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Tiny Windmills Could Power Smartphones One Day



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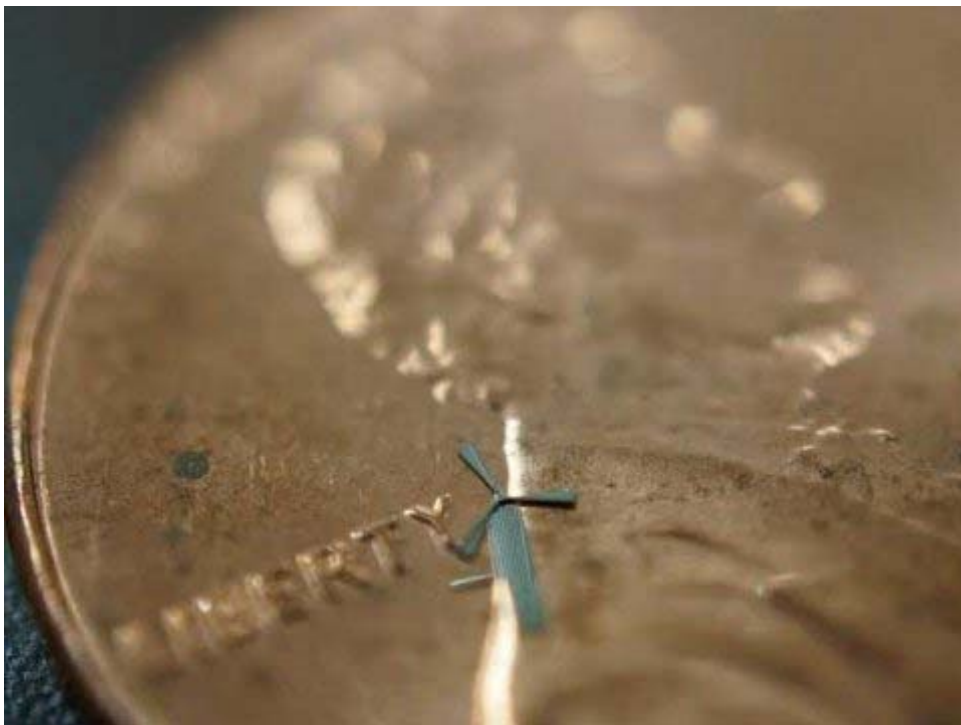
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[Courtesy Of University of Texas Arlington](#)

10 micro-windmills can fit on a single grain of rice. This image shows a penny for comparison.

Researchers in the University of Texas Arlington have developed a micro-windmill that [could help recharge phone batteries](#).

The device is about 1.8 mm at its widest point and the windmills are so small, you would be able to fit ten of them on a single grain of rice.

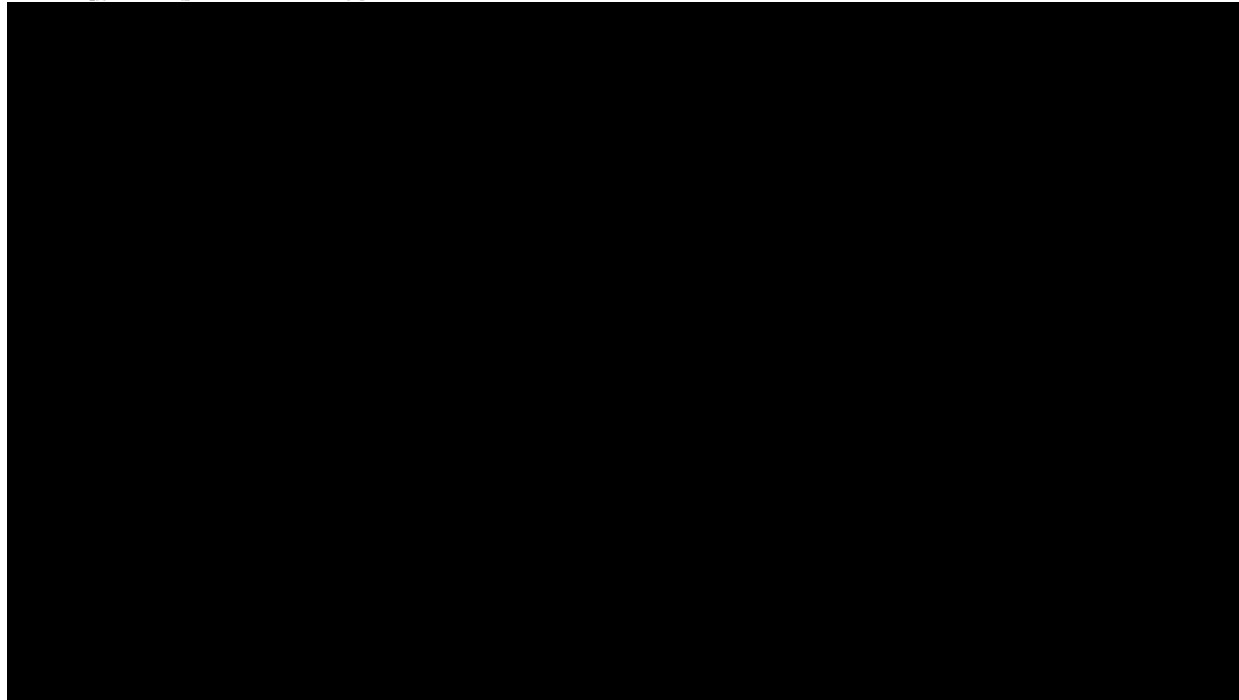
The researchers say that hundreds of the windmills could be embedded in a sleeve for a phone.

Holding the phone up on a windy day or waving the phone around would generate the electricity needed to help charge its battery.

The metal alloy used to create the micro-windmill is flexible and durable and the researchers say they can withstand strong winds without fracturing.

Taiwanese tech company WinMEMS has struck a deal with the team to explore the opportunities for commercialisation.


Here's one of the windmills in action, although whether you will see them on a product remains to be seen.



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