

TOTAL TRUST

WestWind relies on Condition Monitoring
from Bachmann – as a matter of conviction

WestWind is one Germany's leading full-service providers for the development of projects in the wind energy sector. The company's portfolio ranges from the design of wind farms to the operational management of its own plants or those of third parties. »wind.application« spoke to Jens Rösler, head of technical operational management at WestWind, about the benefits of Condition Monitoring, Bachmann's involvement and about friendships.



Gegründet 1998 ist WestWind energy einer von Deutschlands führenden Full-Service-Dienstleistern für Windenergieprojekte. Der Service erstreckt sich von der detaillierten Windparkplanung über die Finanzierung und Bauaufsicht bis hin zur technischen und kaufmännischen Betriebsführung der Windparks. Mit Sitz in Kirchdorf, im Norden Deutschlands, beschäftigt das Unternehmen rund 25 Mitarbeitende.

www.westwindenergy.net

wind.application: Why do you use a Condition Monitoring System (CMS)?

Jens Rösler: CMS allows us to ensure the early detection of damage in order to prevent the avoidable occurrence of major hardware failures and to optimize the planning of repairs. We try, for example, to move any repairs if possible to low wind periods, which occur between May and August. The early detection of wear damage, particularly to the bearings of major components of the drive train, and the resulting plannable replacement of components without any major downtimes, ensure the high energy availability of the wind turbines even when damage occurs. Reduced insurance premiums are another attractive benefit of the use of CMS.

wind.application: Why did you choose the CMS solution from Bachmann?

Jens Rösler: The innovative and future-proof concept greatly impressed us. From our first interactions, we noticed that the Bachmann employees are absolutely professional in their work, and do not settle their success to date, but always keep improving in order to keep up with the current state of the art. The price and the full-service monitoring offered also impressed us. The entire concept matches the philosophy at WestWind wonderfully. Since 2009, all plants with

gears are equipped with the Bachmann CMS and we are completely satisfied with it.

wind.application: Where do you use the Bachmann system?

Jens Rösler: All wind turbines with gears used in operational management at WestWind are always monitored by Bachmann Monitoring. This includes an NM 60/1000 (NEG Micon), two AN 1300s (AN Bonus) and seven GE 1.5sl turbines. These belong to the Marklohe/Wohlenhausen, Wagenfeld, Frestorf, Frestorf-West and Haustedt wind farms (all in Germany).

wind.application: What have been the specific benefits of the Bachmann system so far?

Jens Rösler: In the past we had a lot of main bearing damage on the GE turbines, which consisted of faulty generator bearings and two occurrences of damage to gears. One of these occurrences could be repaired on the installation thanks to early detection. Currently, we have a damaged generator bearing on a GE 1.5sl. In the planned repair, it was possible to also replace a partly damaged slip ring. During the repair, it was also discovered that a bearing shield was damaged. The costs for these issues are around 15,000 euros. In the worst case, if it hadn't been for the continuous online monitoring



provided by Bachmann Monitoring in Rudolstadt (Germany), the generator could have been totally damaged. Furthermore, this could have occurred in autumn and winter when the best wind conditions are present. The resulting damage, including the loss of yield, would then easily be ten times more expensive than the repair carried out.

wind.application: What is the daily use of the system like?

Jens Rösler: As we have a contract for full-service monitoring with all installations and have had very good experience with it, we just have to log into WebLog for control purposes. We receive a great deal of support from Bachmann and have a high trust in the experienced Bachmann technicians that daily

monitor the measured values. We are always notified of any abnormalities. We also find the regular customer training courses very valuable. The collaboration is simply excellent. It is open and based on trust, in fact one can honestly say that some real friendships have developed from it. We urgently recommend all our existing and future customers of wind turbines with gears to have their installations monitored with the Bachmann system. We are looking forward to more innovative ideas from Bachmann that will help to further increase the availability of our wind turbines.



» We are completely satisfied with the Bachmann CMS. «

Jens Rösler,
Head of technical operational management
at WestWind energy