

News release from Vestas-American Wind Technology

Portland, 17 February 2021

Vestas to consolidate footprint in Colorado, USA, to reflect lower near-term market demand and strengthen our Service and Construction setup

Following several years of peaking demand cycles, Vestas is consolidating our footprint in Colorado, USA, to reflect lower near-term market demand, strengthen our Service and Construction setup, and improve executional efficiency. With the consolidation, Vestas is supporting growing business segments and ensuring the foundation for efficient adjustments and scale-up when demand increases again. The consolidation entails lower manufacturing capacity, which unfortunately involves reducing the headcount by approximately 450 colleagues in total across three factories in Colorado, USA. Out of the 450 colleagues, Vestas expects to offer new roles in other parts of the business to approximately 150 impacted colleagues.

Concretely, Vestas will consolidate blades production to the Windsor Blades factory and repurpose the Brighton Blades site into a North American headquarters for the Global Tooling business, consolidating from six dispersed smaller locations. This entails ending blades production at the Brighton Blades factory, which unfortunately means laying off approximately 280 colleagues. Additionally, Vestas will reduce headcount at the Pueblo Towers factory and Brighton Nacelles factories by a total of approximately 170 colleagues.

Tommy Rahbek Nielsen, Vestas Chief Operating Officer, said *“The wind energy industry in USA has grown tremendously in recent years, which has increased our factories’ capacity and expanded our service business. With a larger fleet under service and lower demand in the near-term, we are therefore consolidating our setup in Colorado to ensure we can cater for our service business’ needs, and are structured in the right way to ramp up efficiently once wind turbine demand requires us to. We have set initiatives in motion to make sure as many as possible of the 450 colleagues from our factories can move to other parts of our operations, but unfortunately, we still have to say goodbye to colleagues”*

To protect jobs and ensure a continued strong Vestas footprint in Colorado, Vestas will support the impacted colleagues, pending eligibility, in transitioning to other roles in growing parts of the organization such as the Service business which supports the lifetime operations and maintenance of wind park assets.

The USA remains one of the world’s largest markets for wind energy and by keeping four sites in Colorado, Vestas is ensuring a continued strong foundation in the USA that will enable future adjustments and efficient scale-up when demand increases again. Following today’s announcement Vestas employs more than 29,000 colleagues globally of which around 4,500 are employed in the USA.

The consolidation and headcount reductions follow an announcement in August 2020 that production of V136 blades would cease at the factory due to reduced demand for that variant.

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About Vestas

Vestas is the energy industry's global partner on sustainable energy solutions. We design, manufacture, install, and service onshore and offshore wind turbines across the globe, and with more than 132 GW of wind turbines in 82 countries, we have installed more wind power than anyone else. Through our industry-leading smart data capabilities and unparalleled more than 117 GW of wind turbines under service, we use data to interpret, forecast, and exploit wind resources and deliver best-in-class wind power solutions. Together with our customers, Vestas' more than 29,000 employees are bringing the world sustainable energy solutions to power a bright future.

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