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WDT and NanoWeather develop wind forecast system

By: Staff/Energy Current

NORMAN, OKLA.: A consortium led by the University of Oklahoma's Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative has been awarded a two-year grant by Oklahoma's Economic Development Generating Excellence (EDGE) Initiative. Among the members of the consortium are Weather Decision Technologies (WDT) and forecasting company NanoWeather. The two companies have been given a grant to conduct research and development into a wind power assessment and forecast system (WPAFS) to support Oklahoma's wind energy industry.

WDT and NanoWeather are combining global and ultra-high resolution forecasting models to provide accurate wind assessments and forecasts. According to WDT, the wind-modeling data will allow wind energy businesses to "predict wind forces which are accurate right down to the individual wind turbine level."

Using the system, wind energy companies will be able to determine the most profitable sites for wind developments.

WDT will lead the development of the system. WPAFS will run a pair of physical models in concert; the Weather Research and Forecasting model, and the Uncoupled Surface Layer model by NanoWeather.

WDT and NanoWeather were awarded the grant as part of the Renewable EDGE project, proposed by Dr. Scott Greene, Director of the Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative at the University of Oklahoma, who received one of the five inaugural EDGE grants. Renewable EDGE will assist the wind energy industry in Oklahoma and elsewhere by producing wind power assessments and forecasts in a geographic information system.

Faculty from the University of Oklahoma along with partners from Oklahoma State University, Weather Decision Technologies, Inc., NanoWeather, Inc., and other academic and government groups across the state will be involved in the implementation of the proposal.