

Made in the U.S.A.

Windspire® Manufacturing means Quality and Jobs

Michigan Manufacturing Jobs

On April 20th, Mariah Power opened the production line for its Windspire vertical axis wind turbine at a retrofitted auto parts facility in Manistee, Michigan. The opening of the factory means new jobs for many ex-auto industry employees and improved quality for the Windspire. Prior to selecting MasTech, Mariah Power searched for a facility that could provide the advanced technology needed for the Windspire, trained laborers, financial incentives, and ultimately the lowest cost per unit. MasTech Manufacturing of Manistee, Michigan, rose to the top in the review process quickly.

The 30,000 square-foot manufacturing facility will create more than 120 jobs over the next three years in a community that has been especially hard hit by the downturn in the automotive industry. MasTech is not the only company in Michigan that will benefit from the Windspire. Almost 98 percent of the components for the Windspire wind turbines will be purchased from local Michigan suppliers, including steel, packing and crating supplies, and inverters. The aluminum airfoils that make up the giromill design of the turbine will be extruded by a Michigan company that currently extrudes aluminum for sun roofs in cars.



Michigan's Governor Granholm tours new Windspire facility.

Quality Focus

With the opening of the facility, the Windspire will not only put people to work but will also see a major improvement in the quality of the product. With over 2 million dollars invested in machinery and processes, every Windspire built at MasTech will be built with a higher state of precision. The Windspire production team includes a certified quality engineer who has more than twenty-five years of experience in automotive production management. Check points are in place at each machining operation, which will result in a substantially higher quality product for the consumers. "Volume manufacturing was the way for us to get there while also ensuring a quality product through precision tooling," said Mariah Power CEO Mike Hess. "We were determined to be a U.S.-made product because we knew the people and materials we needed could be found right here, and we would be able to have tighter control over quality with production close at hand."