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## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

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# Pensions Tack With the Wind

*Funds Pursue Low Risk, High Yields in Power From the Skies*

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*London*  
**P**ENSION FUNDS ARE banking on a favorable wind to steer them to an alternative source of low-risk, high-yield investment.

Wind farms have gone mainstream in recent years as better technology, long-term government subsidies and pressure to reduce fossil fuels have turned them into an alternative source of revenue for investors.

"Pension funds and equity investors are pouring money into the wind sector," said John Dunlop, manager of the renewable-energy finance department at HSH Nordbank in London and author of a report on wind-power project returns. "You're getting pretty fat dividends."

Wind power, which has been most widespread in Europe, is going global. According to the European Wind Energy Association, global demand for wind turbines increased 43% in 2005. The U.S. led the world in newly installed capacity, adding 51 wind farms in 22 states. Specialist

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But the amount of money being invested in wind energy is increasing quickly. Private-equity investment in wind power amounted to almost \$4 billion in 2005, or 55% of total private investment in all forms of renewable energy, which include biomass, biofuels, geothermal, minihydro, marine and solar energy systems, according to New Energy Finance, a London firm providing financial information to investors in renewable energy. Wind-related companies around the world raised \$1.3 billion in stock sales in 2005 and the first six months of this year.

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