Ocean Wind Power Maps Reveal Possible Wind Energy Sources

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WASHINGTON, July 9 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Efforts to harness the energy potential of Earth's ocean winds could soon gain an important new tool: global satellite maps from NASA. Scientists have been creating maps using nearly a decade of data from NASA's QuikSCAT satellite that reveal ocean areas where winds could produce wind energy. The new maps have many potential uses including planning the location of offshore wind farms to convert wind energy into electric energy. The research, published this week in Geophysical Research Letters, was funded by NASA's Earth Science Division, which works to advance the frontiers of scientific discovery about Earth, its climate and its future. "Wind energy is environmentally friendly. After the initial energy investment to build and install wind turbines, you don't burn fossil fuels...

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