

Local Press Release No. 2/2009 from Vestas Americas

Portland, 25 March 2009
Local Press Release No. 2/2009
Page 1 of 2

Vestas celebrates ground-breaking for two manufacturing facilities in Colorado

Vestas held a ground-breaking ceremony Wednesday for its two new manufacturing facilities – a nacelle assembly factory and blade factory – in Brighton, Colorado.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Denmark and Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess of Denmark participated at the event. The Royal Couple is visiting the U.S. to place focus on the close cultural and historical ties between Denmark and the U.S. as well as on renewable energy and energy efficiency. The ground-breaking also saw the participation of Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, Jr. and Brighton Mayor Jan Pawlowski in addition to Vestas executives which included Ole Borup Jakobsen, President of Vestas Blades, and Johnny Høy Henriksen, Senior Vice President at Vestas Nacelles.

The Brighton factories are part of the significant manufacturing and research base Vestas is establishing in the U.S. Once the factories are fully operational in 2010, they will create about 1,350 jobs in Brighton. Vestas' investment in Brighton will total about 300 million USD, and will secure an annual production capacity of 2,000 blades and 1,400 nacelles.

“Vestas selected Brighton for its central location and access to rail services, highway infrastructure and a qualified workforce,” says Ole Borup Jakobsen, President of Vestas Blades. *“We also chose Brighton for its proximity to the blade factory in Windsor, Colorado, that opened in 2008.”*

“From an outbound logistics perspective, Colorado offers a highly central location for the transportation of wind turbine components to customers in North America,” says Søren Husted, President of Vestas Nacelles. *“At the same time, Vestas is enhancing its U.S. supply chain, and location plays a key role in securing efficient inbound logistics to the factories.”*

For the first time, over 50% of components for wind power projects were made in the U.S. in 2008, according to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA). The U.S. broke all previous records in 2008 by installing 8,358 MW of new wind capacity, representing an investment of 17 billion USD and bringing the number of people employed in the wind industry to 85,000. Vestas currently has a workforce of over 1,800 in the U.S. and Canada, and the number is expected to grow to 4,000 workers in the U.S. alone by the end of 2010.

“These new Vestas factories are important steps in helping the U.S. wind energy market move forward,” says Roby Roberts, Senior Vice President of External Relations at Vestas Americas.

Portland, 25 March 2009
Local Press Release No. 2/2009
Page 2 of 2

The Brighton facilities will also house a Technology and Production Engineering office as well as a division of the Vestas Business Academy for the training and development of employees. In addition to the two factories in Brighton and the existing blade factory in Windsor, Colorado, Vestas is constructing the world's largest tower factory in Pueblo, Colorado. It is set to open at the end of 2009. Overall, Vestas expects to employ 2,500 people in Colorado by the end of 2010.

In addition to its investments in new manufacturing facilities, Vestas opened a purchasing office in Chicago and a research and development hub office in Boston in 2008, and is currently establishing a research center in Houston.

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Vestas – No. 1 in Modern Energy

With a 23 per cent global market share, Vestas is the world's leading supplier of modern energy solutions. The company's core business comprises the development, manufacture, sale and maintenance of wind technology that uses wind energy to generate electricity. Vestas has installed more than 38,000 wind turbines in 63 countries, and has a track record of installing over 10,000 wind turbines on American soil.