2008, Iowa's growth rate in wind power is 198 percent, the fastest growth rate in the United States.

"In recent years, Iowans have worked tirelessly to build upon our natural strengths and make Iowa a national leader in renewable energy," said Governor Chet Culver. "As this report shows, those efforts are paying off. Iowa's success story is further evidence that investment in wind energy is working."

A total of 4,223 wind turbines are generating electricity in Iowa. Another ten turbines with 20 MW of capacity are under construction in Winnebago County.

Additional locations in Iowa are under review and testing for the sustained winds needed for new wind farm development.

Wind Generated Electricity*

Rank	State	Output (Megawatts)
1	Texas	7,116 MW
2	Iowa	2,790 MW
3	California	2,517 MW
4	Minnesota	1,752 MW
5	Washington	1,375 MW

*American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), 2008

World leader IBM chooses Dubuque New tech center to employ 1,300

IBM has announced it will open a new technology service delivery center in Dubuque, Iowa, creating up to 1,300 jobs and providing high-value information technology services to IBM customers nationwide. IBM has signed a 10-year lease, with optional extension years, to occupy the historic Roshek Building in downtown Dubuque. The City of Dubuque, Dubuque Initiatives, Inc. and IBM plan to upgrade the facility to make it a "green" building with energy-efficient technology.

"We selected the City of Dubuque for our new delivery center based on several criteria, including the strong positive public-private partnership within the city, its competitive business model and the talent and skills that Iowa and the Midwest have to offer," said Mike Daniels, senior vice president, IBM Global Technology Services.



"Today's announcement is about three things – Jobs, Jobs, Jobs," said Governor Culver. "I want to welcome IBM to Iowa, and thank them for bringing these 1,300 high quality, good paying jobs to our state. Today's announcement is one more sign that people around the country are discovering what we have known all along – that with our highly skilled workforce, inviting business climate and quality of life, Iowa is a great place for business. As Governor, I will not rest when it comes to bringing jobs like these to Iowa."

(January 15, 2009, press release)

IBM intends to employ several hundred people in the new facility by the end of this year and up to 1,300 by the end of 2010.



ACCIONA'S GROWING PRESENCE

Acciona Energy North America is investing nearly \$11 million to modernize its West Branch plant, including the addition of 30,000 sq. ft. for the final assembly of wind turbine nacelles. The nacelle is the structure that houses all of the electric generating components on top of a wind turbine tower.

The company received site location assistance and state incentives from the Iowa Department of Economic Development to open its first North American plant in West Branch. Acciona North America is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Acciona Energia, which is headquartered in Pamplona, Spain and the largest developer and builder of wind parks in the world.



Nationwide moves in



Nationwide Insurance has moved into the new 350,000 square foot, five-story building across from Western Gateway Park in downtown Des Moines. The Iowa Department of Economic Development awarded incentives to secure Nationwide's multi-phase expansion into one of the largest contiguous office facilities in Iowa with more than 1 million sq. ft. Nationwide employs 4,000 people in the Des Moines area.



Expands corporate office

VT Industries is expanding its corporate headquarters in Holstein, Iowa, with 7,800 sq. ft. of additional offices and the addition of 25 jobs. The expansion was approved by the Iowa Department of Economic Development for Enterprise Zone Tax benefits.

A family-owned and operated business, VT Industries is a leading manufacturer of laminate countertops, architectural wood and specialty doors.

President and CEO Doug Clausen said "VT's continued growth has made it necessary to expand our offices. The new addition will make our business more productive and create more jobs for our surrounding communities. Most importantly, we will be able to provide our customers with increased service in the years to come."

VT countertops are found at America's largest home improvement centers, as well as at hundreds of kitchen and bath dealers.

IOWA'S SCHUMACHER ADDS JOBS

Schumacher Elevator Company (SEC) is completing a \$1.7 million expansion of manufacturing and storage facilities in Denver, Iowa.

The Iowa Department of Economic Development awarded the elevator company \$150,000 from the Community Economic Betterment Account (CEBA) to create 20 jobs and retain 10 jobs.

The Bremer County expansion was also

awarded tax benefits from High Quality Job Creation (HQJC) program.

SEC has added a laser cutting system and an automated press-brake machine to remain cost competitive in a global market. The expansion also included purchase of the building and land adjacent to their existing location and an increase in storage capacity to keep up with continued growth.

Family-owned Schumacher designs, manufactures, installs and services passenger and freight elevators throughout the world.



Bodine Electric consolidates manufacturing



Bodine Electric Company has completed a strategic plant consolidation that more than doubled the Peosta plant to accommodate operations relocating from Chicago, Illinois. More than 100 new CNC machining jobs were created and the company's facility was enlarged to 140,000 sq. ft. Iowa is now home to most of Bodine's manufacturing and all assembly operations.

According to John Bodine, president of Bodine Electric Company, "Our plant in Iowa has been a successful operation from the start, over 15 years ago. The decision to consolidate both plants was more than just adding manufacturing capacity to our assembly operations. This was a strategic decision by the owners and management team that will enable us to further reduce lead-times, increase productivity and manufacturing efficiency, and also contain costs."

Leveraging the \$3-million consolidation was a \$500,000 award from the Physical Infrastructure Assistance Program (PIAP) of the Iowa Department of Economic Development. Bodine also expanded its partnership with Northeast Iowa Community College on various employee training programs.

NEW SYNERGIES IN CEDAR FALLS

Wayne Sweepers has completed a move of its headquarters and manufacturing operations to Cedar Falls, joining sister company Wayne Engineering at the expanded facility where both firms will share engineering and manufacturing resources.

Wayne Sweepers produces a line of highly automated street sweepers for use on streets and parking lots as well as for road maintenance and millings clean-up. Wayne Engineering is a major manufacturer of refuse bodies used in manual and automated collection of solid waste.

"This is an absolutely outstanding opportunity for both firms to bring optimal synergy and shared expertise to a mission both companies embrace: producing high-performance, chassis-mounted, performance-driven equipment that continually leverages technology to achieve optimum value for our customers," said Kevin Watje, president and CEO.

"As production ramps up, we expect that Wayne Sweepers will outgrow this facility and it will eventually have to have its own permanent facility separate from Wayne's refuse division," said Watje.

Renowned Fairfield firm expanding

Creative Edge Mastershop, Inc., the Fairfield firm that produces spectacular architectural designs for commercial building floors and walls, is expanding national and international marketing and upgrading its water jet cutting technologies.

Creative Edge was awarded \$75,000 from the Community Economic Betterment Account (CEBA) to create 15 jobs and will receive tax benefits from the High Quality Job Creation (HQJC) program. In addition to these awards from the Iowa Department of Economic Development, other assistance for the expansion is coming from REDI, Inc. of Ottumwa, Indian Hills Community College and Alliant Energy.



"This assistance is right on target for a small company attempting to keep its momentum in a difficult market," said Jim Belilove, Creative Edge president. "The training assistance and support for new equipment will allow us to keep growing."

Founded in 1988, Creative Edge Mastershop Inc. designs and fabricates a variety of architectural and industrial products using its high technology computer-controlled water jet cutting process.

RENEWABLE FUELS POWER IOWA ECONOMY

Even during this economic slump, the production of biodiesel and ethanol and the construction of new biorefineries continue to power Iowa's economy. Additionally, bringing idled capacity back into production could boost Iowa's economic turnaround.

"2008 was a year of unprecedented challenges for the biofuels industry," said

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CALENDAR

- March 2-9 Iowa Trade Mission
Malaysia & Indonesia
- April 8 Moving Iowa Forward Conference
Marriott Downtown
Des Moines
- May 8 Smart Conference
Polk County Convention Complex
Des Moines
- May 13-16 BREI 2009 Annual Conference
Marriott Downtown
Des Moines

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RENEWABLE FUELS POWER IOWA ECONOMY

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economist John Urbanchuk, who completed an economic study for the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association.

“Despite the challenge of profitability, the biofuels industry continued to grow and met the Renewable Fuel Standard target of nine billion gallons for 2008. Iowa leads the Nation in biofuels output accounting for 26 percent of U.S. ethanol and 12 percent of biodiesel production capacity.”



Iowa Renewable Fuels Association

Urbanchuk found that ethanol and biodiesel producers are part of a manufacturing sector that adds substantial value to agricultural commodities produced in Iowa and makes a significant contribution to the Iowa economy. Biofuels add nearly \$12.0 billion, or about nine percent, to Iowa's Gross Domestic Product.

New production coming to Iowa

CLSS to create 65 jobs

Carleton Life Support Systems (CLSS) Inc., will construct a 35,000 sq. ft. addition to transition its air-to-air refueling business from California to its Davenport location.

The Iowa Department of Economic Development awarded \$325,000 from the Community Economic Betterment Account (CEBA), plus tax benefits from the High Quality Job Creation (HQJC) program for CLSS to create 65 jobs.

The \$5.4 million capital investment will transfer manufacturing, design, business development and supporting functions of the business line to Iowa by September 2009.

Most of the workers will be hired locally in the Quad Cities. “We have been very successful with recruiting from the local area,” said Gary Knight, Carleton's general manager in Davenport.

(CLSS) is a world leader in the application of gas separation technologies to aircraft and in the design and production of cryogenic coolers.