



PREMIO
REVELACIÓN

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ARBOREA INTELLBIRD

WITH A YEAR OF LIFE, THE SALAMANCA COMPANY

HAS MADE IBERDROLA ENTER ITS CAPITAL THANKS

TO THE CREATION OF THE ARACNOCÓPTERO

POR **MP JOSÉ GÓMEZ-SERRANILLOS**

What has developed a small Salamanca company, with only one year of experience, to have focused the attention of a large energy group such as Iberdrola, and to have the Center for Industrial Technological Development (CDTI) chosen as the first private firm to invest in it? The answer is in the drones (aerial devices), although Carlos Bernabéu, founder of Arborea Intellbird, considers that it is more appropriate to call these systems Sarp (remotely manned aerial systems), or *Aracnocóptero*, the brand devised and registered by this entrepreneur, settled in the Scientific Park of the University of Salamanca.

EXAMPLE OF OVERCOMING

Arborea Intellbird is another example of the many leading companies in the community. After three years of research, the company Prosol from Palencia, dedicated to manufacturing soluble products such as coffee, launched in 2013 capsules compatible with Nespresso coffee machines. The product is marketed in Mercadona, of which Prosol has been a supplier for years. Grupo Valdecuevas, a Valladolid oil and wine producer, and the organic cattle ranch Ganso Ibérico de Dehesa, located in two farms in Seville and in the Sierra de Gredos, in Ávila, are two other examples of this innovation effort.



An Arborea Intellbird aerial device flies over an Iberdrola windmill to locate possible cracks

Bernabéu created Arborea Intellbird in early 2013 and began developing aerial devices to take photos and control the nests of pigeons and other birds in the cities. "Especially in historic centers such as Ávila, where these birds nest and deteriorate buildings", he says. We realized the potential that the device could have and decided to test the wind sector. The idea was to capture images of possible fissures or damage on the blades of the wind turbines, subjected to extreme weather, such as heavy rains and winds", he describes.

The entrepreneur developed a version of the system from the original, and thus the Aracnocóptero emerged, with which he went to wind firms such as Gamesa and Enerpal to prove it is their wind turbines. From that moment on, Arborea's takeoff was unstoppable. "We travel with Enerpal to Ewea, the largest European fair in the sector, held in Frankfurt (Germany), and we capture the interest of many firms and professionals",

THE DEVICES DETECT AND PHOTOGRAPH

FISSURES AND DAMAGES IN WIND TURBINE

BLADES. OR LEAKS IN REFINERIES AND

URANIUM PLANTS FROM THE AIR

he recalls. Months later came the recognition at home. "Iberdrola and the CDTI have entered the capital of Arborea, with an investment of 500,000 euros, thus becoming our partners", explains Bernabéu, who owns 67% of the company.

Once recognized in the wind business, the Arborea Aracnocóptero are beginning to overestimate other areas. "Our devices allow, for example, to detect possible leaks or breakdowns in oil refineries and water channels", he says. Another client is the Enusa group, for which it has created a system aimed at locating leaks in its uranium plants. "Our difference with drone manufacturers is that we are very specialized in the development of equipment aimed at the industry", concludes Bernabéu.