



## **Siemens, Winergy Open Plant that will House 355 Jobs**

Winergy Drive Systems Corp. and Siemens Drive Technologies today officially opened a second plant in Elgin, Ill., that will create approximately 355 new jobs.

Siemens invested more than \$20 million to build the infrastructure needed to equip the facility, which will be used for the assembly and testing of mechanical gear drives. An existing plant in Elgin will be maintained to manufacture the gears and components that will be assembled and tested in the new plant; the existing facility will also house the services and repairs business. The 170,000 square-foot new plant is expandable up to 330,000 square feet. Winergy is the largest producer of wind turbine gear drives in the U.S.

The new facility will house approximately 300 new jobs in production and 55 new office jobs over the next three to four years, more than double the current number of employees in Elgin.

“I salute Siemens and Winergy for the investment in clean, renewable energy and for providing green jobs in our state,” said Illinois Governor Pat Quinn (D). “Together we are taking another step to make Illinois more sustainable through alternative energy sources such as wind power.”

The plant, one of the first in Illinois to receive environmental LEED certification, was built using recycled steel and designed with Siemens energy-efficient lighting and heating and cooling systems, which are expected to save \$500,000 annually in energy costs and reduce annual water use by 250,000 gallons.

“This facility is a great example of how sustainability has helped transition a traditional industry into a newer, greener one—increasing production, creating green jobs and reducing its environmental footprint,” said Parthiv Amin, president of Winergy Drive Systems Corp. “It is also a fine example of the company’s commitment to providing technologies that are produced in an environmentally responsible manner and promote energy efficiency.”

The state of Illinois and the city of Elgin provided a number of incentives to Siemens to help secure the investment including a Wind Energy Development Grant and Employer Training Investment Program job training funds.

*Source: Wind Energy Weekly, 28 August 2009*