

A project of Arborea Intellbird

Aracnocóptero, the drone that guards the wind turbines

Aracnocóptero is the drone with a shape reminiscent of a spider that allows the operation of the wind turbine blades to be monitored and guarantees rapid intervention in the event of failure.

Rinnovabili.it) – Employed by Google to fight the digital divide and from China to disperse pollution, the drones are back on the field ensuring fast and efficient supervision for wind farms. The new device presented in Barcelona last month has been christened **Aracnocóptero** and deals with the inspection of the turbines in order to guarantee its regular operation.



Developed by Arborea Intellbird, a spin-off of the University of Salamanca which also includes Iberdrola, **the drone is equipped with high-resolution cameras and sensors** to control turbines in flight without the need for a pilot, thus reducing scan times and supervision costs.

With the shape that simulates a spider, the drone has an **autonomy of flight of 35 minutes** and is managed thanks to a joystick allowing immediate maintenance interventions in case of failure or erosion of the rotors, providing the operators on the ground with a detailed series of images recorded by the camera allowing easy identification of the necessary interventions.

Until now maintenance has required the installation of a crane and the presence of an operator capable of detecting damage and malfunctions, the presence of a remote-controlled drone as well as ensuring a faster detection of damage guarantees faster interventions and the reduction of the related costs with the possibility of moving the device simply by loading it into the luggage compartment of a common car. To carry out the project an investment of about half a million euros was required, provided by Iberdrola and the Center for Industrial Technological Development (CDTI), an agency of the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness.