

NAWEA 2013 Symposium, Aug. 7, 2013, Boulder, CO**Innovation / New Technology Session Summary and Highlights**

Chairs: Katherine Dykes, Andrew Myers, Christopher Niezrecki

Speakers: Eric Smith, Keystone Tower Systems, Glen Whitehouse, Continuum Dynamics,
Josh Paquette, Sandia National Laboratory, Damon VanderLind, Google

The Session on Innovative and New Technology was well attended and of great interest to the participants of the NAWEA Symposium. The session allowed the attendees to think beyond the conventional and included three talks that had a fundamentally different approach compared to conventional wind energy harvesting systems.

The first talk by Mr. Eric Smith of Keystone Tower Systems introduced a brand-new on-site steel tower manufacturing technology that will allow turbines to reach significantly higher hub heights than existing technology allows.

Dr. Glen Whitehouse of Continuum Dynamics presented work on variable geometry rotors that included both the use of smart material trailing edge actuators for reducing loads on traditional rotors and a vertical-axis concept that can adjust swept area and fold up to avoid storm loads.

Mr. Josh Paquette of Sandia National Laboratories shared his team's work on new vertical-axis wind turbine technology for offshore wind turbines.

Lastly, Mr. Damon Vander Lind of Makani Power, Google [X] presented the opportunities and challenges of airborne wind systems.

All talks engaged the audience and provoked healthy discussions about these differing technologies.