

# Harness the power of West Michigan wind manufacturers.

Over 700 world-class manufacturers,  
600,000 highly skilled professionals  
and an infrastructure to provide global  
supply chain solutions for high-quality  
wind turbine component manufacturing.

**This is what powers West Michigan.**





*Stoney Corners Wind Farm, McBain, Michigan. Photo courtesy of Jennifer Kempken, Barton Malow Company.*

## Why choose West Michigan for wind turbine component manufacturing?

No other region in the U.S. offers more manufacturing and supply chain expertise focused on high-precision wind turbine component production.

- **More Manufacturers** – Over 700 manufacturers in West Michigan have the capacity to produce components for wind turbines
- **More Resources** – Over 600,000 highly skilled production resources, engineers, designers, logistics specialists and a variety of other professions
- **Better Logistics** – A comprehensive transportation network with quick access to interstate rail, highways and deep water ports for competitive shipping rates
- **More Experience** – Decades of proven experience leading global supplier networks manufacturing high-grade, quality components
- **More Collaboration** – From collaborative manufacturing councils to university and government partnerships, West Michigan business works as a collective whole
- **More Potential** – By 2030, a potential to produce 16,650 MW of onshore wind power, plus an additional 40,000 MW of offshore wind power, based on a recent U.S. Department of Energy study

**“Michigan is becoming a manufacturing powerhouse for the wind energy industry. Many of the skills Michigan workers possess easily transfer to wind energy manufacturing... spurring billions in investment.”**

*American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) - 2009 Annual State of the Wind Industry Report*

## **West Michigan’s Wind Research and Development Resources**

West Michigan’s premier research and development centers support some of the nation’s leading alternative energy technology development. Power your company’s product innovation with assistance from:

**Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC)** has partnered with Y.E.S./Safety Technology to offer globally recognized Wind Safety Technician Training. GRCC has also partnered with leaders in the composites industry to develop hands-on training for Renewable Energy Composite Technicians. And in the fall of 2010, GRCC will launch Wind Logistics Specialists Training.

**Kalamazoo Valley Community College Wind Turbine Technician Academy** is a first-of-its-kind training center for technicians who work on utility-sized turbines. Certified by Bildungszentrum für Erneuerbare Energien (BZEE), the 26-week academy provides competency-based training for employment on large-scale wind farms.

**NextEnergy** is one of the nation’s leading research catalysts and business accelerators for alternative and renewable energy. NextEnergy has the tools, knowledge and network to advance your project or to connect you to the resources you need to help you succeed.

**The Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center** is a fully integrated, demonstration facility for distributed generation of electricity using alternative and renewable energy technologies. The facility offers incubator space, energy laboratories, a conference center and classroom facilities.

**The Western Michigan University Manufacturing Research Center (MRC) and Alternative and Renewable Energy Laboratories** is a collaboration of research centers focusing on energy conversion, utilization and conservation, and alternative and renewable energies. Research areas include bio-fuels, solar, fuel and hydrogen cells and hybrid systems.

A new **Regional College Collaboration** of 10 community colleges and state universities are working together to produce the next generation of skilled workers for the wind industry. This group of institutions from around the state are providing educational and training curriculum to support wind energy jobs ranging from advanced engineering and design to turbine installation and maintenance.



# The West Michigan Wind Manufacturers Network

## Manufacturing solutions for both small and utility-scale wind

This unique group of companies is dedicated to collaboratively serving the global wind manufacturing supply chain. With expertise in small wind, community turbines and the capacity to produce components at a utility scale, the West Michigan Wind Manufacturers Network is building an infrastructure to support the manufacturing of complete turbine systems.

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Mackinaw Power  
NextEnergy  
The Right Place  
Varnum

### CONTROLLER

Cascade Engineering

### GENERATOR

L-3 Communications  
Lach Diamond

### NACELLE CASING

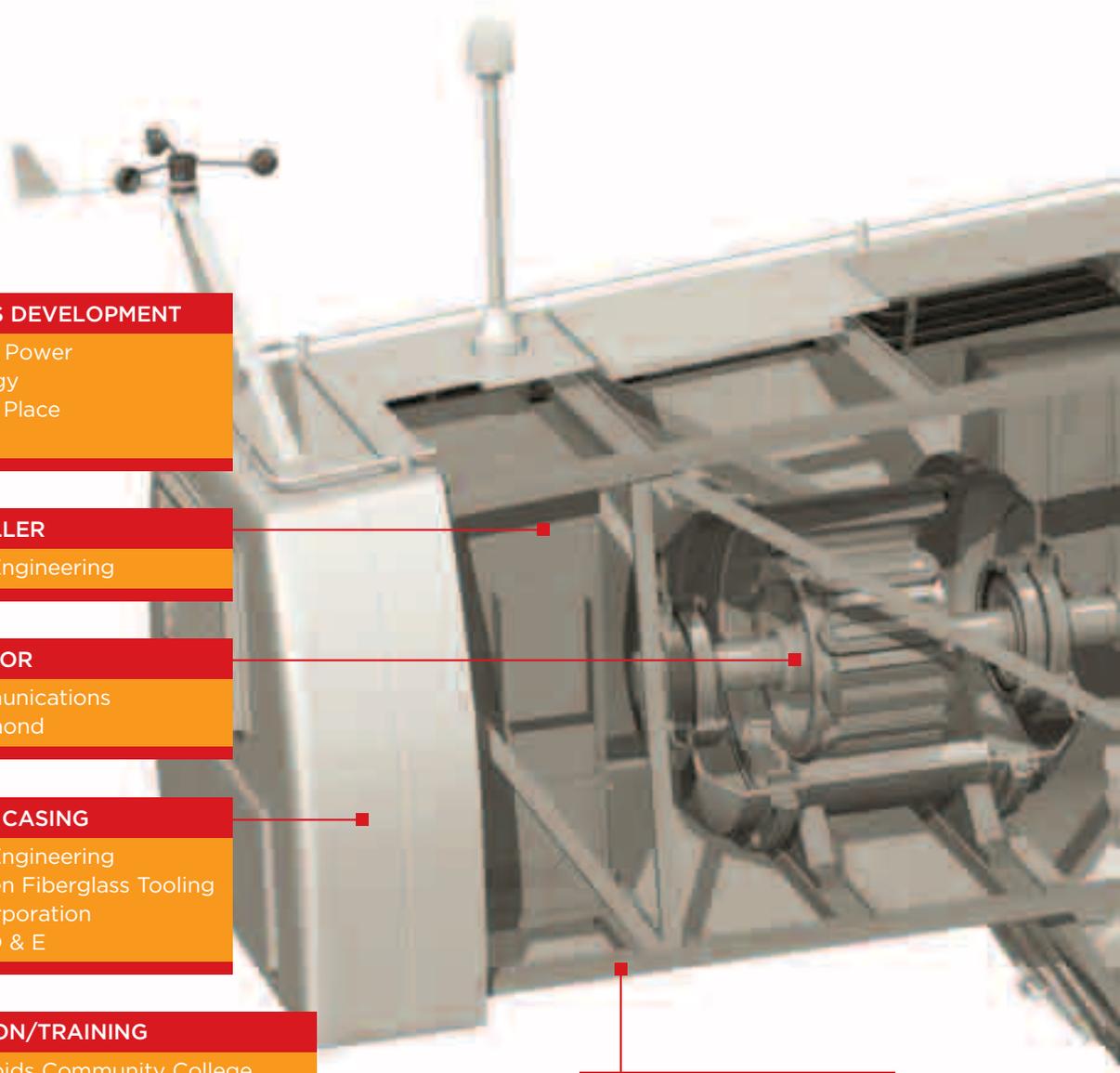
Cascade Engineering  
Christensen Fiberglass Tooling  
Shape Corporation  
Paragon D & E

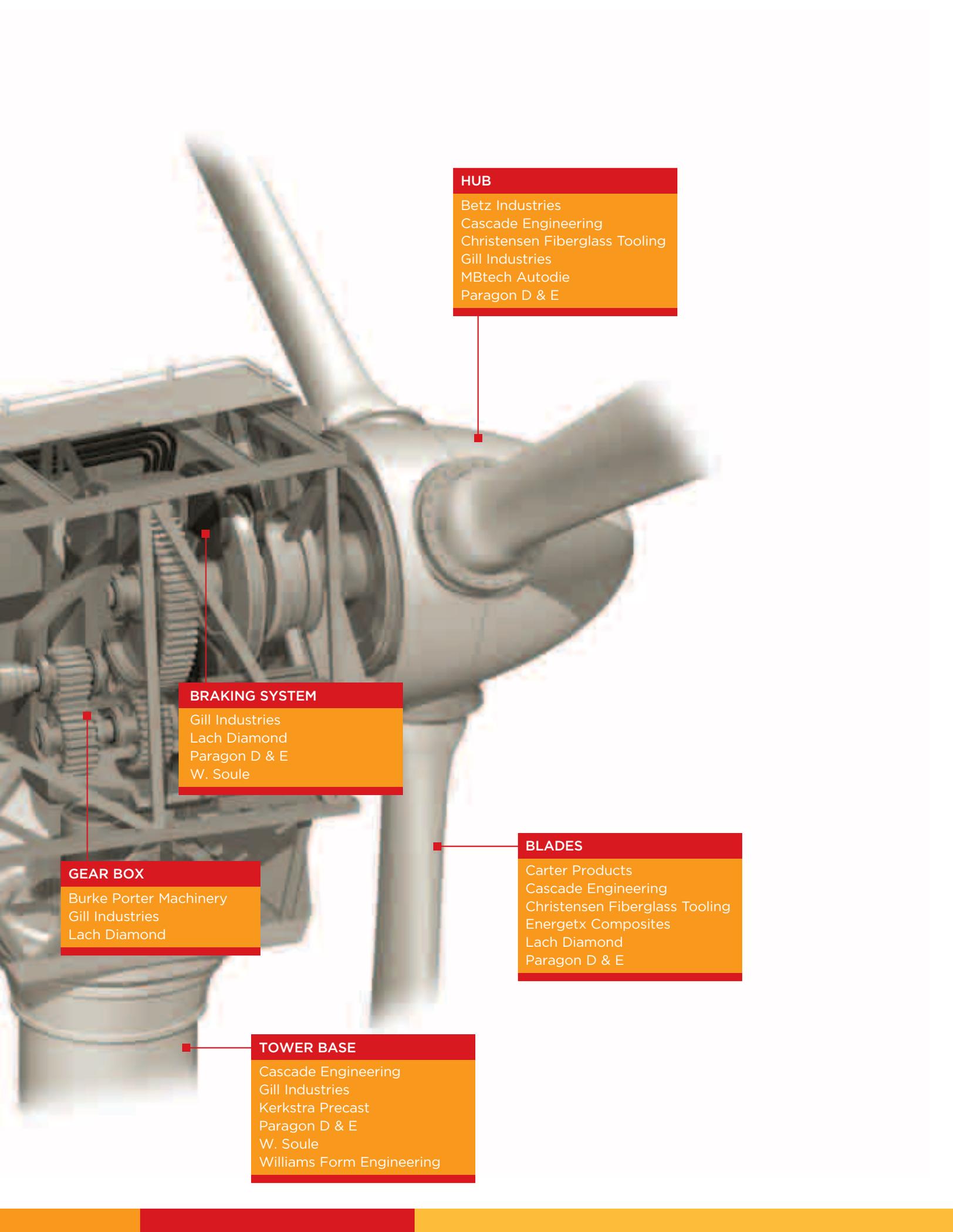
### EDUCATION/TRAINING

Grand Rapids Community College  
Kalamazoo Valley Community College  
Grand Valley State University  
Western Michigan University

### STRUCTURAL FRAMING

Betz Industries  
Burke Porter Machinery  
Genzink Steel  
Gill Industries  
Paragon D & E  
Shape Corporation  
W. Soule





**HUB**  
Betz Industries  
Cascade Engineering  
Christensen Fiberglass Tooling  
Gill Industries  
MBtech Autodie  
Paragon D & E

**BRAKING SYSTEM**  
Gill Industries  
Lach Diamond  
Paragon D & E  
W. Soule

**GEAR BOX**  
Burke Porter Machinery  
Gill Industries  
Lach Diamond

**BLADES**  
Carter Products  
Cascade Engineering  
Christensen Fiberglass Tooling  
Energetx Composites  
Lach Diamond  
Paragon D & E

**TOWER BASE**  
Cascade Engineering  
Gill Industries  
Kerkstra Precast  
Paragon D & E  
W. Soule  
Williams Form Engineering

**“We’re grateful to The Right Place for their assistance and support as we move through the process of developing and implementing our plan for expansion. We’re looking forward to continuing this great relationship as we plant deeper roots here in Michigan.”**

— Robert Woudstra, CEO, Farmers Insurance Group

## **Providing Expert Business Assistance**

The Right Place is your link to the West Michigan manufacturing and business network. We offer a variety of services including:

- Assisting with site selection for business expansion and relocation
- Designing, with local and state entities, incentive packages tailored to your project
- Identifying financial assistance providers, potential partners and customers
- Customized research services, including area demographics and labor statistics
- Linking you to area workforce development and training resources
- Introducing companies to the West Michigan business community as well as regional and national business leaders

## **Aggressive Business Incentives**

From Michigan’s \$2 billion 21st Century Jobs Fund to significant and long-term tax incentives, few other areas can offer a more attractive financial incentive package. The Right Place, along with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and local municipal partners, is here to maximize your Michigan business relationships and presence.

## **Michigan’s Renewable Portfolio Standard**

Michigan’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) includes a streamlined regulatory process and empowers electric service providers to produce or purchase 10% of the electricity they sell to retail customers in Michigan from renewable sources by 2015. The percentage of alternative energy sources is planned to increase to 20% by 2025.



161 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 400  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
p 616.771.0325 e [info@rightplace.org](mailto:info@rightplace.org)  
[www.rightplace.org](http://www.rightplace.org)