

Research Note

By MAKE Consulting

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U.S. Tower Manufacturers Face Dubious Future

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The available capacity of wind tower manufacturers in the U.S. far exceeds current demand. Tower facilities operate well below full utilization, which has resulted in a hyper-competitive marketplace.

WTG OEMs in the U.S. relied on imported towers from Southeast Asia to sustain growth during the boom years of 2006 – 2008. Due to lower unit cost and competitive transportation costs, towers from Southeast Asia accounted for over a quarter of towers installed in the U.S.

As tower production lines in the U.S. lay idle, discontent over Chinese trade practices have become more acute. A U.S. tariff on imported steel plate from China protects against dumping, but this trade barrier is not extended to finished steel products. This dichotomy creates a disadvantage for tower manufacturers in the U.S. and also represents a foregone source of taxation for the federal government.

The Research Note analyzes the wind tower market in the U.S. It looks at how the market has evolved from one of under capacity and reliant on imports from Asia to its current state of over capacity. Included in the analysis is a discussion on what makes Southeast Asian towers competitive and how deeply tower imports from these countries have penetrated the U.S. market.

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Project Pipelines		Project Pipeline	Project Pipeline	Project Pipeline
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Annual publishing plan is tentative and subject to change

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