

# CONVERSATION

## Steven Elrod

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### Tell us about Blade Service Rotor Technic USA and its core philosophy.

BS Rotor Technic USA, LLC has been servicing the wind industry in the U.S. since 2009 and is committed in providing prompt technical and professional services to wind-farm owners and operators.

With several years of experience with one of the world's largest rotor blade manufacturers, we can utilize our technical knowledge and expertise in the service and repair of wind-turbine rotor blades.

### What are your duties with BS Rotor?

As the general manager of BS Rotor Technic USA, it is my duty first and foremost to be dedicated to our customers, to be a leader in interacting with our team of professionals,

and ensuring that we provide professional services in a safe and workman-like manner.

### What are some of the areas BS Rotor specializes in?

We specialize in wind-turbine rotor blade inspections, repairs, tower cleaning, and spare parts. We are able to utilize many different options for our customers to achieve cost savings such as: ground-based rotor-blade inspections; tower cleaning; unmanned UAV inspections of rotor blades, towers and nacelles; rope access inspections; and platform access rotor blade repairs.

### What goes into inspecting turbines?

Inspections start either with a customer request for inspection or because a technician has identified and reported an issue to the customer. A proposal is then submitted for approval of a purchase order that is provided by the customer.

Once the schedule is accepted, we provide a Job Safety Analysis (JSA), submit certifications for the technicians performing the inspections, participate in site-specific safety orientation, and follow the customer's and BS Rotor Technic USA's safety protocols at all times during the inspections. We provide detailed, photographic reports of damage, including location and severity, for each of

the inspected wind turbines. Upon completion, depending on the severity of damage, the customer is advised if the wind turbine can be left in service or if it is recommended that the wind turbine be taken out of service until repairs are performed.

### After an inspection, a blade needs to be repaired. What happens next?

Once approved access for the repair is agreed upon with safety and cost savings for the customer in mind, a proposal for repair is submitted for approval. A JSA and certifications are provided to the customer with a schedule that is based on weather conditions and other variables.

Without disclosing proprietary repair procedures, we access the repair location and complete the repair as required. We provide a detailed report to the customer with photographs showing conditions before, during, and after the repair.

### Your company stresses environmental health and safety, how do you keep that goal in check?

BS Rotor Technic USA continually stresses the importance of safety with training to achieve our certifications and re-certifications prior to expiration dates.

BS Rotor Technic USA Health and Safety and JSA documentation

is provided to our customers prior to the start of our projects, with changes to the JSA, as needed, to describe the hazards and the best practices to mitigate those hazards.

BS Rotor Technic USA employee tailboard meetings are held daily, as well as customer-based tailboard meetings, to be aware of the hazards and conditions that exist on each site. We gather signatures of all meeting participants.

**You have an exclusive affiliation with several big industry companies. Could you name a few and how you interact with them?**

We are the preferred vendor for blade inspections and repairs for several leading O&M companies, and we have exclusive affiliations with Nu tech Wind parts for supplies of components of aftermarket spares for many legacy turbines such as V-27, V-47, Meg Micon 750, Gamesa G 5X, etc. and current turbines such as GE 1.5, Gamesa G-80, Vestas V-80, V-90, etc.

We also represent Carlson Energy and Multi Gear AG for wind-turbine gearboxes and generators.

**Where do you see the wind industry headed in 2017?**

The wind industry will continue to grow as costs of operations and maintenance are coming down and reliability is improving. The leveled cost of electricity for wind is getting very competitive.

The challenge is the low power purchase agreement pricing. It needs to improve for the owners to continue investing in wind energy. ✎



BS Rotor Technic USA has several years of experience and uses its technical knowledge and expertise in the service and repair of wind-turbine rotor blades. (Courtesy: BS Rotor Technic USA)