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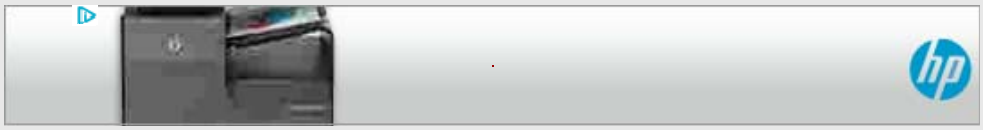

Researchers create 'micro-windmills' that could one day power our smartphones

By Shawn Knight

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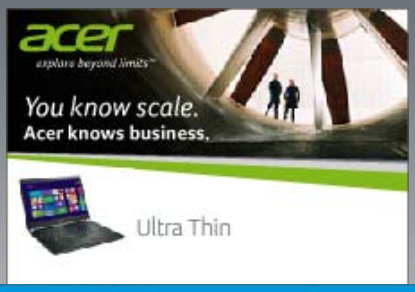
Bigger is usually seen as better in terms of generating power but that's not always the case. Researcher J.C. Chiao and his team at the University of Texas Arlington have developed micro-windmills that could one day power your smartphone.



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They're so small that 10 of them can fit onto a single grain of rice and if a couple hundred are mounted on your handset and held out of a window or simply waved about, they could recharge your phone from a dead state within just a few minutes.

Despite the fact that they're only 1/15 of an inch wide, their nickel-alloy construction ensures the windmills can endure prolonged exposure to strong winds without sustaining any damage. A fabrication foundry in Taiwan has obtained exclusive rights to commercialize the technology although there's no timeline as to when we might see them show up in our pockets.

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Puiu said: 2 weeks ago

Well I must admit that I am impressed, but with solar getting cheaper and better this can only be seen as a good replacement at night or in places where sunlight is not present (indoors maybe)

REPLY

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C'mon man this is ridiculous. Higher density batteries is the answer but heaven knows when we'll be seeing them.

REPLY

MilwaukeeMike said: 2 weeks ago

> C'mon man this is ridiculous. Higher density batteries is the answer but heaven knows when we'll be seeing them.

You know... a few stories down from this one was the weekend tech reading with a battery breakthrough in it that's already available on the market.

[link]

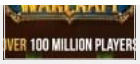
REPLY

OneSpeed said: 1 person liked this | 2 weeks ago

Wait. Here it comes. Apple is readying a patent for this...

REPLY

VitalyT said: 2 weeks ago



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supercharged by: turbobytes

Mr Garrison wants to know if they make one as a butt-hole insert, with an optional whistle to signal the incoming charges...

REPLY

wastedkill said: 2 weeks ago

Micro windmills for micro cities you heard it folks its the makers of simcity you got it its Apple they have created a new real life game all made with micro stuff.

REPLY

captainawesome said: 2 weeks ago

Wouldn't it make more sense to create a little farm that could be plugged into the charge port on your phone for when you need to charge it rather than have tiny little obtrusive things protruding from the phone at all times?

REPLY

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