

FlashNote

By MAKE Consulting

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U.S. Transport Sector Strained by Larger Blades

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Wind turbine OEMs are moving aggressively to deploy wind turbines with blades ranging between 47 meter and 55 meter in order to increase energy capture and profitability for IEC Class II wind sites and allowing profitable deployment of wind plants in areas of lower IEC Class III wind speeds.

Transporting the blades, however, is proving to be an increasing challenge in both cost and logistical complexity. Specialized equipment is necessary and carriers are reluctant to make major investments in the required trailers given U.S. policy and market uncertainty. Logistics professionals within the wind space cite this as the beginning of a partial disconnect between wind turbine OEMs designing and selling large rotor turbines and the logistics community coping with the challenges on the ground.

A MAKE survey of logistics and carrier companies suggests the trailer capacity for these larger units is a tight constraint, particularly above 47 meter blade lengths. Transport costs are also significantly higher and less predictable. All issues outlined in this FlashNote represent a downside concern for the U.S. wind market if blades above 50 meter enter the market faster than trucking fleets can cost effectively ramp up their equipment.

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Flash Notes	Five Flash Notes	Five Flash Notes	Five Flash Notes	Five Flash Notes
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