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Wednesday, September 17, 2008 - 12:26 PM EDT | Modified: Wednesday, September 17, 2008 - 2:53 PM

## WindPole signs deal for national wind farm study

 Boston Business Journal - by [Jackie Noblett](#) Boston Business Journal

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**WindPole Ventures** LLC has inked a deal with **American Tower Corp.** to use AMT's old microwave towers to conduct wind farm feasibility testing.

The agreement between the Boston wind farm developer and Boston communication tower owner (NYSE: AMT) allows WindPole access to nearly 1,200 microwave towers across the contiguous United States for wind monitoring. Those towers, originally built by AT&T (NYSE: T) for Cold War-era defense communications, are the ideal height and in the right location to determine whether the location is suitable for wind turbines, according to WindPole.

"We believe access to these sites and evaluation of their wind assets will support our strategy of implementing distributed wind generation

resources across the country. In addition, we believe the long-standing existence of these massive towers will hasten approval of attractive sites," Steve Kropper, CEO of WindPole Ventures, said in a statement.

The approval process for wind farm citing can be a long, arduous process depending on how much local opposition there is to wind development. The towers WindPole plans to work with already have some of the necessary permits and infrastructure necessary to expedite potential development of the sites.

After the 18-month access agreement with AMT expires, WindPole will investigate potential development paths for the tower sites deemed hospitable for wind generation. In an interview with the BBJ, Kropper said the developers would either build turbines on the site adjacent to the towers or, if the technology is commercialized, actually install the turbines directly on any unused towers.

WindPole would have to arrange a sale or lease agreement with AMT for any sort of development, and Kropper declined to speculate on which avenue the company may pursue.

An AMT spokesman said that decisions on a development agreement will be made after WindPole completes its feasibility study.

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