

And still on the topic of blades, Altertec Renovables, a Spanish maintenance company, is demonstrating its brand new toy - the aerial Aracnoptero. Remote controlled helicopter that flies up alongside the blade and captures close images and video of the blade. Much better view than telescope from the ground, much quicker than stopping turbine for platform inspection, says company. Takes two people one hour to check. One flies machine, other watches video with goggles and presses for image when required. Images records GPS location including altitude to direct repairer. Manufacturers showing interest, says company. Is this a growing trend? GE has robot that crawls up blades. Could be good, but only if owners use these to replace binocular checks and still climb to the blade and do full touch-included checks sometimes.

