

SWiFT Commissioned to Study Wind Farm Optimization

The DOE, Sandia, and Texas Tech University (TTU) commissioned the DOE/Sandia Scaled Wind Farm Technology (SWiFT) facility on Tuesday, July 9th at the Reese Technology Center in Lubbock, Texas. SWiFT is the first public facility of its kind to use multiple wind turbines to measure how wind turbines interact with one another in a wind farm. The event featured speakers from the DOE's Wind Program, Vestas Wind Systems, Sandia, and TTU.



The SWiFT facility's three research-scale turbines have been fully characterized. After the commissioning ceremony, SWiFT began its mission of understanding how wind turbines interact with one another in a wind farm.

"The Energy Department's wind testing facilities, including the Scaled Wind Farm Technology site in Texas, support the continued growth of our nation's clean energy economy while helping to speed the deployment of next generation energy technologies and bring more clean, affordable renewable power to American homes and businesses," said Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy David Danielson.

Jon White (6121), technical lead for the project, said SWiFT is the first moderate-scale facility—allowing up to 10 wind turbines—specifically designed to investigate, test, and develop technology for wind plants. "Some estimates show that 10%–40% of wind energy production and revenue is lost due to complex wind plant interaction," said White.

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