

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Academy offers wind energy technicians training

Portland Business Journal

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The **International Air and Hospitality Academy** in Vancouver, Wash., is launching a new training center for wind energy technicians starting in July.

The 30-year-old academy will offer the wind energy technician course in a separate division called the Northwest Renewable Energy Institute that will later include courses for other renewable technologies.

Arch Miller, founder of the privately-owned academy, said the new course comes in response to increased demand for wind power.

Miller said the number of wind power workers will grow from 85,000 to 450,000 if the U.S. Department of Energy meets its goal of having 20 percent of the nation's energy come from wind by 2030.

"That's a huge demand for new workers in this field, which today pays between \$36,000 and \$68,000 annually, depending on education and experience," he said.

The academy is in the process of hiring a director for the program, followed by 12 instructors. Another 19 employees will be hired to staff division, he said.

The program will begin in July with 40 students from around the country studying coursework "designed specifically for maintaining and servicing onshore wind generating turbines," the academy said in a news release.

More curriculum information is available on the institute's Web site, www.nwenergyinstitute.com.