

MAINTENANCE

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REMOTE SITE MONITORING EXPANDS REACH TO GLOBAL PROPORTIONS

Industry veterans Gamesa and Iberdrola align to facilitate distance-based wind farm management tool

Gamesa and the Iberdrola Group, through its engineering and construction subsidiary, have launched a wind sector-pioneering system which enables the remote management, using a single interface, of any make of wind turbine, anywhere in the world.

Leveraging both firms' know-how and experience in the wind sector, this new system, called WindCORE® + WindOne®, enables operators to control and monitor this class of renewable facilities from a distance, analyze their operating data and generate reports with a view to optimising their electricity output.

This tool developed jointly by Gamesa and Iberdrola has become an indispensable tool for supervising, in real time and from a single control center, the multiple variables which can affect a wind farm's operations, from wind speed at each turbine to their temperature, intensity, and production. Analysis of these variables feeds the development of predictive models which in turn facilitate operations and maintenance work.

In addition, the WindCORE® + WindOne® system is

capable of operating, using a single interface, turbines made by any manufacturer, doing away with the need for a different software programme for each technology brand, as is the case with most of the systems being used at present.

"Gamesa operates over 400 wind farms worldwide from its control center in Sarriguren (Navarra). With over 10,000 MW in operation, and reinforced by Iberdrola's know-how, we want to offer this value-added tool to our customers so that they can get the most out of their wind farms by operating them to the highest performance specifications", said Fernando Valdeperes, director of services sales & marketing at Gamesa.

"The versatility of WindCORE® + WindOne®, the result of a collaborative development between two of the sector's leaders, will pave the way for its implementation in any environment while respecting each customer's proprietary communications network infrastructure and management tools," said Iberdrola's Javier Ontañón Ruiz.

SCOTTISH DEVELOPER TAPS POWER CLIMBER WIND FOR TOWER CLIMB ASSISTS

Power Climber Wind, a division of SafeWorks, LLC, recently installed 75 IBEX® Climb Assist Systems at three wind farms in Scotland.

The system allows the wind turbine technician to have complete control of the climbing experience, delivering personalized performance, increased safety, and better productivity. The IBEX 1000P utilizes a patented closed feedback loop and EasyClimb Controller, and features a lightweight, compact, portable control box.

Fred Olsen Renewables purchased a combination of IBEX 1000s and IBEX 1000Ps to install on turbines at three of its Scotland wind plants — Rothes I, Cristal Rig I, and Paul's Hill.

"IBEX is the market-leading climb assist globally, and we're excited to see one of the leading wind project owners in the UK adopt it for their retrofit program," said Edwin Holtkamp, director of sales for Power Climber International. "Repeat sales for new project construction as well as turbine retrofit efforts by leading global power producers testify to the level of customer satisfaction in this product and in Power Climber Wind. We anticipate IBEX to earn the same reputation in this region."

For more information visit powerclimberwind.com.



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HEADLINES

Gamesa awarded 8-year service contract in Spain

Gamesa has secured a new contract with Parques Eólicos Gestiver (a company 50%-owned by each of Gestamp Eólica and Genera Avante) to provide operation and maintenance services for 132 MW located in five wind farms in Spain.

Under the terms of the agreement, Gamesa will perform maintenance

services on 66 of its 2.0-2.5 MW platform wind turbines located in Lugo, Coruña, and Tarragona, Spain.

The contract contains an option for a five year extension, and renews the operation and maintenance agreement Gamesa has had for the five wind farms since their commissioning.

EDF Renewable Services sees 52 percent growth in Canada

EDF Renewable Services, a leading provider of O&M services in North America, signed contracts for 454 MW of wind and 134 MWp of solar in 2014, adding to the company's Canadian portfolio. These additions represent a 52 percent increase in contracted projects in the Canadian market through 27 individual projects in Quebec and Ontario, signifying the company's commitment to the Canadian renewable energy economy.

"We are pleased to continue expanding our depth of experience and presence in Canada, to assist

our customers in achieving operational excellence., said Dalen Copeland, director of business development for EDF Renewable Services, "From full O&M agreements, to customized monitoring, engineering support, SCADA solutions, balance-of-plant, and more, we leverage our more than 25 years of O&M expertise to optimize project availability and maximize profitability."

EDF Renewable Services operates over 8.5 gigawatts of wind, solar and biomass projects throughout the US, Canada, and Mexico.

GAMESA SEEKS CERTIFICATION OF TURBINE LIFETIME EXTENSION PROGRAM

DNV GL to examine “life-prolonging” measures of OEM’s G47 wind turbine

DNV GL, the world’s largest resource of independent energy experts, has been chosen by Gamesa, to certify its wind turbine lifetime extension program for the design of its G47 wind turbine, extending the lifetime to up to 30 years. The turbine lifetime extension programme aims to maximise the profitability of ageing wind farms by reducing the lifecycle-based costs of energy of existing turbines and keeping them operational for a longer period of time.

Although a lot of wind farms are still less than 20 years old, many owners anticipate that their assets will be affected by rising operation and maintenance costs. While existing turbines were certified by the standards in force at the time they were designed, greater technical knowledge and practical experience have led to more accurate models and new design standards. Upgrading the turbines to extend their design lifetime requires an in-depth understanding of all disciplines involved, in order to ensure a safe operation of the turbines after they have exceeded their original design lifetime.

Sergio Vélez, Director of Gamesa’s Life Extension program, said: “Extending wind turbine operation beyond

the original design life without additional risks for health, safety, environment and grid integration, is of huge benefit to the renewable energy industry. DNV GL’s certification supports our efforts in maximising the lifetime of our turbines and optimise its continuous operation.”

“Wind turbine lifetime extension is a vital step for the global renewable energy market to maximise efficiency and reducing costs,” said Andreas Schroeter, executive vice president-Renewables Certification of DNV GL. “One of the largest benefits of lifetime extensions for owners and operators is driving down the lifecycle-based costs of energy.”

Many wind farm owners in Europe and the U.S. are starting to consider operational strategies for turbines approaching the later stages of their design life. This provides them with the option to either replace their turbines or seek to extend their operational lives. In order to find suitable solutions from a technical point of view, DNV GL has published a guideline on the continued operation of wind turbines. This guideline has been the technical basis for the lifetime extension program of Gamesa’s G47 wind turbine.



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GEARBOX EXPRESS BUILDS 75,000 SQUARE-FOOT FACILITY IN WISCONSIN

Rapid growth, dwindling capacity prompts remanufacturer to double plant size

Gearbox Express, an independent company focused on providing down-tower, wind gearbox remanufacturing services, is building a 75,000-square-foot manufacturing facility south of Mukwonago, Wisconsin.

Founding partner and CEO Bruce Neumiller, CEO, cites lack of capacity to support the company's growth as the major reason. "When we started operations in 2012, we had a vision on how to help wind farm owners protect and manage their assets," said Neumiller. "Our growth has exceeded expectations to the point of needing to double our facility space. Owners are embracing the value we bring in keeping their investments running and we need a facility that helps us fulfill our promise to deliver efficient and high-quality customer service from a company bringing

dedicated gearing, bearing and gearbox expertise."

Gearbox Express is the first facility to be built in a newly established industrial park in Mukwonago, located about 30 miles west of Milwaukee. The new facility will incorporate the same climate-controlled and specialized mechanical offerings as the current location, including its highly flexible, technologically advanced 3.1MW test stand. The current test stand will relocate to the new site, but an additional plate will be added to maximize set-up.

Construction began in December and Gearbox Express is expected to be fully up-and-running by the end of third quarter, 2015.

— Source: Gearbox Express

PSI REPAIR SERVICES AMONG BUSINESS GROUP'S "BEST AND BRIGHTEST" EMPLOYERS

Recognition highlights company's commitment to promoting an employee-centric workplace

PSI Repair Services, Inc., a subsidiary of Phillips Service Industries and leading industrial component repair service, recently announced that it has been selected to the 2014 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For list by the National Association for Business Resources.

The winning companies were assessed by an independent research firm, which reviewed a number of key measures relative to other nationally recognized winners. They include compensation, benefits and employee solutions; employee enrichment, engagement, and retention; employee education and development; recruitment, selection, and orientation; employee achievement and

recognition; communication and shared vision; diversity and Inclusion; work-life balance; community initiatives; strategic company performance and the best of the best small business.

"Nationally recognized award recipients keep innovative human resource initiatives at the forefront of their company culture and make it a priority to consider their workforce as an essential aspect in their company success. Our Association is proud to recognize and honor these winning companies for this impressive achievement," said Jennifer Kluge, NABR president.

Established in 1967, PSI Repair Services offers the world's most com-

plete range of repair and engineering services to resolve poorly performing electronics, hydraulics, robotics and precision mechanical assemblies. PSI serves a wide range of industries and markets like automotive, aerospace, defense/military, food and beverage, healthcare, public transportation, and wind energy.

"PSI is a valued supplier and trusted partner to many customers all over the world because of our dedicated workforce," said Mike Fitzpatrick, general manager of PSI Repair Services, Inc. "We strive to provide a fun, team-oriented working environment that allows our talented employees to shine."