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Micro Windmills to Recharge Cellphones | New Technology

By Abhishek Garg | January 19, 2014

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Now a days Mobile has become a basic need. But dying phone battery is an ever-present problem. Researchers from Texas have find out solution to this problem. They have developed micro windmills just 1.8mm wide. These windmills can transform wind energy into electric energy. According to designers these windmills can be fitted to phone case and user could charge their phone just by waving it in air.



Working of Micro Windmills

These Micro windmills consist of tiny blades that spin in the wind. Blades are connected to a mini generator via shafts. Therefore blades turn shaft connected to generator. This generator is connected to phone's battery or other device that demands energy to run.

Each micro windmill is made up of flexible nickel alloy components that are capable of taking strong winds without breaking. These windmills are so small that 10 of them can be easily fit onto a single grain of rice. Due to very small size of windmills, it is possible to create windmills on a portable electronics and then place it on sleeve of your smartphone.

This technology was developed by micro-engineering experts at the University of Texas Arlington(UTA). According to designers hundred of windmills could easily recharge a phone in few seconds. When our device is running out of power, user could either wave his/her hand in air or just put the device in front of a fan to rotate windmills an getting power from them.

Professor J.C. Chiao said, "The micro windmills work well because the metal alloy is flexible and the design follows minimalism for functionality."

Professor Smitha Rao added, "The problem most designers have is that materials are too brittle. With the nickel alloy, we don't have that same issue. They are very durable."

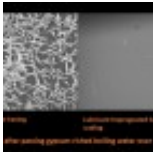
Taiwanese fabrication foundry WinMEMS Technologies owns exclusive rights to sell this concept. But it is not known when micro windmills could be available for the costumers. The research team has also developed **gears, pop-up switches, inductors** and **grippers**, having dimensions as small as that of fraction of diameter of Human hair.

Also a statement from University that these inventions are essential for development of **micro robots**, which could be used as surgical tools, manufacturing tools to assemble micro machines, sensing machines etc.

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