

Arbórea develops a VANT for wind blades inspection

Alimarket Energía

The Salamanca company Arbórea Gestión Ambiental has presented an unmanned aerial vehicle (VANT) for the **inspection of wind blades**. This is the 'Eol 6' model of the 'Aracnocóptero' range of aircraft, the first of these models that is specifically designed for the industry linked to wind technology.

The 'Eol 6' is a **small self-stable aircraft with high resolution cameras** to take the relevant images of the blades. According to its developers, the team can substitute the use of cranes or displaced professionals to take off wind turbines for the review of the blades, which **significantly reduces the investment in maintenance**. The time required for each action is also reduced, so that the downtime of wind turbines decreases. Those responsible for Arbórea give as an example that if a usual procedure requires between four and six people to check the blades in one day, the 'Elo 6' only needs two people to inspect the shovel in one hour.



The 'Arachnocopter' is the first development of the new stage that Arbórea undertook four years ago after more than a decade dedicated to environmental projects for public administrations. The 'Eeol 6' is preferably intended for wind farms on land, although it can be used on offshore platforms; however, Arbórea prepares a **new specific version for marine parks**.

According to those responsible, there are 60 companies in the sector that are already interested in this product. For now, Arbórea has an agreement with the **Altertec** company from Valladolid to boost its distribution. Production is made on demand, according to the requirements demanded by the client, such as software or corporate image, at the company's facilities in the Scientific Park of the University of Salamanca.

The investment disbursed in the development of the project is around € 500.000. Currently, a direct staff of seven employees works on tasks linked to the 'Aracnocóptero'.

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