



Construction Begins on Nordex Plant that Will Employ 700

Nordex USA, Inc. began construction this week on its first U.S. manufacturing plant, located in Jonesboro, Ark.

The announcement came after a decision by the supervisory board of parent company Nordex AG giving the U.S. affiliate the green light to move forward. “The plant is critical to our goal of generating 20% of global revenue in the U.S., and I must say I am extremely pleased that construction will begin on schedule,” said Ralf Sigrist, President and CEO of Nordex USA.

Nordex believes the Arkansas plant will position the company to be a key competitor in the U.S. market. Construction will take place in two phases, beginning with the nacelle assembly plant and followed by a rotor blade manufacturing facility at the same location. Nacelle assembly will begin ramping up in the second half of 2010, operating at full scale by 2012 with an annual production capacity of 300 turbines, or 750 MW. (Nordex’s largest turbine, a 2.5-MW machine, will be produced in the U.S.) The entire facility, including rotor blade production, will be fully operational by 2014, the company said.

The plant represents a total investment of \$100 million, with about \$40 million allocated to the nacelle plant and the remainder to the rotor blade facility. It will directly employ up to 700 skilled workers and other staff by 2014.

“In a time when our economy has slowed, it’s gratifying to see the creation of high-paying jobs in the clean-energy sector,” said Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe (D). “In Arkansas, jobs in clean-energy industries are outpacing the overall job market, and Nordex is helping to drive that.”

Additional jobs will be created through the contracting for services. For example, Nordex has hired the construction firm, H&M Company, Inc., of Jackson, Tenn., which will dedicate between 250 and 300 workers to the construction project. In addition, Nordex aims to completely localize its suppliers within the next three to four years, as the wind industry matures, which will further stimulate domestic manufacturing.

“There’s no doubt we’ve seen a surge of interest among wind industry players in Northeastern Arkansas since Nordex announced it would build here last October,” said Mark Young, President and CEO of the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce, with whom Nordex has worked closely on site selection.

Because turbine manufacturing and assembly require specialized skills, Nordex said it is readying plans to train up a workforce through an on-site training academy, as well as a partnership with Arkansas State University.

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