

# DOE / SNL Experimental Wind Farm at TTU

December 15, 2011



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# Outline

- ***DOE/SNL Objectives of Region-5 Test Facility***
- ***Test Site Proposal Review***
- ***Progress Updates***



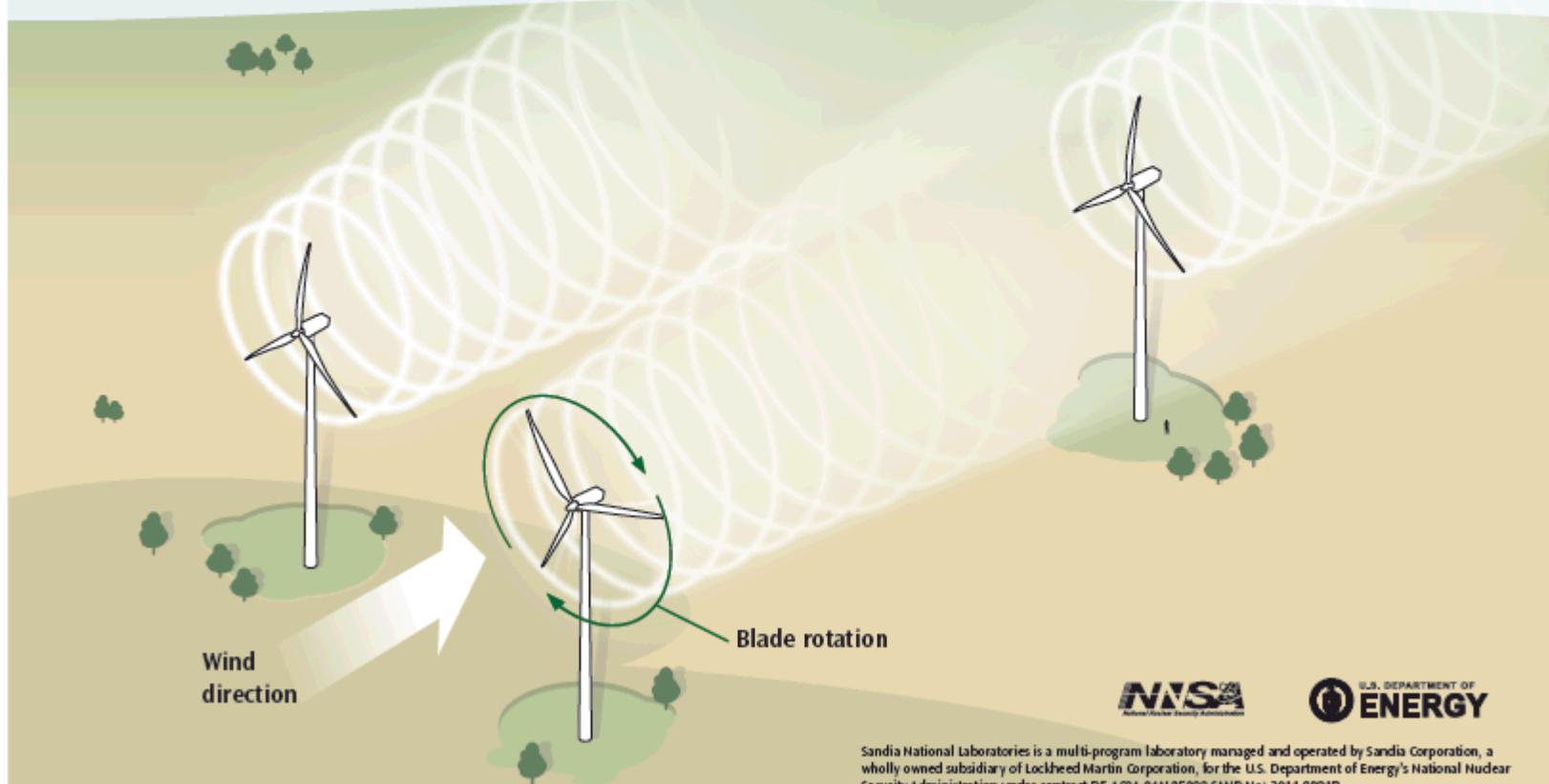
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# ***DOE/SNL Objectives of Region-5 Test Facility***



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Exceptional service in the national interest



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# DOE/SNL Objectives

## ■ ***Study of turbine to turbine interaction***

- *Tip vortex, wake growth, wake mixing, meandering wakes*
- *Inflow turbulence, low-level jets, advanced features*

## ■ ***Advanced wind turbine rotor development***

- *Passive load control: bend-twist coupling, blade sweep, flatback airfoils*
- *Active load control: smart rotor, nonlinear wind turbine control, smart turbine design*
- *Advanced sensing technologies: operational monitoring, structural health monitoring, prognostics*



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# DOE/SNL Objectives II

## ■ ***Aerodynamics, aero-elasticity, and aero-acoustics testbed***

- *Inboard aerodynamics, 3D blade flow, NUMAD / BPE design tool advancement, near-blade acoustic generation, acoustic propagation, acoustic beam-forming*

## ■ ***Other suggestions***

- *High-risk wind energy technology*
- *Vertical Axis Wind Turbines and application to offshore*
- *Damage-representative turbines for SHM qualification*



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# *Test Site Proposal Review*



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# *Existing SNL/USDA Test Facility*



35°11'17.99" N 102°05'23.45" W elev 0 ft



DOE/SANDIA 34-METER VAWT TEST BED  
USDA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE, BUSHLAND, TEXAS  
DEDICATED MAY 10, 1988



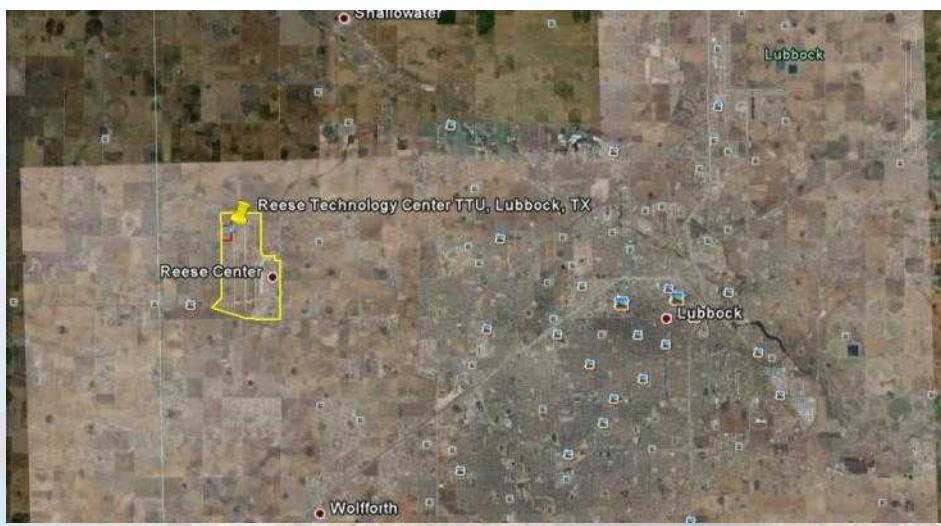
# *Objectives and Approach*

- **What:** SNL is recapitalizing the DOE / SNL testing facilities.
- **Why:** Variable-speed variable-pitch turbine operation with relevant Reynolds numbers are required to transfer new innovative technologies to industry, i.e. buy down high-risk. USDA is less committed to supporting wind energy (Change in mission).
- **Who:** A research institution committed to wind energy research and education, capable of supporting testing facilities, personnel, schedule, and process.
- **When:** Currently awaiting NEPA and PREP approval from DOE SSO. Working to finalize turbine procurement (critical path).
- **Where:** Texas Tech University most committed and viable to hosting the site.

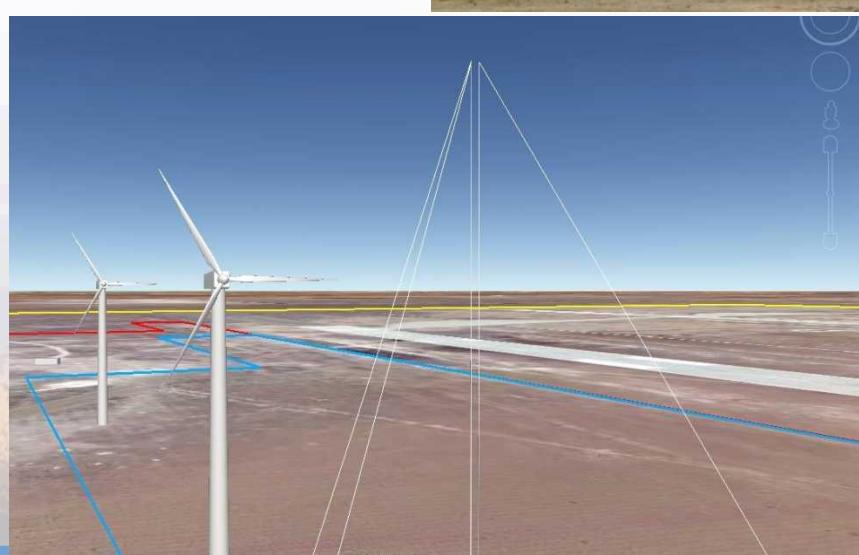
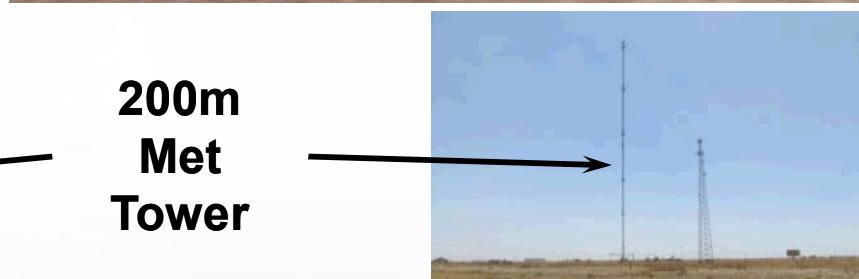
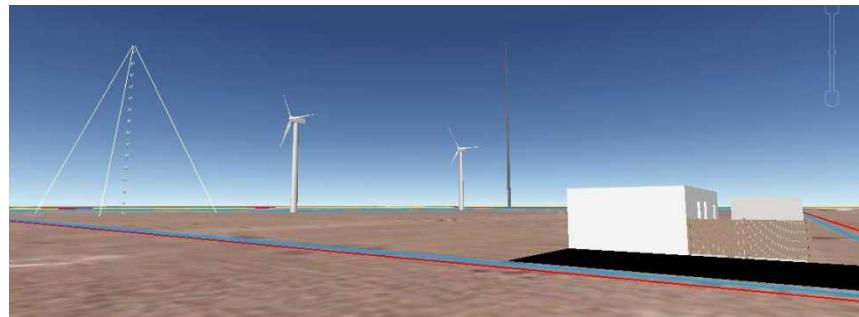
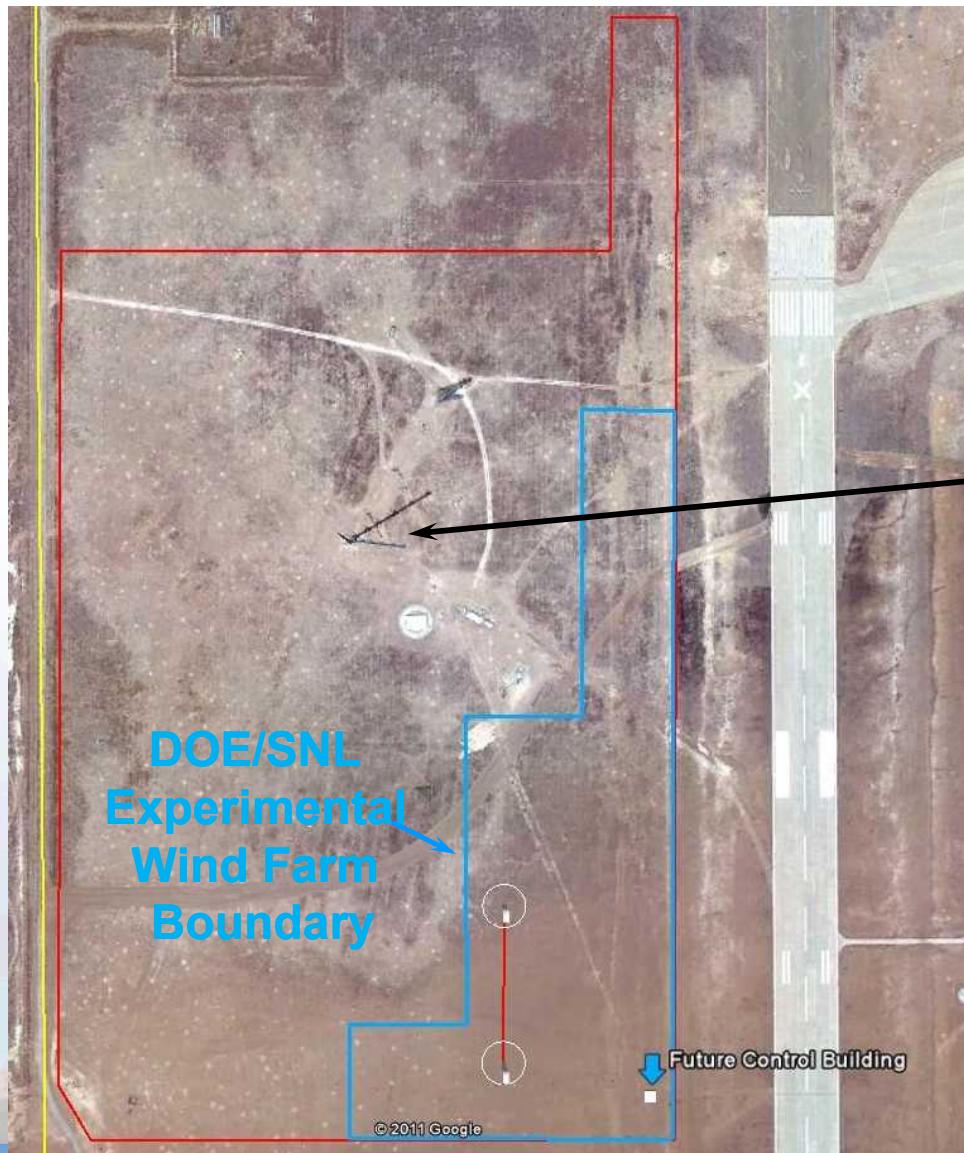


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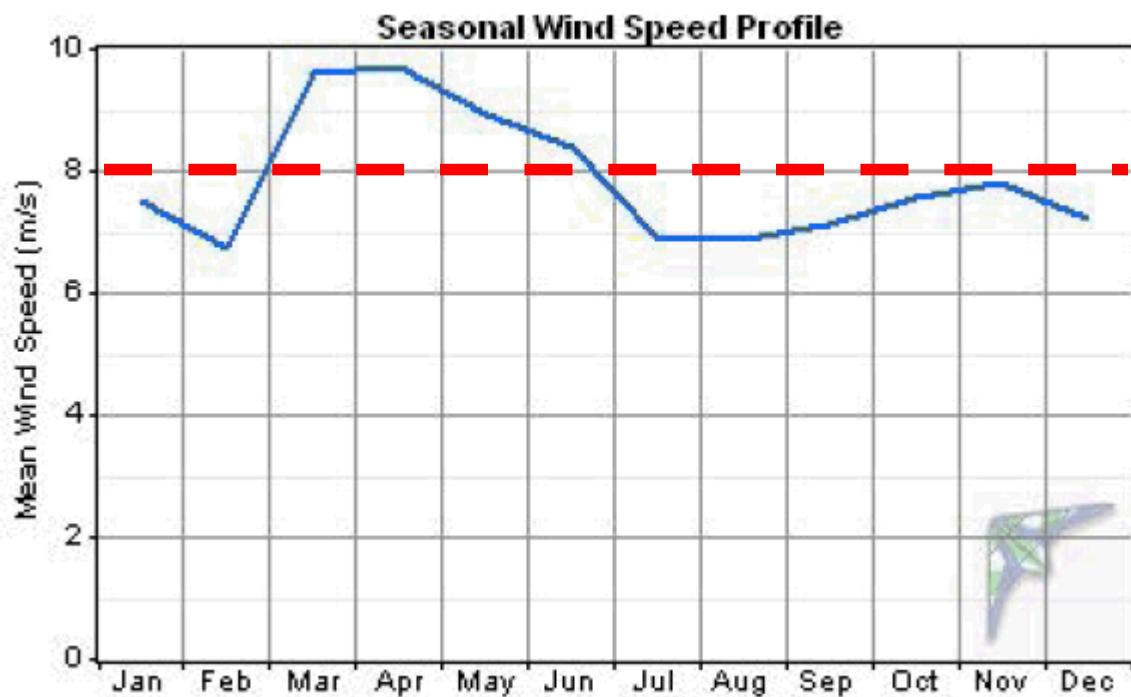
# Tentative Site Plan



# Tentative Turbine Site Plan

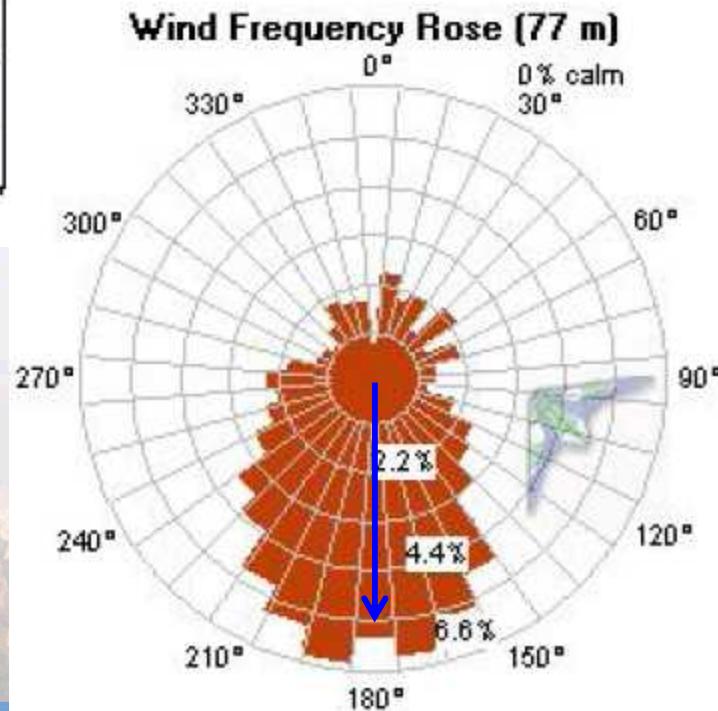


# Wind Resource Assessment



8 m/s at 77 m  
(7.5 m/s at 50 m)

**Class 5 Wind Site!**

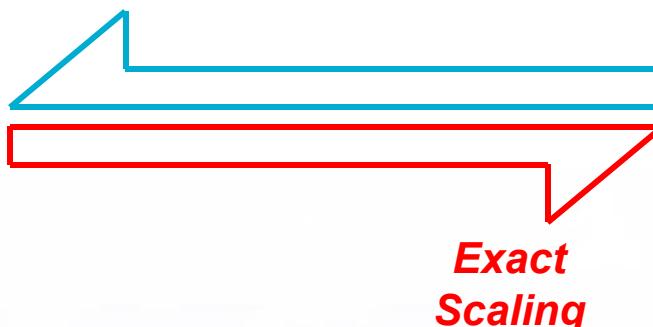


# What is Research-Scale?

Research-Scale



*Minimum research  
cost and time*



Megawatt-Scale

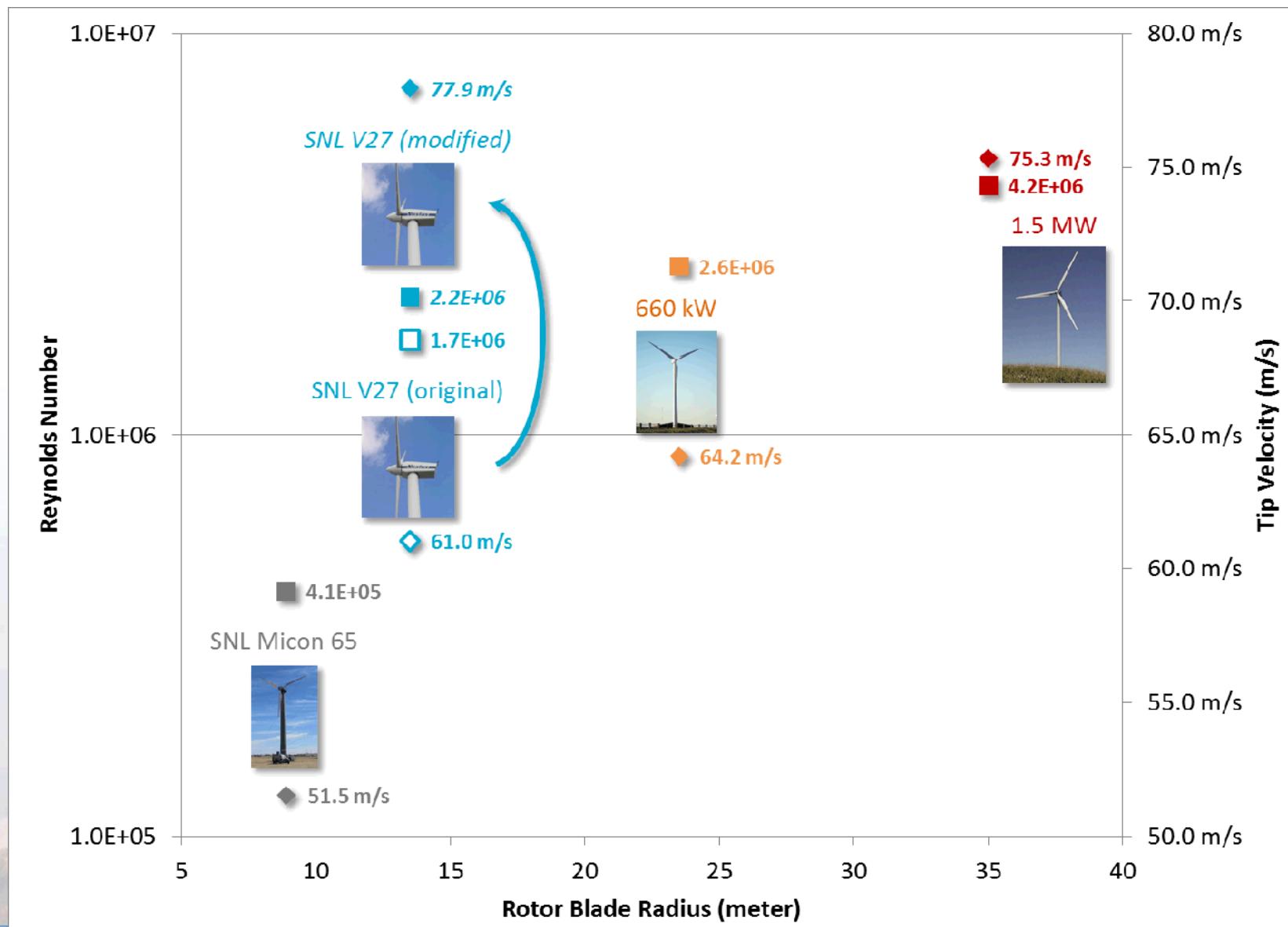


- A cost-efficient size for which research can be directly scaled to larger, more costly and time-consuming sizes.
- Requirements:
  - Operation at Reynolds Number (scaling parameter) between  $10^6$  and  $10^7$
  - Tip speeds approaching 80 m/s for acoustics and large rotor projects
  - Variable-speed variable-pitch operation
  - Minimal cost and time associated with research operations
  - Highly reliable turbine
  - Minimal restrictions on publication and intellectual property



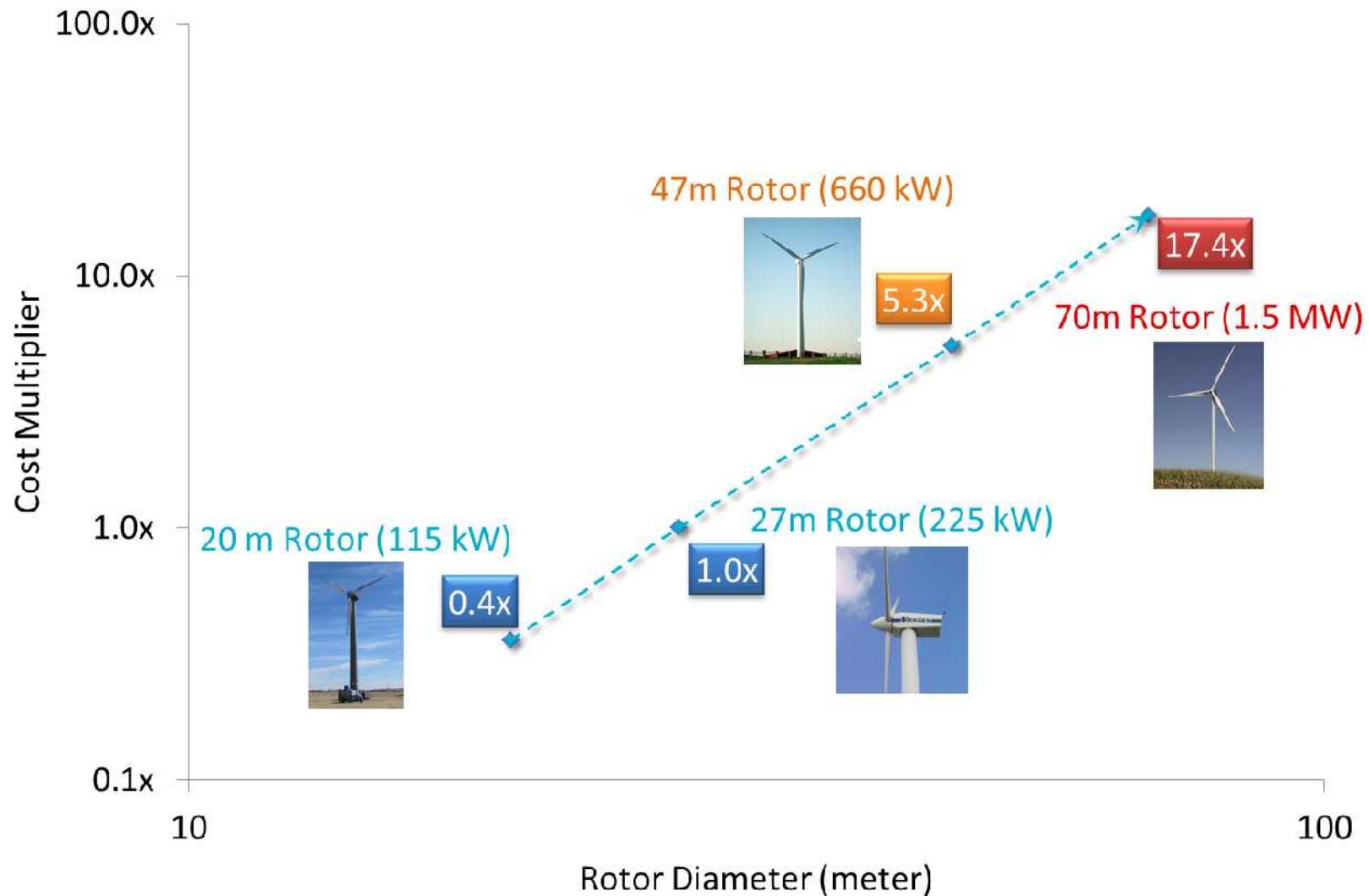
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# Aerodynamic Scaling



# Cost Efficiency

## Rotor and Mold Cost Multiplier from V27 Baseline



# Crane Cost Comparison

## Research Scale (225 kW)



Costs  
\$5,000 v. \$250,000

Scheduling  
Days v. Months  
Ahead v. Ahead

Testing Risk  
Low v. High

## Megawatt Scale



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# National Open-Source Research Asset

*DOE / SNL Rotor Blade Designs*



**Feasibility Proof**



*DOE / SNL  
FAST / ADAMS  
Model of V27*

**Technology Demonstration Commercialization**

TRL-1

TRL-2

TRL-3

TRL-4

TRL-5

TRL-6

TRL-7

TRL-8

TRL-9

**Basic Research**

**Technology Development**



*DOE / SNL Advanced Blade Testing at NREL-NWTC*

**Sub-Scale Testing**



*DOE / SNL  
Experimental Wind Farm at TTU*



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# Research-Scale Examples of Success

Risø DTU

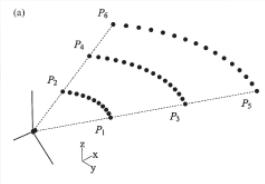
National Laboratory  
for Sustainable Energy



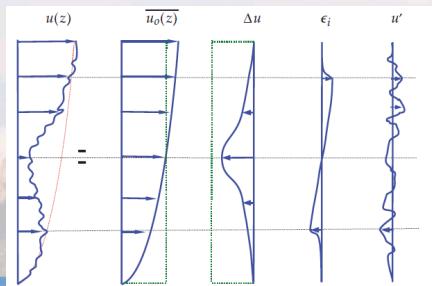
- “Light detection and ranging measurements of wake dynamics Part I & II” 2011



LIDAR Scanning of 95 kW Turbine Wake

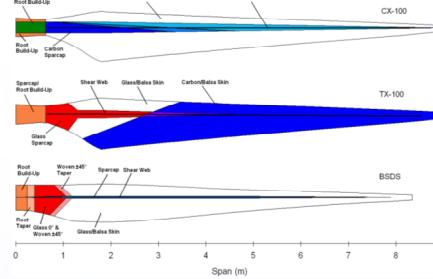


Decomposition of Wake Deficit



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- CX / TX / BSDS Blade Family Study



Fabrication and Testing at the 115 kW Scale



USDA United States  
Department of  
Agriculture  
**Conservation & Production  
Research Laboratory**  
Agricultural  
Research  
Service

Result: 24% reduction in damage equivalent load and initiated industrial use of carbon, flatback airfoils and twist-bend coupling.



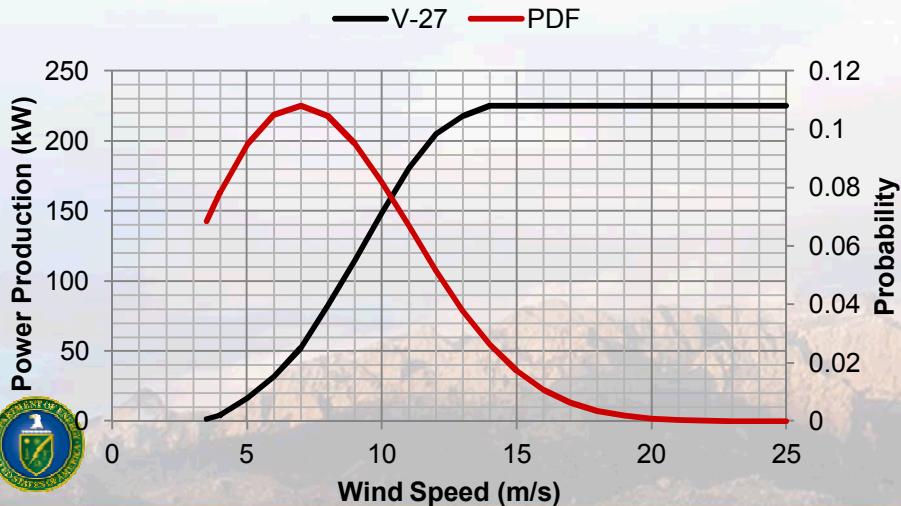
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# Proposed Test Turbine



## Site Production

- 7 m/s hub-ht. average
- 92 kW Average
- 41% Capacity Factor



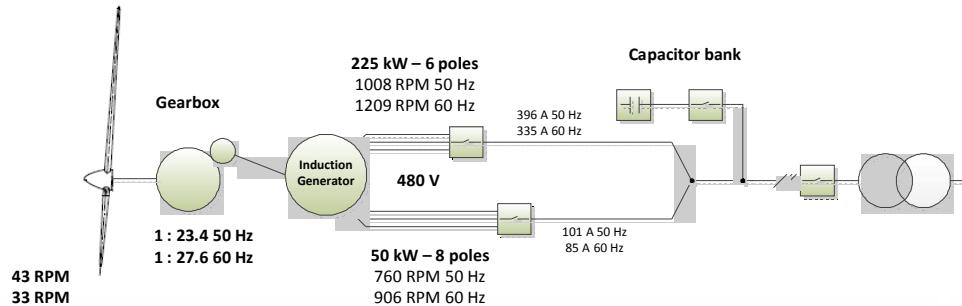
## Modified Vestas V-27

- 300 kW (0 – 55 rpm)
- 13 m (43 ft) Blade Length
- Pitch Control in Region 3
- 30 m (98 ft) Tower Height
- Reynolds Number  $\sim 2 \times 10^6$
- Highly reliable

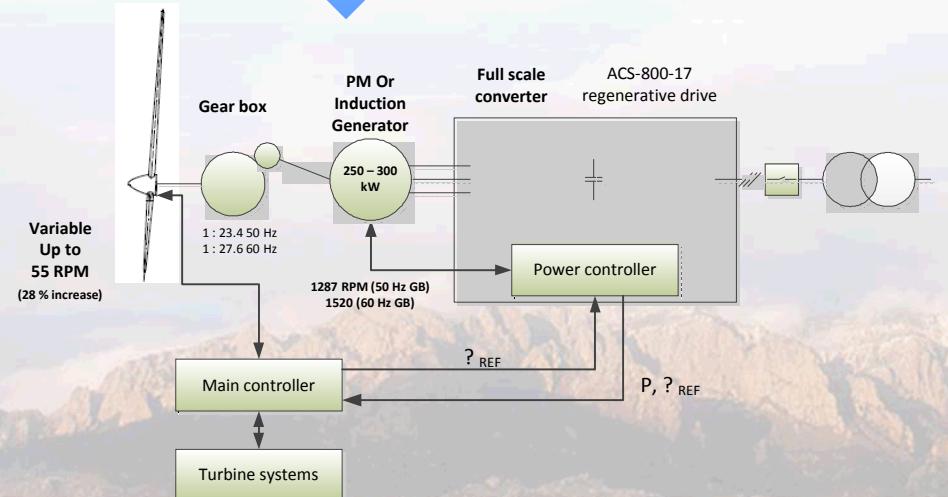


# Variable-Speed Upgrade

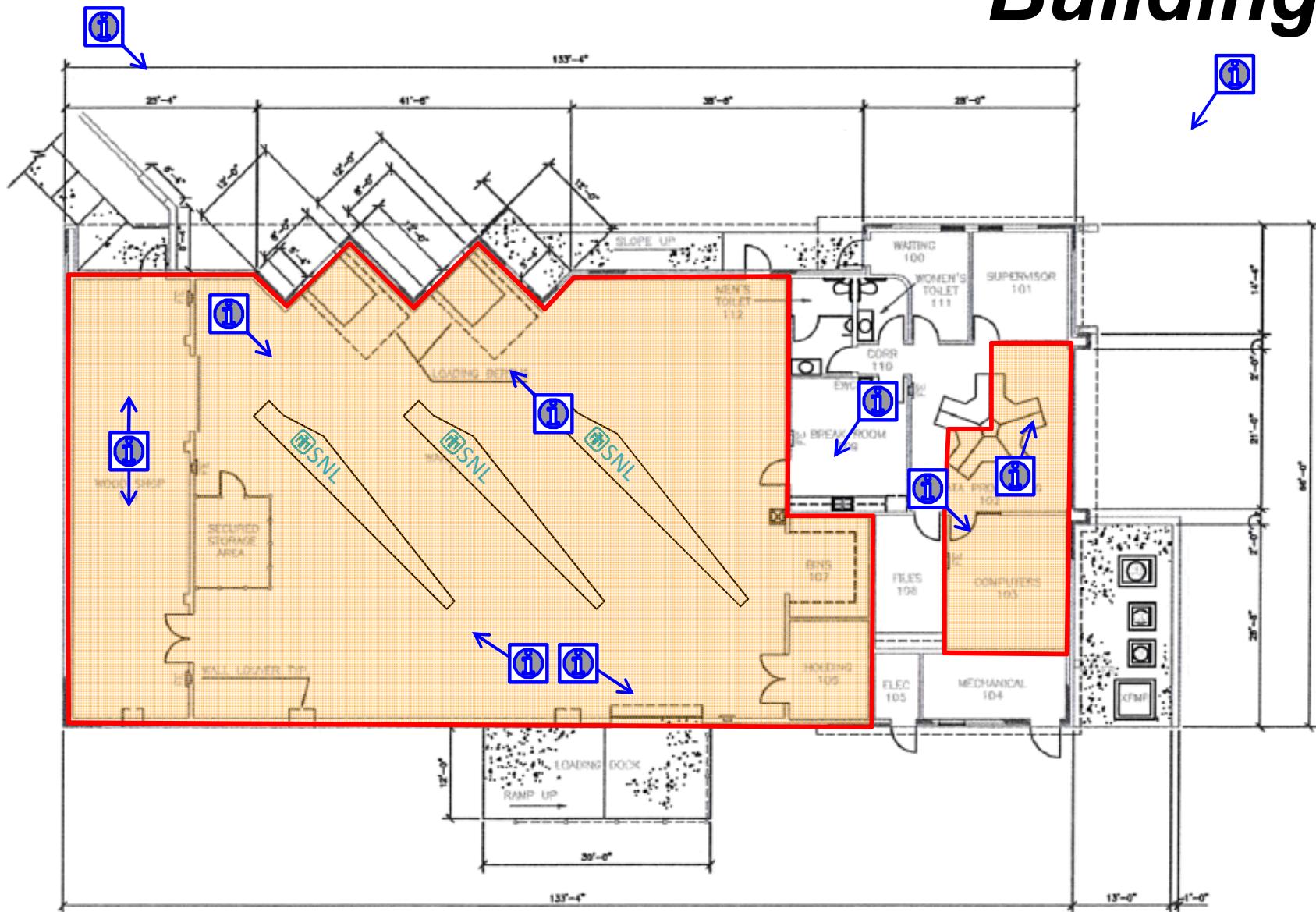
## Fixed Speed



## Variable Speed



# *Repurposed Assembly Building*



# *Progress Updates*



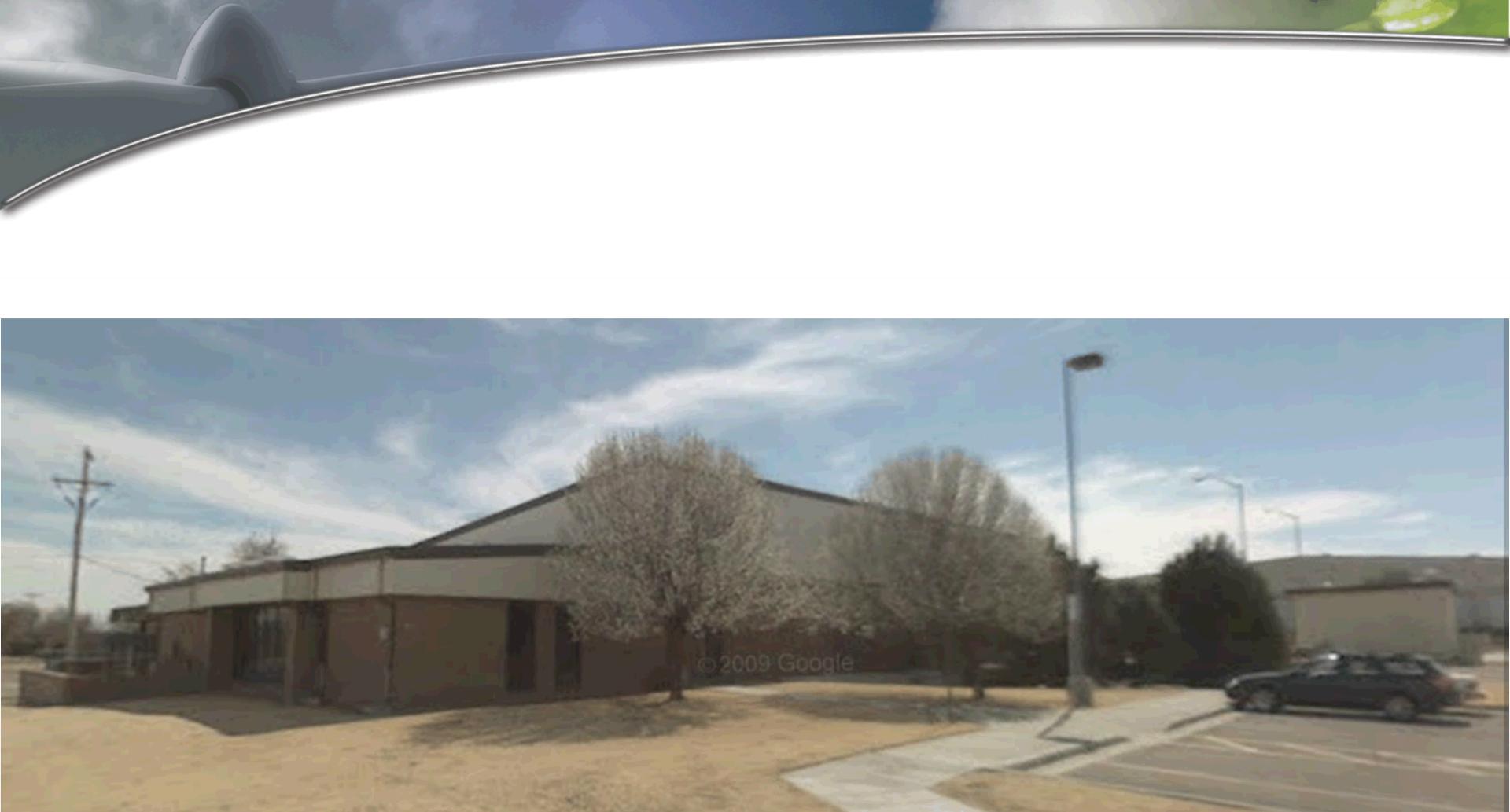
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# Current Work

- **VESTAS:** Vestas R&D Americas, Houston, TX is the worldwide leader in wind turbines and is committed to collaborating at the new DOE/SNL Experimental Wind Farm. Vestas is quickly working to place contracts and agreements to purchase a refurbished V-27 and install the foundation within the DOE/SNL Experimental Wind Farm.
- **SNL/TTU/NIRE Agreement:** Annual operating contracting is being finalized and a staff posting is currently open for applicants.
- **NEPA:** Completed documentation was submitted to DOE/SSO on October 3. Awaiting direction on next steps.
- **Preliminary Real Estate Property Agreement (PREP):** PREP was submitted to DOE/SSO on November 17. Awaiting direction and next steps.
- **Turbine Procurement:** Finalizing request for quote (RFQ).
- **Turbine Siting Analysis:** Completed, awaiting approval of list of reviewers submitted to DOE Wind.
- **Installation Execution:** Awaiting placement of turbine contract and NEPA feedback from DOE SSO.



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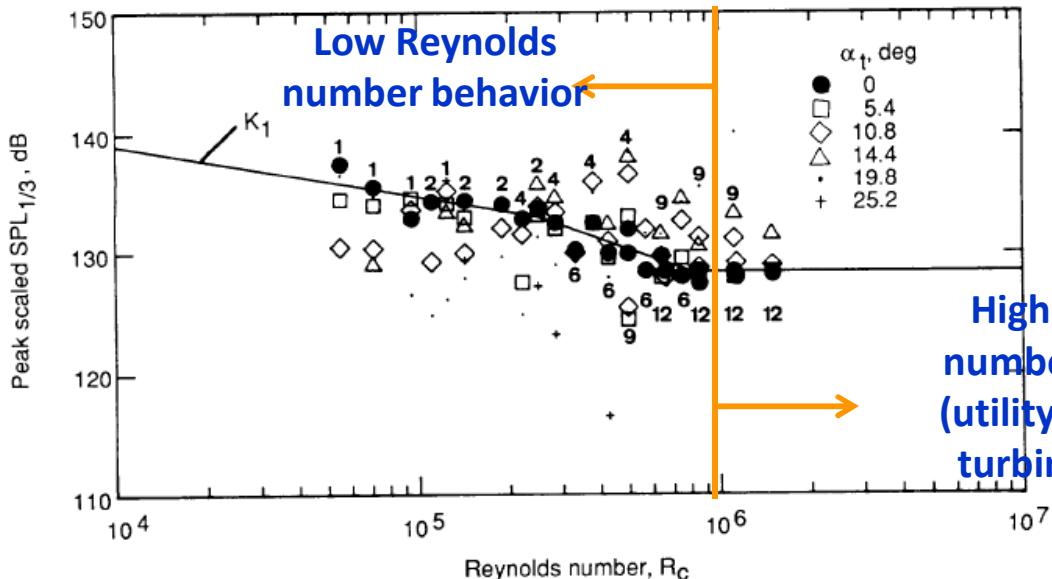
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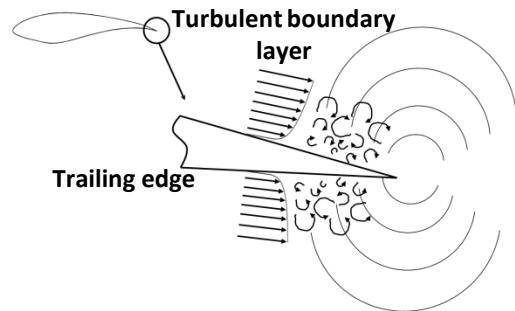


# Wind turbine aerodynamic noise scaling

Dependence of trailing edge noise amplitude on Reynolds number



Wind Turbine Trailing Edge Noise



Measurement of blade trailing edge noise (S. Oerlemans, Ph.D. Thesis, U. of Twente, 2009)



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