



**July 9, 2003  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

Dr Kristin Larson, 3TIER Environmental Forecast Group Inc., (206) 325-1573

## **3TIER Environmental Forecast Group and the University of Washington Announce Joint Research Initiative**

SEATTLE, WA. — 3TIER Environmental Forecast Group Inc. and the University of Washington announced today a bold initiative to jointly develop next-generation computer algorithms for forecasting the energy produced at large wind projects. Dr Kristin Larson, who will be leading the effort at 3TIER, explains that the development of these algorithms will further the expansion of wind energy. “This is an excellent opportunity to use the combined expertise of the University of Washington and 3TIER to develop new technologies and methods to advance renewable energies,” said Larson. “We are very excited about all the possibilities.”

Dr. Tilmann Gneiting, a professor in the University of Washington’s Department of Statistics, will oversee the University’s research responsibilities. Professor Gneiting has conducted extensive research in the development and integration of space-time statistical forecasting methods, and is ideally suited for this project.

The first year goals of the project will focus on short-range wind forecasting, a critical issue for both system operators and energy power marketers. More accurate wind forecasts translate into higher system reliability and lower costs. Later research will focus on improving wind forecasts at longer lead times, an issue that will be of increasing importance as wind energy production levels increase in future years, especially in regions with significant hydropower assets.

This project received funding from the Washington Technology Center (WTC) and its Research and Technology Development (RTD) program. WTC provides support each year to research projects that involve partnerships between university researchers and companies. Designed to assist Washington companies with 250 or less employees, the RTD program seeks to solve industry needs by applying academic expertise and technology from any of Washington’s research universities.

### **About 3TIER**

3TIER specializes in atmospheric and hydrological forecasting and consulting services. The firm uses state-of-the-art weather, snow, and streamflow prediction models and strategies to provide a wide range of environmental forecasts primarily for energy clients. <http://www.3tierrgroup.com>.

### **About the Washington Technology Center**

The Washington Technology Center is Washington’s statewide science and technology organization committed to accelerating the innovation-based economy. WTC stimulates job growth in Washington’s companies by helping develop commercially viable technology. Since 1995, over 200 Washington companies working with WTC have secured over \$280 million in outside financing or federal contracts. More than half the companies receiving WTC funding have had fewer than 100 employees. WTC also manages a Microfabrication Laboratory, a nationally recognized facility for research, technology development, and prototype manufacturing.