

EDITOR'S DESK

MARCH 2017

Growth Equals Good News for Wind

The wind industry has been gushing since the American Wind Energy Association released its “Fourth Quarter 2016 U.S. Wind Industry Report” in February. That’s because that report showed American wind power had its second strongest quarter ever for newly installed energy-generating capacity.

It proves that wind power is no longer Republican red or Democratic blue, but money green. And states such as Texas and Iowa are leading the way. Wind power is moving through Texas into the Plains states and all across the Midwest creating 89 percent of newly completed capacity in 2016. That’s good news for the industry, and it’s good news for the myriad of companies responsible for the systems, components, and parts that make up a wind turbine.

In this month’s *Wind Systems*, experts in their fields are sharing their insights into making sure turbines stay spinning through their lifetimes.

AeroTorque offers up its expertise on the components that make up a turbine and when is the best time to upgrade them.

Premature gearbox failure can be a major issue, and Spectro Scientific takes a look at some industry technology that can diagnose wear faults in machine applications.

Shockwatch examines vibrations and how to monitor them from the time parts ship to the time a turbine makes its last spin in order to prevent costly downtime.

And in our Conversation, SparkCognition’s Stuart Gellen discusses how his company is developing proprietary software that monitors systems and alerts asset owners of problems and the best time to tackle them before they become expensive liabilities.

In our company profile, we spotlight NTC Wind Energy. This family-owned Texas company has been supplying components — including its revolutionary bolt cap — for more than two decades to help keep turbines standing tall.

In this month’s Crosswinds, I talked with the CEO of Accio Energy. If you’re a Harry Potter fan, that company name is not a coincidence. It is the same summoning spell used by the students of Hogwarts.

Accio’s new technology will create electricity from wind without the use of conventional turbines. It mimics how thunderstorms create lightning, a process that seems almost like — you guessed it — magic. It’s a fascinating development, and one that I wish every success. The more players out there can only mean continued good things for renewable energy and the environment.

That’s just a taste of the good news and good information you’ll find in this issue of *Wind Systems*. I hope you enjoy it.

And, as always, thanks for reading! ↴



Kenneth Carter, managing editor
Wind Systems magazine
editor@windssystemsmag.com
(800) 366-2185, ext. 204

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Carter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being the most prominent.



Wind Energy Pulls Ahead of Hydropower

Courtesy of AWEA

- Wind energy has passed hydropower to become America's largest source of renewable energy generating capacity.
- Wind power is now the country's fourth largest source of electricity overall.
- The wind power workforce now exceeds 100,000 jobs, according to the Department of Energy.
- Farmers and ranchers who host wind turbines received \$245 million in lease payments in 2016.
- With North Carolina's Amazon wind farm coming online, 41 states now have utility-scale projects.

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



Giving Wind Direction

WIND SYSTEMS

SEEKING OPPORTUNITY?



Scan *Wind Systems* website to enjoy a host of features, including:

- Our new jobs listing, for employers and jobs seekers alike
- Events calendar to keep you informed
- A searchable articles archive, downloadable individually
- View the digital magazine, or download entire issues
- Vendor listings, along with our annual Buyer's Guide
- Company profiles and Q&As
- Connect to the wind industry through social media
- Wind industry news from around the world

Visit windsystemsmag.com today and get connected!