

Umwelt Kontor - Wind Power Operation - Bergheim

Umwelt Kontor—Wind Energy Projects GmbH pleases their insurance company, protects their wind turbines and their workers whilst finding a smoke detection system that works in a challenging environment. How? By installing a VESDA very early warning smoke detection system from Xtralis.

Umwelt Kontor

In less than 7 years, German based Umweltkontor has become one of the most successful technology groups sourcing renewable energies—sun, wind, hydro and bio-energy in line with The European Union's plans to increase the proportion of renewable energies of power production from currently 6% to over 22% by 2010

Size: 300 employees

Turnover: in excess of €175 million

Location: Erkelenz, Germany
www.umweltkontor.com

Industry: Power Generation

Products used:
10x Xtralis VESDA VLC - 505

The challenge

The wind power operation within the Umwelt Kontor group has been the most dynamic market for renewables, listing an average annual growth rate of more than 50%. Currently Umwelt Kontor operates 30 wind parks and is developing offshore wind farm locations. As part of this expansion, the need to ensure business continuity and life safety is essential.

The wind farms are situated in remote locations, which makes easy access by fire crews difficult and unpractical. The high value of each wind turbine makes it essential that it is fire protected for insurance purposes as well as valuable business continuity. Plus the added concern of maintenance worker safety is paramount.

Together with the holding company's Finance division, Umwelt Kontor is responsible for the wind farms. From project initiation, through securing finance to technical and commercial support, the company is also ensures every step has been made to protect the wind farms from the risk of fire.

The solution

Umwelt Kontor's Area Project Manager, Ralph Ratanski, researched the spectrum of products on the market before specifying the Xtralis VESDA VLC-VN system designed and manufactured by Xtralis. Supplied through their German Channel Partner, Novar, it was installed by specialists, Wellman, as a pilot project into Umwelt Kontor's wind park in Bergheim, which comprises five wind turbines.

The Xtralis VESDA VLC-VN system is an ideal cost effective solution for the protection of single and smaller environments that occupy less than 800 m²—in this case each wind turbine. It boasts its flexible Xtralis VESDAnet menu driven programmer, which simply allows the user to configure, commission and maintain their VESDA system as well as program each individual detector.



VESDA®

Customer success story

Under the supervision of Wellman's Project Manager, Mr Gruttgen, two VESDA detectors have been installed into each turbine. One is positioned at the top to protect the machinery and technical components and the other at ground level to protect the electrical cabinets. The VESDA systems are connected to the turbines' intelligent control system, which enables the engine to stop immediately when the VESDA aspirating system detects traces of smoke in its air chamber.

The results

Since the installation of the pilot project Ralf Ratanski has been satisfied with the system. He explained: "It has augmented the Bergheim Park's potential from an insurance point of view and has undoubtedly secured our investment in the wind turbines. The system is easy to operate by our operational staff, which is another massive benefit. As the system is connected directly to the local fire station, it promotes peace of mind at all levels of management."



Ralf Ratanski
Umwelt Kontor, Area Project Manager

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Ralf Ratanski

www.xtralis.com

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