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CONTACT: Chris Park, Communications
(206) 354-9026
cpark@3tiergroup.com

**3TIER scientists present latest advances
in wind forecasting and assessment at the CanWEA Annual
Conference and World Wind Energy Conference**

***Ability to accurately forecast rapid ramp events and integration of wind
power reduces risk for developers, utilities and energy traders***

Quebec City, Canada and Mar del Plata, Argentina – Power grid operators, plant managers and energy traders will soon have a new forecasting tool that predicts sudden changes in wind energy production to help them reduce operating costs and increase system reliability and revenue, Eric Gruit, Ph.D., told attendees at the CanWEA 2007 Annual Conference today.

“As more wind farms come online, it is increasingly important to anticipate the rapid fluctuations in wind energy as a result of large changes in wind speed,” said Dr. Gruit, numerical weather prediction scientist at 3TIER, a renewable energy assessment and forecasting company headquartered in Seattle. “These events impact entire wind facilities and even adjacent wind projects. By using accurate day-ahead forecasts, operators can cost-effectively manage the changes in wind energy and avoid the usual negative impacts.

“To address the problems resulting from rapid ramp events, 3TIER is currently building a prototype day-ahead forecast system,” he said. “It will allow people to have the information they need in real-time so they can make informed operational decisions for their wind projects.”

Forecasting panel chair Pascal Storck, 3TIER North America president added, “Developing a tool to forecast rapid ramp events is a result of 3TIER’s ongoing commitment into finding the most powerful solutions for our clients. We realize the only way to reduce the risks associated with wind energy is to provide the best information possible.”

Also today at the World Wind Energy Conference (WVEC) in Mar del Plata, Argentina, Cameron Potter, Ph.D., a power prediction engineer at 3TIER, is making a presentation on how numerical weather models offer a more accurate method of determining regional power curves.

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Dr. Potter notes that, “historically finding the best way to integrate new wind projects with the existing power grid has been a challenge. This new research finds that traditional techniques can be the source of large errors in the data used for integration.

“When looking at an entire wind farm, relying on a single deterministic power curve to convert wind speed to power output is inadequate,” Potter said. “Instead a more advanced simulation technique must be used. We have found that our models provide more accurate information by looking at characteristics from not just one point, but from several hundred locations within a region.

“By leveraging our strong scientific experience, 3TIER is able to develop another new assessment tool for our clients so they have the knowledge they need to successfully integrate their project into the existing power grid.”

About 3TIER

Founded in 1999, Seattle-based 3TIER is the largest independent provider of wind, solar and hydro energy assessment and power forecasting worldwide. People around the world turn to 3TIER when they want the best scientific information to make decisions about their renewable energy projects—from the prospecting stage to operations. For more information, visit 3tiergroup.com.

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