

EDITOR'S DESK

DECEMBER 2016

Wrapping Up a Good Year for Wind

Since I became managing editor of *Wind Systems* in June, a goal has been to make the magazine more user-friendly as well as expanding our articles that hit on current trends in the industry.

In our December issue, you will see a few changes that should help improve *Wind Systems* in making it your go-to source for news about wind power.

A subtle, but logical, change is with our valuable contributors. It's important that readers know who these experts are, and we want to make that information easier to find. Now, you'll be able to discover our writers' backgrounds in wind at the end of every article.

A new feature premiering in this issue is a monthly wind facts column from AWEA. It takes the place of our contributors page just opposite of this page. Each month, AWEA will serve up some interesting quick items about wind power and the industry. I hope you enjoy it.

We've worked to make the package look better, but what's inside that package for December is still every bit as educational and informative.

Wind Systems' main focus for December is on construction and transportation.

Lightning is probably a wind turbine's greatest enemy. Damage for lightning strikes can account for a lot of downtime during the life of an asset.

To help combat this costly enemy, Sankosha-USA offers an article about a new conductive grounding cement that will help protect turbines from dangerous electrical storms. Erecting those massive turbines is no easy feat. Wanzek shares an article on the importance of cranes and their need in building and maintaining wind farms.

Our company profile is with Terex Cranes, another company that is quintessential in constructing turbines and in keeping them turning.

Of course, those cranes can't put a turbine into the air if those gigantic components can't get to where they need to be in the first place. Logisticus Group talks about what's being done to transport larger and larger blades to their final destination.

Still a key factor in wind is innovation, and in that section, we spotlight a system that is making wind power possible in wind-starved areas, proving that the wind industry has the ability to reshape power production just about anywhere.

A lot has happened in the industry in 2016, and 2017 looks to be a good year as well. In our Crosswinds section, we chat with Duncan McIntyre, the president of Altenex, an Edison Energy Company. In that article, McIntyre talks about what the industry might expect in 2017 and beyond.

Those are just a few highlights of what awaits you in our last issue of 2016. So, enjoy, and if you have any suggestions or want to contribute, I'd love to hear from you. We're all in this together to make a strong industry even stronger.

Happy Holidays and a windy New Year! ✍



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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Carter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized flourish at the end.



Wind Has Rural Economic Benefits

Courtesy of AWEA

- Wind turbine technician is America's fastest growing job, expected to increase by 108 percent over the next 10 years.
- Farmers, ranchers, and other landowners were paid \$222 million in lease payments in 2015 alone for hosting wind turbines.
- The construction of wind farms has attracted \$128 billion of private investment into the U.S. economy over the past decade.
- More than two-thirds of operating installed wind capacity is in low-income counties, which brings new revenue to the communities where it's needed most.
- Landowners with wind turbines on their property are twice as likely to invest in their farms as landowners in townships without wind farms.

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



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