

# Chinese company planning U.S. wind turbine factory

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**NEW YORK — A Chinese company planning a \$1.5 billion wind farm venture in West Texas said Tuesday that it also plans to build a wind turbine factory in the U.S.**

The facility will produce 1,100 megawatts of wind engine turbines annually and hire about 1,000 workers, according to a statement from the U.S. Renewable Energy Group, a private equity firm and a partner in the project with A-Power Energy Generation Systems Ltd.

The location of the U.S. plant wasn't disclosed.

**Austin-based Cielo Wind Power is the developer of the wind farm, which would be built on 36,000 acres in West Texas and financed by Chinese banks. The partners were seeking \$480 million in federal stimulus money to help pay for the project.**

The decision to build the plant in the U.S. muted criticism from U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., who two weeks ago said the Obama administration should bar the 600-megawatt wind farm in Texas from receiving stimulus funds because most of the 240 turbines would be made in China.

"This is exactly what stimulus funding ought to do: create and strengthen green manufacturing jobs in America, even if that slightly slows renewable energy production as we play catch-up to countries like China," Schumer said in a statement Tuesday.

The U.S. and Chinese companies made the announcement as President Barack Obama wrapped up his first trip to China with a pledge to continue the strategic and economic dialogue between the two countries.

Cappy McGarr, a Dallas investor who is a partner in the project, said the U.S.-based factory had "nothing to do with" winning federal support for the wind farm.

"This has been in the works for a long time," he told The Dallas Morning-News.

U.S. Renewable Energy and Cielo last month formed the Texas venture with China's Shenyang Power Group, whose largest shareholder is A-Power. The farm marks the biggest Chinese-American investment in U.S. renewable energy, the companies said.

"We still maintain no stimulus money should be used to manufacture wind turbines in China," Schumer said Tuesday.

A-Power Chief Operating Officer John Lin said Nov. 6 that the venture would not involve U.S. stimulus funds.

The U.S. and China are the world's fastest-growing markets for wind power. In the three-month period ended Sept. 30, total wind power capacity rose 5.4 percent, to 31,040 megawatts, amid higher demand for renewable energy. Texas, Iowa and Oregon led development of wind power during the quarter, installing more than half of the U.S. total.

**Courtesy of JB Goodwin**