

**Innovation for Our Energy Future** 

## Wind Energy Status and R&D Challenges



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### The U.S. Energy Picture by source - 1850-1999



Source: 1850-1949, Energy Perspectives: A Presentation of Major Energy and Energy-Related Data, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1975; 1950-1996, Annual Energy Review 1996, Table 1.3. Note: Between 1950 and 1990, there was no reporting of non-utility use of renewables. 1997-1999, Annual Energy Review 1999, Table F1b.





#### United States - 2005 Year End Wind Power Capacity (MW)



### **Evolution of U.S. Commercial Wind Technology**





# **Cost of Energy Trend**

#### 1981: 40 cents/kWh

- Increased Turbine Size
- R&D Advances
- Manufacturing Improvements



NSP 107 MW Lake Benton wind farm 4 cents/kWh (unsubsidized)

#### 2006: 3 - 6 cents/kWh with PTC



## **Clipper LWST Prototype** 2.5 MW with 93 m Rotor





# Wind Energy Research Activities

### **Turbine Development Programs**

- Low Wind Speed Technology
- Distributed Wind Technology

### **Supporting Research Activities**

- Advanced Rotor Development
- Generator, Drivetrain, and Power Electronics
- Systems and Control
- Technology Acceptance
- Utility Grid Integration
- Certification Testing



## Measuring and Modeling Dynamic Stall and Unsteady Aerodynamics



ADAMS Model



## Measuring and Modeling the Low-Level Nocturnal Jet





Met tower and SODAR at Lamar, Colorado



km



## **Blade Scaling for Multimegawatt Rotors**



## **Industry's Growing Needs**

A new 45-meter wind turbine blade was shipped to the NWTC for testing in

July 2004.



### **Advanced Drivetrain R&D**

#### **Tomorrow Prototype Technology**









NREL National Renewable Energy Laboratory

#### Today **1.5 MW Commercial Technology**

# What are the Future R&D Needs?



## Offshore Wind – U.S. Rationale Why Go Offshore?

Windy onshore sites are not close to coastal load centers

The electric utility grid cannot be easily set up for interstate electric transmission

Load centers are close to the offshore wind sites



**US Wind Resource** 



# **U.S. Offshore Wind Energy Resource**



#### Offshore Wind Turbine Development for Deep Water

Onshore Wind Turbine

> Monopile Foundation depth 0 - 30 m

Current Technology

Tripod fixed bottom depth 20 - 80 m

> Floating Structure depth 40 – 900 m



- Turbulent winds
- Irregular waves
- Gravity / inertia
- Aerodynamics:
  - induction
  - skewed wake
  - dynamic stall
- Hydrodynamics:
  - scattering
  - radiation
  - hydrostatics
- Elasticity
- Mooring dynamics
- Control system
- Fully coupled



Wind and Wave Spectra





# **A Future Vision for Wind Energy Markets**



