



USER

FACILITY

AGREEMENTS

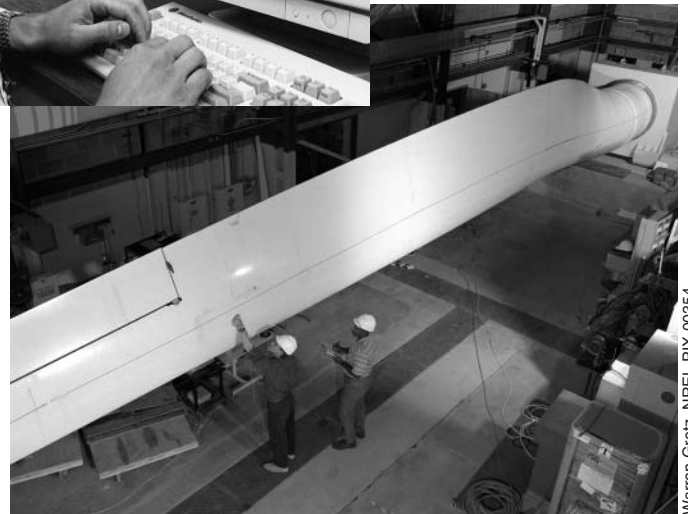
Sophisticated laboratory facilities once available only to research engineers are now open to industry at the National Wind Technology Center (NWTc). At the Center, a National Renewable Energy Laboratory facility, industry engineers can access expert assistance with airfoil, blade, turbine, and instrument design; state-of-the-art test stands for generators, gearboxes, drivetrains, and blades; a mobile vibration-testing laboratory; certification tests run according to international standards; a versatile hybrid power test bed; computers running the latest turbine design codes; and the latest computer models for analyzing wind system economics and utility power systems.

A new Industrial User Facility (IUF) with 10,000 square feet of laboratory space offers a well-equipped, user-friendly environment for industry staff wishing to pursue a project for a few days or many months. The facility is set up to allow participating organizations to work with computers and test equipment in complete privacy when conducting proprietary research. Companies may also work closely with NREL's wind engineering staff on specific projects, if desired.

Flexibility is the key to government/industry collaborations at the Center, where companies get the support they need to take full advantage of the capabilities. Some companies provide their own engineering expertise and only require access to the user bay at the IUF. Other firms have Center engineers conduct tests on equipment, then report on the results. The Center's services are individually tailored to meet industry needs. The National Wind Technology Center is dedicated to making its equipment and facilities readily accessible to industry in a manner that is both convenient and affordable. The Center's efforts support the U.S. Department of Energy's goal of ensuring that federally sponsored technology development reaches the marketplace. By encouraging industry's efforts to develop better wind turbines, the Center is helping to create a stronger domestic economy and new jobs in the wind industry.

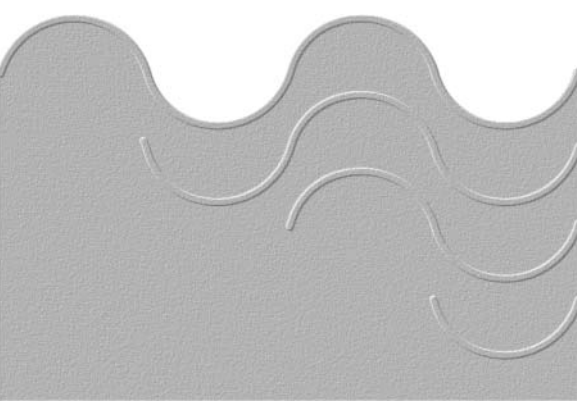


Warren Gretz, NREL_PIX 01492



Warren Gretz, NREL_PIX 00354

The Industrial User Facility at the National Wind Technology Center features laboratories, computer facilities, a high bay for blade testing, office space for visitors, and private, secure areas for proprietary industrial research.



Wind energy firms wishing to use the Center's equipment and facilities must have a cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA), a user facility agreement, a work-for-others agreement, exchange program, or other arrangement with NREL. These arrangements are described as follows.

- A CRADA is a long-term contract between NREL and an industry partner. Each participant provides personnel, services, facilities, or equipment in the performance of a specific project. The project is defined in detail in a joint work statement. The industry partner may provide funds to NREL, but NREL provides no direct funding in return. With a CRADA, an industry partner may designate project data as proprietary for up to five years after the agreement ends.
- A User Facility Agreement is most commonly used for wind energy projects lasting a few weeks or several months. The agreement allows rapid response to private companies or universities with immediate needs to use NREL's equipment, facilities, and expertise at the Center or in the field. It allows for both proprietary and nonproprietary research and testing. User facility agreements are individually tailored to industry needs and typically require payment of a user fee.
- A Work-for-Others Agreement is an arrangement whereby an organization pays NREL for using NREL facilities to conduct research, testing, or analysis.
- An Exchange Program is an arrangement whereby NREL and an industry partner exchange personnel for the purpose of encouraging growth and development in a specific technical area.

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