

## Australia Encouraged To Follow Chinese Wind Push



*Roaring 40s Commissioning Engineer, Nick Cole, at the Shuangliao Wind Farm, Jilin Province, China. The 49.3 MW wind farm is a joint venture between Roaring 40s and the Datang Jilin Resourceful Power Generation Company. Picture courtesy: Roaring 40s.*

The Australian Wind Energy Association (Auswind) has called on the federal government to get serious about investing in wind energy after the Chinese government announced plans to triple its capacity to 8,000 MW by 2010, compared to Australia's current output of 850 MW.

Auswind President, Andrew Richards, welcomed the Chinese move, saying it showed the kind of forward thinking and determination that is required for fossil fuel-reliant economies

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to clean up their energy production. In 2006 alone China increased its wind energy by 80%, installing 1,000 MW, to take its current total to 2,300 MW.

“Like Australia, China depends largely on coal for electricity production so it is very encouraging to see the Chinese government taking a leadership position by showing a solid commitment to clean energy production, putting its support behind the most effective large scale technology available – wind energy”, Richards said.

The Chinese plan will see 45.6 billion Yuan or \$7.46 billion spent to more than triple wind power generation capacity by 2010. According to the Chinese Renewable Energy Industries

Association, China plans to spend 1.5 trillion Yuan or \$246 billion in the next 15 years to increase its use of renewable resources and reduce the world's fourth-largest economy's reliance on coal and oil.

“Australia should applaud this type of initiative and look to follow suit, as other options such as nuclear energy and so-called clean coal technology are at least 15 to 20 years from reality in this country”, he said.

Meanwhile, Australian company Roaring 40s is scheduled to complete commissioning of the 58-turbine Shuangliao wind farm in a joint venture with the Datang Jilin Resourceful Power Generation Company by the end of February. Construction of the wind farm, in the Jilin Province, started in October 2005 and so far 54 of the Gamesa 850 KW turbines have been commissioned, producing about 8,000 MWh\* of renewable wind energy.

Roaring 40s spokesman, Josh Bradshaw, said the wind farm is expected to generate 108 GWh per annum, or enough to supply electricity to over 100,000 local families. ■

\* A MWh refers to generation output while MW refers to actual installed capacity.