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Outstanding participation of a company of the Scientific Park of the University of Salamanca in the most important international fair of the wind sector



The company Arbórea of the Scientific Park of the University of Salamanca has presented its 'Aracnocóptero' at HUSUM WindEnergy, the most important international fair of the wind sector, which was held in Germany from September 18 to 22.

Designed by Salamanca researchers, the 'Aracnocóptero' is a UAV, or unmanned aerial vehicle,

that has attracted the attention of companies responsible for land and marine wind farms attending the meeting, given that the aircraft has been adapted for the inspection of the blades of wind turbines. "It has had a great reception, mainly because it saves downtime of the generators and inspection costs," said Carlos Berbabéu, head of Arbórea.

Windmills, subject to changes in extreme temperatures, suffer damage and fissures over time and the revisions that wind companies need to make of their blades are very expensive, slow and risky, given that until now they were carried out with cranes and had to climb the maintenance staff at high altitude.

The new and improved version of the 'Aracnoçóptero' is called Eol 6 and now has only 6 motor-legs (two less than the first model, whose name came from spiders –of 8 legs–) to be able to perform that specific function. Its size is small which allows it to move easily between wind turbines and can also carry several kilos of weight, also offering a lot of stability. The aircraft is equipped with cameras and sensors that collect the images of the mills and software that automatically analyzes the data: time, position and height of the damage.

On a bi-annual basis, HUSUM WindEnergy is the most important fair in the wind sector in the world. Some 1.200 exhibitors and 36.000 businessmen from more than 90 countries have visited the 58.000 square meters of space dedicated to this international meeting, which dates back to 1989, when it was first held.

Link to original (Spanish)

