

# EDITOR'S DESK

DECEMBER 2017

## Construction, transportation, and a webinar

**W**ow! Another year is about to be in the books, and for the wind industry, it's looking more and more as though 2018 will be a banner year.

To help celebrate the holidays we at *Wind Systems* are offering our readers a bit of an early gift: On December 12, we will be chairing a webinar in partnership with New Energy Update on how gearboxes can be operated differently in order to increase reliability and expected lifetimes.

The gearbox is the heart of a wind turbine, so if you're an O&M manager, plant manager, or technician in the U.S., this webinar will share insights from the European market.

The webinar starts at 11 a.m. EST, so mark it on your calendar. But before the big event, you can go to [bit.ly/WSMWebinar](http://bit.ly/WSMWebinar) for details and sign-up information. You can also find information about it on our website at [www.windsystemsmag.com](http://www.windsystemsmag.com). Hope to see you there. It should provide a wealth of information.

And speaking of information, check out what's in our December issue.

Construction and transportation are always a big part of making a wind turbine a reality so, in this issue, we have several articles that focus on those big topics.

More often than not, wind farms and the roads that lead to them are sited on soft soil that can cause surface failure if not properly reinforced. Tensar International has developed a technology that can stabilize areas more efficiently and economically than previous methods. An expert from Tensar gives a crash course in how this technology, called geogrid, can assist in wind-farm construction.

Offshore wind is gaining traction in the U.S., and a challenge that it presents is getting turbines to their watery final destination. The president of A.K. Suda, Ajay Suda, shares his insights on the evolution of offshore wind farm installation vehicles and how the oil and gas sector has helped the wind industry better prepare for offshore construction.

And in our Conversation, I talk with Lindsay Buffum Delahunty, a construction project manager with Harvest Energy Services. She details what's involved with getting a wind project off the ground and how her company is committed to safety and the environment.

You'll find that and much more in this issue so, in between sipping eggnog and roasting chestnuts (does anyone really do that anymore?), enjoy some interesting articles on where wind is going and what's needed to get it there.

Have a super-safe holiday season, and here's to a prosperous and windy new year.

Thanks for reading!



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## Cities across U.S. keep looking to wind

Courtesy of AWEA

- More than 40 cities have passed commitments to go 100 percent clean energy, mostly by the mid-2030s. Mayors from nearly 500 more cities have signaled their intention to do the same by signing pledges to go 100 percent clean energy or to reduce their carbon emissions.
- Of the cities that have already gone 100 percent clean energy, most of them relied heavily on wind power. Greensburg, Kansas, runs on nearly 100 percent wind energy.
- As of mid-2016, cities have purchased just less than 8 GW of wind energy. That means municipal buyers have accounted for 9 percent of the 84.9 GW of wind capacity in the United States. (Data from AWEA's WindIQ)
- Austin, Texas, holds the title of first and biggest municipal buyer of wind energy. They currently have 1.2 GW of wind capacity, more than any other municipality.
- Other big wind buyers include San Antonio, Texas, with just more than 1 GW, Los Angeles with nearly 900 MW, and Lincoln, Nebraska, with 400 MW. Combined with Austin, these four municipal wind buyers are responsible for nearly half of all municipal wind capacity. (Data from AWEA's WindIQ)

The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) is the premier national trade association that represents the

interests of America's wind energy industry. For more information, go to [www.awea.org](http://www.awea.org)



### Cable Management for Wind Turbines



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