



Southwest Windpower gets injection of investment money

By DAILY SUN STAFF
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Southwest Windpower has received about \$10 million from an investment group that includes GE Energy Financial Services, a vice president said today.

The money will go toward more research on building quieter, more-efficient wind turbines, and into expanding in China and Western Europe, said Southwest Windpower's Andy Kruse.

The research and investment money will not, however, mean the company is able to hire back any of the 14 manufacturing staff it laid off last month amid lagging sales, Kruse said, though he hopes that will be a reality as the economy improves.

The company is looking to produce small wind turbines in China, for sale in China, that would power a typical household containing a small television, two lights, a fan, and a radio.

"There's roughly 300 million people in China that live without electricity," Kruse said. "That's roughly the population of the United States."

In Germany, the company has four employees, and is looking to expand around Western Europe by offering larger residential wind turbines tied to the electricity grid, as opposed to smaller ones used to fuel batteries in isolated cabins and sailboats.