

## **US funds 28 new wind energy projects**

US Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu has announced the selection of 28 new wind energy projects for up to US\$13.8 million in funding, including US\$12.8 million in Recovery Act funds. These projects will help address market and deployment challenges including wind turbine research and testing and transmission analysis, planning and assessments, according to DOE. Chu has also announced the release of DOE's 2008 Wind Technologies Market Report, detailing US\$16 billion in investment in wind projects made in the US in 2008 – making the US the leader in annual wind energy capacity growth as well as cumulative wind energy capacity. "Wind energy will be a critical factor in achieving the President's goals for clean energy, while supporting news jobs," says Chu. "While the United States leads the world in wind energy capacity, we have to continue to support research and development as we expand renewable energy deployment." DOE's new report, a comprehensive overview of developments in the US wind power market, has found that wind power capacity increased by 8,558 MW in 2008. Wind power contributed 42 per cent of all new US electricity generation capacity in 2008; for the fourth consecutive year, wind power was the second-largest new resource added to the US electricity grid in nameplate capacity. The report says that the cumulative wind capacity installed in the US at the end of 2008 would, in an average year, be able to supply roughly 1.9 per cent of the nation's electricity consumption.

Source: esaa news Issue 29 (27 July, 2009)