
Nissan Sunderland to expand on-site wind farm

Auto manufacturing company Nissan Motor Co. has announced that its plant in Sunderland, UK, will increase the size of its wind farm later in the year with the addition of two more turbines, bringing the on-site total to eight.

The initial six Vestas machines, of 750 kW each, became operational in late 2005 and delivered 4 MW to the site. The expanded farm will generate around 6% of the plant's annual energy requirement, some 5.5 MW, up from 5% currently, delivering a cost saving of nearly £1 million (US\$2 million) a year.

The move to develop the wind farm follows a rough doubling of energy costs over the last few years for the site, which now sees bills reaching some £14 million (\$28 million) annually.

The image below shows the Nissan site and some of the existing 750 kW Vestas machines



Installation will begin this month and the machines, all of which have been refurbished, are expected to be fully operational in January. The new turbines are to be located to the south of the site alongside the existing farm and enclosed entirely within an industrial area on low-lying ground. In addition, the 3 million square metre site has potential for further expansion of the wind farm, a spokesman for the company said.

Nissan engineer Mike Parkin said: 'Our current turbines are performing well in terms of energy cost reduction, so it makes sense to increase the size of the farm.'

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