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Wind turbines
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Interestingly, the wind turbines proposed by Dutch firm **Blue H** for the Maine Coast ("Wind Power Firm Eyes Maine, "August 9-10) have their roots right here in New England, where their design was developed by my father, Glidden S. Doman.

In the 1980's, my father led efforts at United Technologies in Hartford to develop large, two-bladed turbines, initially tested in Medicine Bow, Wyo. and later produced for the Italian government. He moved to Rome to head the latter project team, and eventually purchased his own design back from the Italian government firm. Returning to the U.S., he founded Gamma Ventures with offices in Granby, Conn. and Italy.

The engineering innovations underlying all these turbines evolved from his pioneering work in helicopter rotor dynamics during World War II at Sikorsky, and later at his own firm, Doman Helicopters - both in Connecticut. Several of his helicopter inventions are now on permanent display at the New England Air Museum in Hartford.

Last year the Netherlands firm **Blue H** launched plans to adapt the Gamma turbines for use on platforms in deep water. The far-offshore locations will mitigate impacts on birdlife, coastal fishing, and aesthetics, while my father's design will produce electricity far more efficiently than do typical three-bladed turbines. This is partly thanks to a teeter hinge system, common in helicopters, that my father adapted for wind turbines. The hinge enables the blades to turn easily to face shifting wind, rather than having to "fight" it.

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