

# Wind Energy Manufacturing in Ontario

## Growing Opportunities in Ontario's Manufacturing Industry

Ontario's manufacturing sector has long been the backbone of the province's economy. Wind power represents a new market for the industry to apply their skills and knowledge today that they can export tomorrow.

Ontario's Green Energy Act is the main driver in the development of Ontario's green collar workforce. Leadership today is helping businesses develop next-generation capabilities which will ensure our Ontario industry remains strong and globally competitive in the future.

The wind industry represents a significant growth opportunity for Ontario's manufacturing and service industries.

- The most promising and immediate opportunities for manufacturers are supply opportunities for large components of a wind turbine that are costly to transport over long distances - the tower sections, rotor blades, nacelle assemblies and covers, casting and forgings.
- A second immediate and significant opportunity for the supply chain in Canada comes from the need for engineering procurement and construction services, logistics, craning, transformers, and geotechnical and site preparation services at the wind farms.
- Gears and generators also offer a supply opportunity for Canadian manufacturers.

*The total cost of a large scale wind farm ranges from \$2.1 to \$3.4 million per installed MW of generating capacity, with the wind turbine making up 70 per cent to 75 per cent of the cost, and engineering, site and construction making up the balance.*



Photo courtesy of DMI Industries



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# A Case Study

## DMI Industries

In 2006, DMI revived a closed automotive component manufacturing facility and returned 100 jobs to Fort Erie, Ontario. Today, the DMI facility employs 165 individuals in various manufacturing positions and has an extensive supply chain with local vendors that provide a number of the components and consumables used in production.

## Highlights

- DMI is the longest running wind energy manufacturer in Ontario.
- DMI operations in Fort Erie utilize 100 per cent Ontario steel shell plate.
- If you placed end-to-end each steel plate that DMI has used to make towers since 2006, they would cross the Confederation Bridge more than 100 times.
- DMI is supporting the Ontario economy with about \$18 million per year in material, service, and supply purchases.
- The DMI facility in Fort Erie is strategically located to supply wind energy projects in both Canada and the Northeastern United States.

*“Reaching five years in our tower manufacturing operations in Fort Erie marks an exceptional milestone for us and our communities. Our story is one of overcoming challenges and celebrating successes that ultimately adds up to something special. It’s rewarding to be contributing to the sustainability of our communities and the continued growth of clean, renewable wind energy. We strongly believe in the benefits of wind energy and it compels us every day we’re on the production line.”*

- Mike Giampaolo, Operations Support Manager,  
DMI Fort Erie Operations



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