

UMaine Completes 56m Wind Blade Test for Gamesa

ORONO, Maine ? The University of Maine?s Advanced Structures and Composites Center has completed static testing of a 56 meter (184 foot) wind turbine blade for Gamesa. The blade was manufactured in North America and delivered to the University of Maine in late August.

According to UMaine Composites Center Director Dr. Habib Dagher, ?We are honored to have served one of the world?s leading wind turbine manufacturers. This is the biggest structure we have tested to date, extending nearly 80% of the length of our blade test lab.?

?Our engineers, technicians, and students did a great job designing, building, and operating the equipment needed to safely rotate and test the 56m blade,? said John Arimond, who joined the UMaine Composites Center in 2013 after 28 years in industry, most recently serving as CTO of a New Zealand-based manufacturer of 500 kW wind turbines.

Juan Diego Daz, Gamesa´s Marketing Director, added ?We are excited to be partnering with UMaine for blade testing. North America was a logical place to conduct this important step in our product development, supporting our growing commercial opportunities in that region and globally. We were impressed by the testing quality, safety and attention to detail provided by the UMaine team in successfully testing our blade.?

About Gamesa (www.gamesacorp.com ^[1])

With 20 years' experience and more than 30,000 MW installed in 46 countries, Gamesa is a global technological leader in the wind industry. Its end-to-end value chain presence encompasses wind turbine design, manufacture, installation and operations and maintenance (over 20,000 MW). The company is perennially ranked among the world?s leading wind turbine manufacturers and it has been present in the North American market for more than 10 years.

About UMaine Composites Center (www.composites.umaine.edu ^[2])

The University of Maine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center's award winning research staff help clients create innovations from concept through design, modeling, prototyping, testing, and code compliance reporting. The 9,300 m², \$110 million, ISO 17025-accredited laboratory has a successful history of partnering with industry, completing over 500 product development and testing projects over the past five years.

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Links:

[1] <http://www.gamesacorp.com>

[2] <http://www.composites.umaine.edu>