ABS GROUP SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH DRONEVIEW TECHNOLOGIES TO INSPECT WIND TURBINES

Drone wind turbine inspections provide a safer, cost-effective and data-driven method

It was announced from Houston, Texas, on 6 July that ABS Group, a leading provider of technical inspection and verification services to the global power and wind energy industries, had signed an agreement with DroneView Technologies to deliver joint aerial wind turbine and equipment inspections utilizing sophisticated drone technology as a cost-effective means. As advanced technology drones provide a data-driven alternative to traditional inspections of aerial wind turbine blades at hazardous heights. This will lead to safer, more efficient wind farm operations, it is understood.

Commented Ted Hofbauer, ABS Group Director of Renewables Business Development: ‘Drone wind turbine inspections are a game changing solution for the wind industry, providing safer inspection techniques, faster turnaround times, lower operations and maintenance costs and improved reliability.’

Michael Singer, CEO of DroneView Technologies added: ‘These inspections are ideal for maintenance and especially for emergency situations in which climbing is not possible.’

The reliability and efficiency of wind turbines can be negatively affected by the condition of the equipment, which undergoes constant wear and tear, fouling, erosion and lightning strikes.

‘Current practices for inspections of blades have been made by climbing crews, which can be high-risk, costly and time consuming.’ Hofbauer explained. He went on: ‘Our agreement with DroneView Technologies combines ABS Group’s global inspection capabilities and experience working with innovative technologies with next-generation digital tools to deliver a safer, lower cost solution for more efficient inspection of wind turbine blades. In addition, the continued development of this innovative technology allows the use of multiple sensors and devices, which are able to perform a multitude of capabilities.’

Potential damage to wind farm equipment will be surveyed using a drone controlled by a certified, licensed operator. The drone is capable of producing high-resolution photos and/or videos, which will be analyzed by an ABS Group wind turbine specialist. Based on the analysis, recommendations for operation
and/or repair will be reported to the wind farm operator. The data computed by the drone and transmitted in real time to the operator can be stored in a maintenance archive of valuable data for future reference.

**About ABS Group**
ABS Group of Companies, Inc. through its operating subsidiaries, provides technical and certification services to support the safety and reliability of high-performance assets and operations. Headquartered in Houston, Texas, ABS Group operates with more than 2,000 professionals in over 30 countries. ABS Group is a subsidiary of ABS, a leading marine and offshore classification society.

**About DroneView**
DroneView Technologies is a leading drone services company working with enterprise customers throughout the United States collecting, processing and extracting value from aerial data. The company focuses on commercial applications and photogrammetry where the benefits of using drones and piloted aircraft to collect and process aerial image/video data yields discernible value.

Such data is obtained quickly, safely, more accurately and economically in the areas of:
- Stockpile volumetric measurement
- Aerial mapping, topography and 3D modelling
- Inspection and asset monitoring for example of wind turbines and towers.