

University of Maine and University of Dayton Part of the team to improve Wind Tower Technology

UDRI and a consortium of companies in Ohio, as well as the DeepCwind Consortium of companies and universities spearheaded by the University of Maine's (UMaine) AEWC Advanced Structures and Composites Center (Orono, Maine), on projects that could open new doors for composite use in wind turbine towers.

Looking to expand their reach, wind power developers are pushing for wind turbine towers that rise to new heights, capturing the high-quality wind found at higher elevations. These towers likely will surpass the current height standard of 80m/265 ft for 3-MW turbines, growing to between 100m and 150m (325 ft and 492 ft) in height for turbines of 5-MW to 7-MW capacity, particularly in deepwater offshore wind farms. As a result, traditional steel designs for utility-grade towers are being pushed to their limits and beyond. Many see in this an opportunity for composites to vie with steel for a piece of the tower market.

Read the full story at: <http://www.compositesworld.com/articles/blades-yes-towers-maybe> ^[1]

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