

Seventh wind turbine manufacturer to call at Corpus Christi

Gamesa will begin delivering wind turbines to Corpus Christi in mid-August, bringing to seven the number of manufacturers who discharge wind-related project cargo at the Texas port.

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The other six wind manufacturers using Corpus Christi are Dongkuk, Siemens, Vestas, CS Wind, General Electric and Clipper Windpower. “And we hope to add more,” said port business development director Michael Perez.

Gamesa will deliver blades, nacelles and tower sections for 100 complete wind towers on approximately four ships, the first of which will be a PACC vessel, Perez said. The turbines are bound for several different wind power developments in the U.S.

Corpus Christi received its first shipment of wind components in November 2006. At that time the port had about 40 paved acres available for storing project and heavy lift cargo, including wind components, and military cargo. Now the port has about 100 acres available.

Industrial-sized wind blades, nacelles and tower sections are very large and often have to be stored temporarily before they can be moved to development sites.

“As soon as we complete an expansion we land turbines on those areas,” Perez said. That’s how quickly it fills up.” The pieces dwell an average of 60 to 90 days before moving out by truck and rail to development sites in Texas and elsewhere in the U.S. interior, he said. The economic crisis slowed movement somewhat but never stopped it, he said.

Spanish Gamesa is ranked third worldwide in wind turbine production, has 14 percent of the industry’s global market share and has installed wind turbines in 25 countries, according to the company website.