

# NEW POWER GENERATION

IMPACT!

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council | IMPACT! Case study 21



↗ 310%

growth in UK wind energy between 2003 and 2007. This state-of-the-art training centre will provide skills needed to sustain this growth.

## A new training centre will provide the skills to sustain the UK's rapidly expanding wind energy industry and help us hit renewable power targets.

The state-of-the-art Wind Energy Systems training centre at the University of Strathclyde is headed by Professor Bill Leithead and will train PhD students in wind energy science and technology.

### IMPACT ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Wind Systems training centre will provide the skilled people needed to fuel UK growth in renewable energy.
- The new PhD training model will combine wide ranging technical skills with an understanding of the wider social and economic issues related to wind energy.

### Hitting renewable targets

Solar and tidal power have great potential, but wind power will need to make a major contribution if the UK is to hit its target of 20 per cent of electricity from renewable sources by 2020. To do this, the UK needs a new generation of wind-energy specialists.

"Wind energy is suffering from a shortage of people across the board, from technicians through to graduate level and beyond. This is not just a UK shortage, it is EU and worldwide and could hamper the progress of the industry," says Professor Leithead. The centre will help to address this shortage.

It will recruit students from a range of backgrounds – physical sciences, engineering, architecture, economics and the social sciences – to work on the research and socio-economic issues facing the industry.

Students will specialise in all aspects of wind power, from aerodynamics and mechanics to the core electrical and power conversion technology required. But as one of a new breed of centres for doctoral training, the centre will go one step further. It will combine these skills with an awareness of the wider social and economic issues and so create a community of researchers capable of realising the UK's renewables goal.

"Every time someone proposes a wind farm there are objections from different groups," says Professor Leithead. "So we need to bring the public with us on this and we need to engage with people and educate them."

"We must take on board people's fears and changing attitudes and respond as a wind energy community. That is very important. We can improve technology greatly but unless it is accepted and deployed on a large scale little will be achieved."

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**SUSTAINING UK  
GROWTH IN  
WIND ENERGY**

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