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Keeping Arkansans at Work

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GOVERNOR OF ARKANSAS



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WindPole Ventures and AWS Truepower Announce Arkansas Wind Study

Arkansas attracts new wind farm developers to the state by launching tall tower wind study.

WindPole Ventures and AWS Truepower LLC recently announced plans to build a wind resource monitoring network for Arkansas. The data collected will provide wind farm developers with a better understanding of the wind resources available and thus encourage development in the state.

A large portion of the funding for the network will be provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The Arkansas Energy Office, a division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, awarded \$364,000 in recovery funds and will oversee the project.

WindPole will collect wind data from existing communication towers that are 80-plus meters tall, the hub height of industry-standard wind turbines. Data to be collected includes wind speed, direction, temperature and barometric pressure. Instrumentation specifications are guided by Annex G of IEC 61400-12-1 and AWS Truepower.

The most commonly available weather data today comes from government sources and is collected near ground level mostly for aviation and consumer weather users. By collecting wind data closer to turbine hub height, uncertainty and financial risk are reduced. Reducing uncertainty increases investor confidence and encourages development.

“We de-risk wind project development finance and accelerate grid integration with data driven by our portfolio of 12,000 repurposed, hub-height communication towers,” explains Steve Kropper, chief executive officer and co-founder of WindPole. “Our project with AWS Truepower is a great example of how our ‘data as a service’ can be leveraged by independent engineers to benefit the industry.”

“Providing wind data closer to hub height to potential developers will certainly expedite the process in Arkansas,” said Ignacio Carballo, senior project manager at AWS Truepower. “The AWS Truepower team is excited to be a part of this project and looks forward to playing an important role in wind development in the state.”

“We are excited about working with AWS to more clearly understand and evaluate the potential for wind development in our state,” said J.D. Lowery, renewable energy program manager of the Arkansas Energy Office. “This study will provide the information wind developers need to assess the viability of wind power generation.”

About AWS Truepower, LLC

AWS Truepower has been an international leader in renewable energy consulting and information services for over 25 years. AWS Truepower’s suite of integrated services and innovative products support the full project lifecycle from resource and energy assessment, independent engineering, and due diligence, to performance assessment and power production forecasting. AWS Truepower’s professional staff possesses in-depth knowledge and experience in all phases of project development, which ensures a consistent, integrated solution. AWS Truepower is online at www.awstruepower.com.

About WindPole Ventures

WindPole de-risks wind project finance and accelerates grid integration for top wind developers, government, ISO/RTO, project operators and industry analysts. WindPole provides real time, hub-height wind resource data from a network of very tall (80 meter) towers. Mass Clean Energy Center provided seed funding for WindPole. For more information, visit www.windpole.com.

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